As part of the French Nuclear Safety Authority's (ASN) duty to inform, this report provides the reader with a picture of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France in 2005. In this chapter, the ASN presents its actions and tools for public information and transparency.

Since 2003, the ASN has also used this chapter to present the tools and actions used in informing the public about nuclear safety and radiation protection by other stakeholders.

# **1 DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR SAFETY AUTHORITY AND THE PUBLIC**

# 1 1

#### From public information to transparency

The decree of 13 March 1973, which created the Central Nuclear Installations Safety Department (SCSIN), responsible for supervising nuclear safety in France, also entrusted it with the role of "proposing and organising information of the public on safety-related issues". The decree of 1 December 1993, which created the Nuclear Installation Safety Directorate (DSIN), reiterated this public information duty, in the same terms. The decree of 22 February 2002, which created the DGSNR (General Directorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection), expanded this public information duty to cover the field of radiation protection. The DGSNR is now tasked with "contributing to informing the public on subjects related to nuclear safety and radiation protection". Thus, each time an institutional change affected the way civil nuclear supervision was organised in France, the public information role of the ASN was confirmed.

In order to discharge these duties, the ASN uses specific information media and actions in an effort to provide the public with information that is easy to understand and accessible to the greatest number.

Modern technology allows increasingly fast circulation of information and the population is asking for increasingly precise information. For its part, the ASN aims constantly to improve how it reports on what it is doing. This naturally leads it to continue its commitment to transparency, while taking care to avoid saturating the information channels and to set up support, awareness and even training measures enabling the citizens and their representatives to gain easier access to information.

The ASN also informs the various opinion shapers. It contributes to regular information of the media, by organising thematic press conferences as well as encouraging the action of the Local Information Committees (CLIs). The Nuclear Safety Authority also handles the secretariat of the High Council for nuclear safety and information (CSSIN) and regularly presents its actions to it. The ASN maintains ongoing relations with elected representatives and environmental protection associations.

In addition, the ASN wishes to expand participation by the stakeholders (representatives of environmental protection associations, of industry or administrations, elected officials, and so on), in the drafting of regulatory texts of general scope. It also wishes to encourage information of the public about how these texts are drafted and enable it to give its opinion on their content. The draft National radioactive waste and reusable materials management plan (PNGDR-MV) is meant to meet this two-fold objective: it was prepared by a working group coordinated by the ASN and expanded to include various stakeholders and was placed on-line in the summer of 2005 so that opinions could be sent in to the ASN's website, www.asn.gouv.fr. All the comments received were also placed online, to nourish the debate on a major topical and social issue.

#### The image and profile of the ASN

In 2005, together with the TNS SOFRES poll institute, the ASN created a profile and image barometer. This barometer is designed to quantify the ASN's recognition level and the degree of satisfaction of the various audiences at whom its information actions are targeted. It will enable the ASN to adapt its information policy both locally and nationally.

The first wave of this opinion survey was conducted between September and October 2005 with a representative sample of the general public and a sample comprising essentially journalists, elected officials, association managers, administrative managers, CLI chairmen, health professionals and teachers, representing the better informed public.

This survey revealed that even if a large majority of individuals are aware of the existence of a nuclear supervision organisation, few could spontaneously mention the ASN or recognise its name (16% of respondents among the general public). This is reflected directly in how the ASN's roles are perceived by the general public, who were only able to identify supervision of nuclear installations (75% of those respondents who said they knew about the ASN).

The overall recognition of the ASN however rises to 61 % among the better informed public, who are more aware of its regulatory function (30 % as against 8% among the general public), but relatively unaware of its information function (13 % as opposed to 4 % of general public respondents who said they knew about the ASN).

For the first time, the ASN has carried out a programme of information with the general public concerning the organisation of nuclear supervision in France. As part of the iodine tablets distribution campaign held in 2005, nearly 500,000 homes near the 19 nuclear power plants received a brochure presenting the supervisory procedures in place for the plant concerned.

