

UAE Response in Light of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Accident

FACT SHEET

August 2014

The 11 March 2011 disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan brought the discussion on nuclear safety to the highest level. Following the accident, both UAE Nuclear Regulator and Nuclear Operator took immediate action to assess how the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant would be able to withstand the consequences of extreme natural and man-made events. The UAE approaches includes:

- Establishing a task force to support on-going international activities of other organisations and regulatory bodies such as the IAEA, the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG), the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission of the Republic of Korea (NSSC) and the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS).
- Requesting that the licensee, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC), assess the safety aspects of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant based on FANR guidance, which closely follows the European "Stress Test" specification.

Public Engagement and Transparency

Both the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) and the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) have implemented comprehensive public engagement and communication programmes, which have included awareness on the Fukushima Daiichi accident. In a national public opinion poll conducted in 2013, 82% of UAE respondents expressed their belief, that peaceful nuclear energy is important for the nation.

Post Fukushima: Actions Taken in the UAE

Nuclear Regulator's Response

- The Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) immediately requested the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) to provide a plan describing how the nuclear operator will apply lessons learnt from Japan's Fukushima accident (April 2011).
- FANR requested ENEC to undertake an assessment to determine how recent experiences at Fukushima and lessons learnt may be applied to address any potential safety issues at the proposed Barakah Nuclear Power Plants Units 1 and 2 (July 2011).
- FANR reviewed ENEC's "Safety Assessment Report for Barakah Nuclear Power Plants (Lessons Learnt from Fukushima Accident)." Following the review of the supplementary report, FANR concluded that there is a reasonable assurance of the plant capabilities to withstand extreme natural and man-made events. This report has been reviewed as a supplement to the Construction Licence Application (CLA) that was submitted by the licensee in 2010.
- FANR made public its Safety Evaluation Report of the Construction Licence Application for Barakah Units 1 and 2, which summarizes evidence and supports the licensing process. The Safety Evaluation Report is available on FANR's website www.fanr.gov.ae
- The IAEA conducted an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission to assess the UAE's regulatory framework (December 2011). Throughout the review of the various areas and policy issues, special consideration was given to the implications of the Fukushima Daiichi accident for the UAE Regulatory System. The final report of the IRRS mission to the UAE (IAEA-NS-IRRS-2011/12) is available on the UAE Permanent Mission website www.uae-iaea.org

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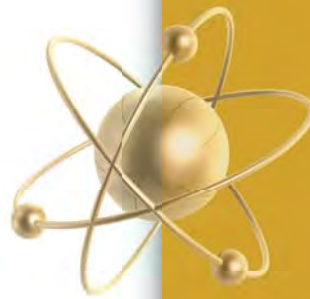
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Nuclear Operator's Response

- The Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) established Safety Review Task Force Initiatives to evaluate the implementation of applicable lessons learnt from the Fukushima accident, and with the aim of enhancing safety features of the proposed nuclear power plant at the Barakah site.
- ENEC is in close cooperation with industrial organizations such as the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO), to implement any lessons learnt from the Fukushima accident.
- On 30 December 2011, ENEC submitted to FANR a supplementary safety report to show how lessons learnt thus far from Fukushima may be applied to address any potential safety issues. The report comprises an additional assessment related to nuclear safety and radiation protection of the proposed nuclear power plant. ENEC has previously presented a comprehensive safety case for the plant, which was detailed in its Construction License Application (CLA) submitted to FANR in December 2010.



Construction starts for Unit 2 of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, May 2013

FANR's Safety Evaluation Report (SER) forms the basis of the decision to grant ENEC the licence to construct Barakah Nuclear Power Plant Units 1 and 2. It takes into consideration early lessons learnt in light of the Fukushima Daiichi accident

The UAE will continue to participate in on-going worldwide activities to gain a clearer understanding of the Fukushima Daiichi accident and the methods for improving the safety of nuclear power plants and implementing necessary actions.

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