

WENRA Statement

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WENRA Statement regarding the revision of the Safety Reference Levels for existing reactors taking into account the lessons learned from the TEPCO Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Accident

October 2014

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One of the objectives of WENRA, as stated in its terms of reference, is to develop a harmonized approach to nuclear safety and radiation protection issues and their regulation in Europe. A significant contribution to this objective was the publication, in 2006, of a report on harmonization of reactor safety in WENRA countries. This report addressed the nuclear power plants in operation and it included “Safety Reference Levels” (SRLs), which reflected expected practices to be implemented in the WENRA countries. The SRLs were updated twice in 2007 and again in 2008.

The SRLs have been established for greater harmonization within WENRA countries raising the level of nuclear safety in Europe by their implementation in the national regulatory framework and in the nuclear power plants (NPPs). The emphasis of the SRLs has been on nuclear safety, primarily focussing on safety of the reactor core and spent fuel. The SRLs specifically exclude nuclear security and, with a few exceptions, radiation safety.

WENRA members are committed to continuous improvement of nuclear safety in their countries. Within this spirit WENRA emphasizes identifying the insights from the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident in March 2011 and operators improving NPP safety accordingly. For this purpose, WENRA mandated its Reactor Harmonization Working Group (RHWG) to review and revise the SRLs for existing reactors with the aim to integrate the lessons learned from the 2011 Fukushima Dai-ichi accident.

The SRLs that have been developed represent, in addition to good practices in WENRA countries, objectives for safety improvements to take account of the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident.

The national regulators make a commitment to improve and harmonize their national regulatory systems, by implementing the new SRLs until 2017 as a target date.

WENRA strives for openness and keeps all interested parties informed of the progress made in this work.