Public information and transparency concerning nuclear activities should be further enhanced with the nuclear transparency and safety bill, which is shortly to be tabled before Parliament by the Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development. This text recognises the public's right to access the information in the possession of the nuclear installation licensees and those responsible for radioactive material transport.

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# **ASN** information media

# 1 2 1

#### The ASN website: www.asn.gouv.fr

The ASN opened its website, wwwasngouvfr, on 2 May 2000. This site is updated in real time and provides the latest news on nuclear safety and radiation protection in France: events occurring in civil nuclear facilities, press releases, decisions and formal notices issued by the ASN, and the stance it has adopted on various subjects. A web user living near a nuclear facility will find all relevant local information in the "Regions" section. The website also presents the assignments of the ASN, the scope of its activities, its publications, the legislative and regulatory texts which govern its daily actions and its relations with foreign counterparts.

The CLIs and the CSSIN also each have a section, for which they have editorial responsibility, accessible from the site's home page.



ASN website homepage: www.asn.gouv.fr



Monthly visitor statistics for the ASN website in 2003 and 2004

Since 1 January 2002, and in line with its commitment to transparency, the ASN website wwwasn.gouv.fr has published the results of all the inspections (about 670 per year) carried out by its inspectors in the basic nuclear installations (BNIs), by placing on-line the letters sent to the licensees following each inspection. Since 5 April 2005, the ASN has also placed on-line the information notices concerning EDF reactor outages. In these information notices, it gives the context of the outage, the main worksites involved, the supervision and monitoring actions it carried out and the main events that occurred during the outage. These notices are published after the ASN has approved restart of the reactor concerned.

The Nuclear Safety Authority also wishes to expand consultation of the stakeholders and inform the public when drafting general regulatory texts. Therefore, following on from the experiments begun in 2003, it placed the draft National radioactive waste and reusable materials management plan (PNGDR-MV) on-line for consultation, in July 2005. In September 2005, the ASN also placed on its website, for consultation, a draft decree concerning the licensing and declaration conditions for nuclear activities and their supervision, which in particular modified the Public Health Code.

Since it was first set up in May 2000, the ASN website has seen its audience steadily grow, a phenomenon which has been even more evident since 1 January 2005. For 2005, the average number of monthly visitors to www.asngouv.fr stood at more than 33,500 and the site was visited by more than 400,000 people. In

2004, there were on average 22,000 monthly visitors to the ASN website. This represents a 50% increase, which is the highest rate of growth since May 2000.

Other innovations on the ASN website in 2005 included the creation of a "Press conferences" section, publication on the "Regions" pages of information about ASN supervision of the nuclear power plants operated by EDF, the NuPEER international symposium of 22 and 23 June 2005 devoted to nuclear power plant ageing, a revamp of the "Texts" section and updating of the CLI section.

The "Texts" section gives the web user access to the regulations covering nuclear safety and protection against ionising radiation.

As part of the work being done to create the national environmental radioactivity measurements network, the ASN is also continuing to develop the joint portal with the IRSN which will give access not only to a variety of information concerning the network and its objectives, but also to radioactivity measurements and their interpretation in terms of impact.

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#### The ASN's MAGNUC viewdata magazine

The MAGNUC viewdata magazine was set up by the ASN in 1987 at the recommendation of the CSSIN. It took over from the data bank created after the Chernobyl accident. The number of visitors logging into MAGNUC has been steadily falling since the development of web access and the growth of the www.asn.gouv.fr website. In 2005, there were an average of 43 logins to the MAGNUC magazine per month. The ASN has therefore decided to close it down as of 1 January 2006. All information that was available on MAGNUC is accessible to the public on www.asn.gouv.fr.

# 123

#### The ASN's report Nuclear safety and radiation protection in France

Every year, this report presents the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France. It also presents all ASN actions performed during the past year to supervise and improve the safety of French civil nuclear facilities and of the transport of radioactive materials, and to check and minimise exposure of workers, patients, the public and the environment to ionising radiation.

