

# **MDEP EPRWG Programme Plan 2020-2022**

Related to: EPR Working Group Activities

**Programme Plan for 2020-2022**

***Multi-National Design Evaluation Programme***  
***EPR Working Group (EPRWG)***

**1. EPRWG Long-Term Goals**

- Leverage national regulatory resources by sharing information and experience on the regulatory safety design reviews and commissioning of the EPR with the purposes of enhancing the safety of the design and enabling regulators to make timely licensing decisions to ensure safe designs through:
  - Exchanging experience on licensing processes and design reviews, lessons learned, and design-related construction, commissioning, and operating experience;
  - Working to understand the differences in regulatory safety review approaches in each country to support potential use of other regulators' safety design evaluations, where appropriate;
  - Looking for opportunities to provide input to issue-specific working groups on potential topics of significant interest.
- Promote safety and standardisation of designs through MDEP co-operation (consideration should be given to promoting harmonisation of regulatory practices where there may be a safety benefit) through:
  - Identifying and understanding key design differences including those originating from regulatory requirements and then documenting the reasons for differences;
  - Documenting common MDEP positions on aspects of the review to enhance safety and standardisation of designs;
  - Communicating and coordinate communications on MDEP views and common positions to vendor and operators regarding the basis of safety evaluations and standardisation;
  - Using experience gained in learning about similarities and differences between the designs as a result of different licensing frameworks to identify impediments to further standardisation of the EPR design.

**2. Intermediate Objectives**

- Share information including evaluations among EPRWG members to leverage resources and focus design reviews on safety issues in areas that are critical to take licensing decisions;
- Encourage standardisation of designs through design safety review cooperation when there is a clear safety benefit;
- Document the activities of the technical expert subgroups through technical reports and common positions;
- Provide a forum for feedback during commissioning and the early phase of reactor operation.

### 3. 2020-2022 MDEP EPRWG Work Plan

- Continue to communicate timelines for sharing regulatory evaluations of the EPR among all EPRWG members.
- Continue to share information among EPRWG members in the areas in which technical experts subgroups (TESGs) have been formed. At the end of 2019, it was agreed to close the following TESGs as their agreed programmes have been completed: Digital Instrumentation and Control – DI&C, Probabilistic Safety Assessment – PSA, Severe Accidents – SA, and Accidents and Transients – A&T. Commissioning Activities – CA, will remain an active TESG, which should perform the following:
  - Provide a work plan including description and scope of issues to be addressed to the EPRWG and report on the status at every EPRWG meeting;
  - Continue to meet regularly and exchange information on relevant aspects of the design review status;
  - Share relevant evaluations when they become available;
  - Produce technical experts subgroup technical reports on subject that the subgroup deems important to safety to identify and document similarities and differences among designs, regulatory safety review approaches and resulting evaluations;
  - Produce MDEP EPRWG common positions, especially on important safety evaluation findings;
  - Share relevant information in the MDEP library.
- Follow up on EPR specific commissioning activities about:
  - First-Plant Only Tests (FPOT) implementation;
  - Sharing relevant results of the commissioning tests including reactor physics data;
  - Capturing methodology for post-fuel load regulatory hold points definition;
  - Provide feedback to WGRNR on potential generic issues for their consideration.
- Address important ad hoc topic areas to support regulatory decision making:
  - Exchange of information on specific technical issues;
- Provide recommendations, when appropriate, to the VICWG for inspections to ensure adequate design configuration control, quality assurance, and acceptability of structures, systems, and components of the EPR.
- Provide recommendations, when appropriate, to the STC for considering possible items as topics to address generically.
- Contribute to the 5<sup>th</sup> MDEP conference.
- In advance of the EPRWG closing (see Section 6), a closure report will be produced, consideration will be made regarding the adequacy of knowledge management and preparation will be made for regulator engagement as the projects transition into operations.

#### **4. Outputs of the EPRWG for 2020-2022**

- Update of the Technical Report on EPR DI&C issues – 2020;
- Document on methodology for post-fuel load regulatory hold points definition (CA TESG) – 2021;
- Technical Report on the application of the break preclusion principle – 2020;
- A&T TESG, DI&C TESG, PSA TESG and SA TESG closure reports – 2020;
- EPRWG closure report – 2022.

Note: CA TESG's work plan (see point 3) contains more details on its respective expected products.

#### **5. Key stakeholders with whom the EPRWG members will interact**

- Other MDEP working groups, especially on commissioning activities;
- Other non-EPRWG regulators when appropriate (care taken to NOT share proprietary or sensitive information inappropriately).
- CNRA (WGRNR, WGDIC).
- Framatome.
- EPR Operators Owners Group (EDF, TVO, NNB GenCo, TNPJVC), and other applicants/licensees/operators, as applicable.
- Other groups as appropriate to further MDEP goals.

#### **6. Closure of EPRWG**

It is anticipated that the EPRWG will close after the first few EPRs have achieved a short period of commercial operation or by the end of 2022 (if earlier) consistent with MDEP Policy Group's MDEP strategy. The EPRWG will regularly review its continuation against closure criteria agreed by the STC. The EPRWG considers that ongoing engagement between relevant regulators will be beneficial post-closure of the working group.