



Implementation of Nuclear Safeguards in the UAE

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) government ensures that comprehensive safeguards are in place for the development of its domestic nuclear programme through the implementation of relevant agreements it has forged with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and through the establishment of the UAE's State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC).

“Another major step in the development of an appropriate nuclear infrastructure in the UAE has been accomplished through the establishment of a system of accounting for and control of nuclear material subject to safeguards. The ISSAS team affirmed the UAE’s commitment to fully implement its international non-proliferation obligations and highlighted the many good practices that are being undertaken.”

The IAEA’s SSAC Advisory Service to the UAE

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Compliance with International Safeguards Obligations

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been party to the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)* since 1995. In connection with its obligations under the NPT, the UAE has adhered to the required international safeguards obligations.

Thereby, an agreement between the UAE and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the *Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA)* in connection with the NPT entered into force in October 2003, followed by ratification of the Additional Protocol (AP) to the CSA agreement in December 2010.

Establishing the State Safeguards Regulatory Infrastructure

The UAE put into force the *Federal Law by Decree No. 6 of 2009 Concerning the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (Nuclear Law)*, empowering the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) to establish and maintain a State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC) in accordance with the requirements of the Safeguards Agreement.

Under the mandate of the UAE’s Nuclear Law, FANR and the IAEA inspectors carry out regular safeguards inspections at the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) to verify compliance with the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, Additional Protocol, international nuclear export control regime (NSG) and nuclear regulations. An inspection programme for the BNPP, including routine, short notice and ad-hoc inspections has been developed and is being executed.



State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC)

The UAE, as a State with a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA), is required to establish and maintain a State system of accounting for and control of nuclear material (SSAC).

The Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) is an independent authority formally designed to keep track of nuclear material and activities. It has created, brought into force and implemented the Regulation for the System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material and Application of the Additional Protocol.

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Furthermore, the UAE Nuclear Policy encourages the United Arab Emirates on the Evaluation and Potential Development of Peaceful Nuclear Energy is to seek to participate in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and implement import and export control rules for nuclear and nuclear-related equipment and technology in strict accordance with NSG Guidelines for Nuclear Transfers. The UAE seeks to ensure the establishment and maintenance of the most comprehensive and up-to-date export control regime.

To meet the requirements of such import and export control rules, FANR has issued in 2014 an updated Regulation on the Export and Import Control of Nuclear Material, Nuclear Related Items and Nuclear Related Dual-Use Items.



Group photo: IAEA ISSAS Mission to the UAE, May 2014

The UAE is fully committed to meeting all obligations of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, the Additional Protocol and the international export control regime. The UAE is meeting these obligations through a highly effective SSAC system that incorporates licensing, inspection and enforcement activities. It also promotes active engagement and cooperation with the IAEA, national competent authorities and other stakeholders in order to meet the highest standards of nuclear non-proliferation, as declared in the Nuclear Policy paper.

Ensuring Safeguards in Operations

The UAE has engaged the IAEA throughout the design and construction phases of the BNPP project to ensure the IAEA safeguards obligations are implemented through the installation of modern IAEA safeguards containment and surveillance equipment.

A safeguards road map has been developed with the IAEA to coordinate activities with the construction schedule and the overall timeline of the UAE programme.

Close Cooperation with the IAEA

In the framework of cooperation with the IAEA and implementation of the requirements under the provisions of the CSA and the AP, the UAE requested the IAEA to evaluate the current progress of establishing the State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC).

The IAEA carried out a detailed evaluation of legal, regulatory, administrative and technical arrangements, made by the UAE in nuclear non-proliferation and safeguards, including the SSAC.

The IAEA's SSAC Advisory Service (ISSAS) mission was hosted by the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) on 11-15 May 2014, at its headquarters in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The ISSAS mission concluded that the UAE's nuclear non-proliferation and safeguards arrangements are in line with its international obligations and highlighted good practices by the UAE.

“With regard to enhanced safeguards and in accordance with the IAEA Additional Protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, the UAE will strictly abide by the obligation to provide information covering all aspects of nuclear activities as well as any import of nuclear-related equipment and technology. Expanded inspection rights will be granted to the IAEA.”

UAE Nuclear Policy