Since 2004, via the "ASN multiyear strategic plan", it also presents the ASN's orientations and goals for the coming 3-year period.

This report, which is the fruit of collective analysis and synthesis work, in which all ASN entities take part, provides an annual record of the changes and difficulties encountered, in both the technical and organisational spheres, within the companies and organisations subject to supervision. It also widens the scope of the debate to include nuclear safety and radiation protection projects and prospects.

The report and its summary are sent to many of the ASN's partners abroad, notably the nuclear safety authorities of various countries. Since 1996, the report has been translated into English to further exchanges between nuclear safety authorities and inform all foreign stakeholders in the nuclear safety and radiation protection sector.

The report is available in French and in English on the website www.asn.gouv.fr.

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#### Contrôle magazine

Since 1978, the ASN has published a two-monthly information publication on nuclear facility safety which, in October 1994, changed its name to *Contrôle*, the Nuclear Safety Authority magazine.

In France, *Contrôle* is distributed to national and local elected representatives, the media, journalists, members of the CSSIN and the CLIs, the environmental protection and other associations, the licensees and administrations concerned. Private individuals can also obtain it on request. Abroad, *Contrôle* is in particular sent out to the nuclear safety authorities of the countries with which the ASN has regular contacts.

The Contrôle print run comprises 8,500 copies and it consists of two parts.

The first part is devoted to news. It reports on what the ASN is doing: supervision of BNIs and of transports of radioactive and fissile materials used for civil purposes; decisions, formal notices and international relations of the ASN; activities of the CLIs, the CSSIN, the interministerial commission on basic nuclear installations (CIINB) and expert groups.

The second part, entitled *Dossiers de Contrôle*, presents a special report on an aspect of nuclear safety or radiation protection. *Contrôle* presents ASN policy concerning the subject chosen and also makes its pages available for the expression of a wide variety of opinions. Publication of these points of view helps lay the foundations for a broader debate and encourages the emergence of a pluralistic form of information, taking greater account of the concerns and expectations of public opinion.



Covers of the issues of Contrôle published in 2005

The press conferences organised at each publication of *Contrôle* are regularly attended by journalists from the general and specialist "nuclear", "environment" and "medical" press.

In 2005 Contrôle covered the following subjects:

- January	$\rightarrow$	The safety of the fuel cycle (no. 162)			
- March	$\rightarrow$	ASN report on nuclear safety and radiation protection in France in 2004:			
		extracts (no. 163)			
- May	$\rightarrow$	The EPR reactor (no. 164)			
- July	$\rightarrow$	Radioactive waste management in France (no. 165)			
- October	$\rightarrow$	Monitoring nuclear safety and radiation protection (no. 166)			
- December	nber $\rightarrow$ Radiation protection: the international stakeholders (no. 167)				

*Contrôle* is free and is distributed on the basis of voluntary subscription (subscription form available on www.asn.gouv.fr or by mail from the following address: ASN Publications, 6, place du Colonel Bourgoin, 75572 Paris Cedex 12).

The *Dossiers de Contrôle* are also published separately and widely distributed to the public at fairs and exhibitions attended by the ASN. They can also be obtained from the website www.asn.gouv.fr. Back numbers can also be consulted in the public information and documentation centre.

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#### **Other ASN publications**

The ASN presentation brochure



ASN presentation brochure

This brochure describes the resources employed by the ASN to supervise nuclear safety and radiation protection and inform the public. It presents the organisation chart, activities and values of the ASN, "independence, competence, stringency and transparency". It is distributed at the meetings and events in which the ASN takes part, and is also published in English in order to facilitate the ASN's international relations.



