

# HSE Nuclear Directorate Preparations for IRRS Follow-up

IRRS Workshop 2008  
Sevilla

4 November 2008

Colin Patchett  
Superintending Inspector  
Nuclear Installations



# Outline of Presentation

---

- Origin of the 2006 reduced scope mission
- Preparation for the mission
- Findings
- ND's response
- Progress with Action Plan
- Preparations for future missions

# Why we invited 2006 IRRS

---

- “Continuous improvement”
- Experience of previous IRRTs by inspectors
- Recognition of value of peer review
- UK Government Energy Review
- Desire to learn from and work with other nuclear safety regulators

# Preparations for 2006 IRRS

---

- Internal self-assessment in 2003
- Used ND inspectors who had been members of previous IRRT teams
- Interviewed staff using IRRT question sets
- Some shortfalls against IAEA standards identified, but concluded ND complied with most standards
- Used self-assessment to drive improvements and prepare for subsequent IRRS

# Reduced Scope IRRS Mission 2006



Timed to inform Government's Energy Review

Did not include all IRRS modules

- hence reduced scope -

but commitment to future missions to extend to full scope

Cooperation of IAEA and team members in responding on short timescales greatly appreciated

# Reduced Scope IRRS Mission 2006



Team of 6 experts from: Canada, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America and IAEA

12 day mission from 26 March – 4 April 2006

Purpose: “to evaluate the effectiveness of both the current HSE/ND regulation of existing nuclear power plants and its preparedness to regulate and licence any new reactor designs”

# Findings - Strengths

---

- Mature and transparent regulatory system, advanced review process
- Highly trained, expert and experienced staff
- Flexible regulatory regime that sets clear expectations for licensees and permits ND to make decisions on well justified technical grounds
- Use of risk insights as one aspect for practically all types of regulatory decision making
- Regulatory review meetings that involve site inspectors and assessors to share experience and set priorities
- An active international role, particularly at the IAEA

# Findings – High Priority Areas for Improvement

---

- Establish an appropriate budget and staffing levels to accomplish all assigned work
- Need for improvement in the independent capability for safety analysis in specific areas
- Clarification of the authorization process for ‘new build’, including stepwise licensing and guidance for the potential applicant, including the activities, responsibilities, inputs and outputs
- Need for improvement in the assessment of operating experience feedback and follow-up of the corrective actions; and
- Continued development of the business management system

# HSE/ND Response to Findings

---

13 good practices, 14 suggestions and 13 recommendations for improvement

ND has published both the IRRS Report and its Action Plan for responding to both recommendations and suggestions on HSE's website:

[www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/regulatoryreview/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/regulatoryreview/index.htm)

# HSE/ND Progress with Action Plan

---



Project set up to manage workstreams needed for

- progressing Action Plan
- participating in Missions to other Member States
- preparing for future modular Missions to the UK

# Progress with Action Plan

---

Progress was reviewed autumn 2007

- Good progress noted in some areas, notably issues relating to new build (guidance, interface protocols)
- Resourcing difficulties had held back progress in other areas

## Further Progress

---

Project governance being enhanced

Project plan updated to clarify scope, timescales and resource requirements for work

Project team members agreed

# Current Activities

---

- Planning for further modular IRRS mission in November 2009

Scope will expand beyond 2006 to include:

- Inspection and Enforcement
- Emergency Preparedness
- non-reactor facilities as well as reactors

# Preparations for 2009 Mission

---

3 elements

- complete a new self-assessment
- update on progress with findings from 2006 Mission
- respond to Policy Issues identified by IAEA

Also intend to invite input from some other Member States into self-assessment process

## Concluding Remarks

---

HSE/ND has benefitted from previous reduced scope IRRS in 2006

Has strong desire to continue to improve

- further Missions in November 2009 and subsequently will assist

Committed to continue to work with international partners