• The ASN's public information and documentation centre brochure

Brochure describing the ASN's public information and documentation centre

This document presents the types of audience for whom the centre is intended, the information needs it is designed to meet, the main characteristics of its documentary base and how it actually works in practice. It is widely distributed to various information providers: pedagogical documentation centres for teachers, "major risks" contact persons in the academies, science museum media libraries, libraries of the "Ecoles des mines" colleges, CLIs, exhibition and symposia sites in which the ASN participates, as well as the communication departments of the DRASS, DDASS and the prefectures.

#### The public information sheets



Some of the public information sheets

The "ASN information sheets" are designed to provide targeted, concise and pedagogical information on the main topics of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

These sheets are widely distributed among the general public and the teaching sector. They are available at the exhibitions and symposia in which the ASN participates and are sent out to various information providers such as the CLIs and the documentation centres for teachers. They are also available to the DSNRs (Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Departments) for local communication operations.

The collection currently comprises 6 numbers.

Sheet no. 1, "Administration of stable iodine in the event of a nuclear accident", in particular presents how taking stable iodine counteracts the possible effects on the thyroid of a release of radioactive iodine.

Sheet no. 2, "Radiation protection principles", presents the principles of justification, optimisation and limitation of ionising radiation exposure doses and the application of these principles to radiation protection of the public, patients and workers.

4 new sheets were published in 2005.

Sheet no. 3, "Nuclear or radiological: which term to use?", clarifies the definition and usage of these two words in the various fields of activity (industry, medical and research) liable to entail exposure to ionising radiation, and in the corresponding regulations.

Sheet no. 4, "Radiation protection values and units", describes the characteristics of ionising radiation. It defines the various values and units concerning this radiation or radioactivity, as well as how they are specifically used in quantifying the corresponding hazards.

Sheet no. 5, "The French nuclear fuel cycle" presents the operators involved in the sector, where the facilities are located, the various phases involved in the production and then reprocessing of civil nuclear fuels and how this activity is supervised.

Sheet no. 6, "Radiological emergency situations", presents the various situations which could lead to a release of radioactive substances, the main parties involved in managing them and the various measures that exist in France to protect the population in the event of a nuclear accident.

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#### • Brochures presenting the supervision of EDF nuclear power plants

Some of the brochures presenting supervision of nuclear safety and radiation protection

In 2005, the ASN issued a brochure to about 500,000 households near nuclear power plants, presenting the organisation of nuclear safety and radiation protection supervision in each of the 19 nuclear power plants operated by EDF. Issue of this brochure coincided with the iodine tablets distribution campaign launched by the public authorities for those living in the vicinity of each of the 19 sites concerned.

# 13

# The public information and documentation centre

The ASN's public information and documentation centre was opened to the public in 2004 for consultation of documentation concerning the areas of competence of the ASN.

This centre offers the public access to all of the ASN's publications. The public can also consult publications about nuclear safety, radiation protection and ionising radiation published by the other stakeholders (CLIs, CSSIN, nuclear operators, IRSN and other technical experts, health safety agencies, radiology and radiation protection learned societies, professional associations, environmental protection associations, and so on).

To meet the specific needs of a certain better informed public, in particular science students and teachers or specialised journalists, the centre also offers a selection of specialised French and English books and reviews, for consultation on the premises. The centre offers on-site consultation of original administrative documents, such as the file subject to public inquiry prior to authorisation for creation or modification of BNIs.

It offers Internet access and viewing of video documents.

In 2005, the ASN's public information and documentation centre met the needs of nearly 1050 people. It sent 1425 ASN publications out to 300 correspondents, answered information requests from 200 web users and 420 phone callers, and welcomed 124 visitors.

# 14

# The ASN and the media

# 1 4 1

#### **Regular relations with the press**

In order to meet its duty to inform, the ASN has adopted a policy of close ties with the press.

The press department maintains regular contacts with several dozen national, regional and international journalists and issues press releases primarily concerning:

•the regulatory actions (authorisation to start up or shut down installations, environmental discharge licences, etc.);

•the decisions taken and stances adopted on sensitive nuclear safety and radiation protection issues;

•incidents of a certain importance, in particular incidents rated 2 and higher on the INES scale.

The ASN also organises press conferences on a regular basis. At the time of publication of Contrôle, it for example invites the media to review a topical nuclear safety and radiation protection issue. These regular events are also an opportunity for discussions between the ASN and journalists on all topical subjects. An annual press conference is devoted to presentation of the nuclear safety and radiation protection report. It enables the ASN to review the past year and present the priorities for the coming one.

#### The INES scale for rating of nuclear incidents and accidents

#### Presentation and goals of the INES scale

In 1987, France set up a scale to rank the severity of nuclear events which was extensively used by the IAEA in creating its own INES scale (International Nuclear Event Scale). This scale, based partly on objective criteria and partly on subjective criteria, is designed to facilitate media and public understanding of the significance, in terms of safety, of nuclear incidents and accidents. It is not a safety assessment tool and can, under no circumstances, be used as a basis for international comparisons. There is in particular no strict correlation between the number of non-serious incidents declared and the probability of a serious accident occurring in a facility.

#### Nature of the events concerned by the INES scale

The INES scale is designed to cover events occurring in all civil nuclear facilities, including those classified as secret, and during transport of nuclear materials.

At the initiative of the ASN, the IAEA Member States are experimenting with a new INES part dealing with radiation protection incidents and covering radioactive sources and transports of radioactive materials. This new part incorporates the principle of the relationship between the radiological risk and the severity of the event. France initially limited the systematic experimental application of this new scale to BNIs. A broader application to medical, industrial and research installations will gradually be implemented. Thus in 2005, this experimental scale was used to rate an irradiation incident in the CEA's Frédéric Joliot unit of the Orsay hospital.

#### Use of the INES scale in France

All events with significance for nuclear safety are declared by the licensees within 24 hours. This declaration comprises a proposed rating subject to the approval of the ASN, which alone is responsible for the final rating decision.

Using the INES scale enables the ASN to select those events and incidents which are sufficiently important for it to issue a communication:

•all incidents rated level 1 and above are systematically published on the www.asn.gouv.fr website.

•incidents rated level 2 and above are also the subject of a press release;

•incidents rated level 0 are not always made public by the ASN. They are published if temporarily classified pending the result of further investigations, if they are of interest in terms of safety analysis or methodology, or if they are of particular interest to the media.

Level	Pressurised water reactors	Other facilities	Transports	Total
3 and above	0	0	0	0
2	1	0	0	1
1	49	24	7	80
0	709	101	41	851
Total	759	125	48	932

Rating of nuclear events on the INES scale in 2005

6

In 2005, questions from journalists chiefly concerned:

•two radiation protection incidents in hospitals: irradiation of an employee in the CEA's Frédéric Joliot unit of the Orsay hospital and a serious incident affecting a patient during radiotherapy treatment in the Grenoble university hospital;

•the 2005 campaign for distribution of iodine tablets to the populations living in the vicinity of the nuclear power plants;

•the repercussions of the drought on the operation of the French nuclear power plants.

The ASN aims to issue high-quality, clear and comprehensible information that is stripped of excessively technical vocabulary. It therefore offers all of its staff training appropriate to their level of responsibility, on the subjects of oral and written communication and emergency management.

In 2005, communication training enabled:

•the ASN senior management, in regular contact with the national and local written and audiovisual media, to practice communications with the media, in particular in the capacity of spokesperson;

•the ASN's inspectors to familiarise themselves with communication and press relations, including in emergency situations, particularly through writing press releases and interviews with radio and television journalists.

# 1 4 2

#### The ASN and the media in emergency situations



ASN emergency response centre

The ASN must at all times be ready to respond to the need for information should a serious event occur, in particular in a nuclear installation or during radioactive material transport. For this reason, most of the emergency response exercises organised (at the rate of about ten per year) include media pressure. This media pressure, simulated by journalists hired for the exercise, is designed to assess the responsiveness of the ASN and the ministries concerned when faced with the media, as well as the consistency and coordination of the messages put across by the various stakeholders, be they licensees or authorities, both nationally and locally.

In addition, "real" media requests are often made during these exercises, with journalists anxious to observe decision and information channels in action, the deployment of the emergency assistance teams, population sheltering or evacuation operations organised for the exercise and the simulated absorption of stable iodine tablets.

Apart from the media pressure simulated by the journalists, the intervention of experts and other players (ministers' advisers, CLIs, elected officials, etc.) during the exercises constitutes a further step forward in simulating a real nuclear accident situation, which would inevitably lead to many and varied voices being heard at the same time.

In September 2005, the ASN activated its national emergency response system on two occasions, when nuclear power plant on-site emergency plans were triggered:

•following a water leak in an electrical equipment room in the Nogent-sur-Seine nuclear power plant;

•when the pressure rose in the reactor heat removal system while the Blayais nuclear power plant was in outage.

The ASN distributed and placed on its website press releases clarifying the reasons for and consequences of each event, as well as the action it was preparing to take with respect to the licensee.

# 15

# **ASN regional actions**

# 1 5 1

#### Public information actions by the heads of the DRIREs and DSNRs

The ASN aims to ensure greater involvement by the heads of the Regional Directorates for Industry, Research and the Environment (DRIREs) - which are the ASN's regional spokespersons - and their Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Departments (DSNRs).

Every year, the heads of the DRIREs organise a press conference on nuclear safety and radiation protection to present a review of their activities and of the safety of the nuclear installations and transports of radioactive materials under their supervision. This initiative has been favourably received by the local media, anxious to provide the populations living in the vicinity of nuclear installations with a clear idea of their safety level, often more detailed than that to be derived from national media accounts.

The heads of the various DSNRs also grant numerous interviews with local and regional media. Some DSNRs also take part in training seminars designed to familiarise journalists with industrial risks. Their comments more specifically deal with nuclear safety and radiation protection.

Similarly, the DSNRs attend CLI meetings to help improve local media understanding of issues linked to nuclear safety and radiation protection.

In 2005, to improve awareness of DNSR actions in the regions, the ASN sent out a brochure to about 500,000 homes in the vicinity of the 19 nuclear power plants, presenting the supervision procedures in the plant concerned.

# 1 5 2

#### The "Nuclear activities under close supervision" exhibition

For more than 6 years now, the ASN and IRSN have been organising an exhibition travelling around the regions, more particularly aimed at schoolchildren and the general public. The purpose of the exhibition is to provide simple, attractive and direct information on the assessment and management of nuclear energy related risks and the corresponding means of surveillance. Every year, local authorities and schools, scientific, technical or industrial culture centres and museums in 2 or 3 towns host this 250 square metre exhibition for periods of from 3 to 8 weeks.

# CHAPTER 6 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY



ASN-IRSN exhibition "Nuclear activities under close supervision"



In 2005, after a presentation at the Val d'Essonne University in Evry (Ile-de-France region), the exhibition moved on to the General Council of the Cher *département* in Bourges. Nearly 3000 people were thus able to visit it.

At each stop, the DSNR helps with the inaugural events, the conferences and dissemination of information to elected officials, the local press and the general public. All ASN publications are also proposed, in particular to science teachers visiting the exhibition.

In 2005, a joint study was launched by the ASN and the IRSN with a view to updating the content of this exhibition and its support documents.

# 16

# Symposia

In 2005, the ASN aimed to ensure a higher profile for itself at symposia, meetings with professionals and international seminars.

On 22, 23 and 24 June 2005, it held the first edition of the NuPEER (Nuclear Pressure Equipment Expertise & Regulation) international symposium in Dijon. This symposium dealt with the subject of ageing of pressure vessels in nuclear power plants and had a two-fold objective: on the one hand to exchange views on practices and share experience of ageing issues in nuclear power plants, and on the other to create an international network of experts in the field of nuclear pressure vessels. It brought together nearly 120 participants from nuclear regulators and expert organisations in 13 countries: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, United Kingdom and United States. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and the European Commission also took part in the debates.

In 2005, the ASN also took part in a large number of scientific conferences, in particular organised by medical learned societies: Société française de radioprotection, Société française de radiologie, Société française de médecine nucléaire et d'imagerie moléculaire, Société française de physique médicale. Together with the professionals concerned, it was thus able to look at the new methods of radiation protection supervision and the new regulatory framework, as well as answering specific questions, for example concerning their facilities.

On 14 December, the ASN also organised the 17th national conference of Local Information Committees (CLIs) on the subject of local emergency management (see point 2|2).

# 2 THE LOCAL INFORMATION COMMITTEES AND THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL INFORMATION COMMITTEES

#### 2 1

#### **The Local Information Committees**

Local Information Committees (CLIs) work alongside the nuclear facilities. These Committees, created at the initiative of the General Councils as recommended by a circular from the Prime Minister on 15 December 1981, have a twofold role: to monitor the impact of these facilities and to inform the populations by means they consider most appropriate.

To do this, they require:

• the necessary information, in particular that forwarded by the licensees and by the administrations that supervise them;

•funding which, according to the above-mentioned circular, must be provided by the local authorities reaping economic benefits from the facility considered.

To help the CLIs expand their actions, the ASN also provides them with financial assistance. This assistance is used in particular to finance 50% of the specific action and assessment expenses of CLIs requesting assistance, and up to 100% of the cost of public information actions. The DSNRs also provide technical support as and when needed. In 2005, State financial support for action by the CLIs and their association amounted to about 350,000 euros.

The CLIs must aim whenever possible to develop their own opinions and adopt a questioning attitude to their various contacts. They comprise locally elected representatives (generally about half the members), representatives from environmental protection associations, trade unionists, socio-professionals and representatives of the public authorities.

Nearly 30 CLIs were created under the circular of 15 December 1981. To this must be added the local information and monitoring committee (CLIS) of the Bure underground laboratory, created under application of the law of 30 December 1991 concerning research into radioactive waste management (the corresponding legal provision now appears in article L. 542-13 of the Environment Code), along with about fifteen information committees created around defence-related nuclear sites, in application of articles 4 and 5 of a decree dated 5 July 2001.

Work began on creating a new CLI for the Large National Heavy Ion Accelerator (GANIL) in Caen and a CLI should also shortly be set up for the uranium mining sites in the Limousin region.

As in previous years, CLI activity reached high levels in 2005.

6

#### 17th Conference of Local Information Committees

The 17th Conference of Local Information Committees was held on 14 December 2005 in Paris, at the initiative of the ministers for Industry, the Environment and Health. More than 140 people took part.

In 2005, a particular effort was made to mobilise the CLIs for this conference, increasing their involvement in its preparation and encouraging them to send larger delegations. This led to a tripling of the number of CLI representatives, with nearly 70 CLI members (local elected officials or representatives or associations or unions, etc.) playing an active part in the conference.

As in previous years, the conference was also attended by members of Parliament, members of the High Council for Nuclear Safety and Information (CSSIN), representatives of the General Councils and Prefectures of *départements* with a CLI, the administrations concerned, associations and licensees operating nuclear installations.

Preceded by an "inter-CLI meeting" organised by the ANCLI on the subject of its "white paper on local governance of nuclear activities" (see below), the conference was devoted to the question of local emergency management.

After a presentation by the Director for Civil Defence and Security, three round-table sessions dealt in turn with emergency management and the post-accident phase, local safeguard plans, and local emergency communications. CLI representatives presented the lessons they had learned from their experience of these matters. Local elected officials and representatives of central government departments contributed their knowledge of health or environmental emergencies unrelated to the nuclear sector (AZF accident, lead pollution from a factory in the Ardennes, etc.).

The debates confirmed the interest of the CLIs in these questions and the need to continue with the debates and experiments initiated, so that these committees can play a full role in the event of an emergency situation. The question of the role of the CLI in emergency communications needs in particular to be looked at further.

The event was closed by the Chairman of the ANCLI and the Director General of the ASN.

The date of Tuesday 12 December 2006 has already been chosen for the 18th conference.



17th conference of CLI chairmen

The CLI generally held one or more plenary meetings, often supplemented by meetings of specialist committees ("environment", "communication" and "socio-economic" sub-committees at Cadarache, "technical" and "population safety" sub-committees at Gravelines, working party on the environmental monitoring plan around the FBFC plant in Romans, "science and society", "information, training and governance" and "news" groups at Saclay, "Economic and "Environment" committees at the Valduc SEIVA (Valduc information exchange structure), and so on).

Site annual operating reports were presented to most of the CLIs. The incidents which occurred were generally reviewed in depth.

The CLIs also dealt with subjects such as the nuclear transparency and safety bill (Blayais CLIN), alerting the population (Civaux CLI), distribution of iodine tablets (Cattenom, Chooz, Gravelines, Nogent CLIs, among others), the EPR project (Dampierre and Flamanville CLIs), the ITER project (Cadarache CLI), etc.

The CLIs are generally involved in the emergency exercices, and at the very least receive a presentation of their conclusions.

The CLIs are invited to take part in ASN inspections: in 2005, the Fessenheim CLS (local surveillance committee) and the Gravelines, Golfech, Nogent-sur-Seine, Paluel-Penly, Saclay and Saint Laurent-des-Eaux CLIs in particular responded to this invitation. They can also request specific assessments (Cadarache CLI on analysis of the impact of the site, Fessenheim CLS on seismic "micro-zoning", Gard CLI on the radiological consequences of the flooding of December 2003 in the Petite Camargue area, Golfech CLI for chemical releases, and so on).

In order to inform the population, nearly half of the CLIs publish newsletters. Others are offered space in the publications of the General Council or the commune. Information about CLI activities appears on the ASN website and that of the national CLI association (ANCLI). Some CLIs also have their own websites (Bure local committee, Golfech and Gravelines CLIs, La Hague (Special and permanent information committee for the COGEMA La Hague facility). Others have pages on local authority websites.

The Valduc SEIVA made a significant contribution to the organisation of the 2005 ANCLI conference held in Dijon.



# 22

## The National Association of Local Information Committees

The National Association of Local Information Committees (ANCLI) was set up on 5 September 2000. The aim of this association is to create a discussion and information network for the CLIs, to provide a resource centre and to act as the interface with the public authorities and national and international nuclear organisations.

Since December 2004, the ANCLI has been chaired by Mr Jean-Claude Delalonde, Chairman of the Gravelines CLI and member of the General Council of the Nord *département*.

The ANCLI aimed to revitalise its activities in 2005. At its meting on 2 February 2005, in Dunkerque, its board set three major objectives for the ANCLI:

• to make the CLI voice heard on all subjects of potential concern to them (transparency bill, waste management, power plant ageing, transport of nuclear materials, environmental monitoring, dismantling);

•to represent all the CLIs (or similar structures) set up around nuclear facilities, regardless of their status, and to be representative of all bodies making up the CLIs (elected officials, associations, unions, chambers of commerce, industry and trade, experts, etc.);

•to offer the CLIs the technical and human resources they need to perform their duties: expert assessment resources via the ANCLI's Scientific committee but also, for example, the creation of a website to distribute information from the ANCLI to the CLIs.

This orientation in particular led to the publication by the ANCLI in spring 2005, of a "white paper on local governance of nuclear activities" which was presented to the relevant political bodies and was the subject of a number of communications. The ANCLI website, www.ancli.fr, was opened at the beginning of the summer of 2005.

The ANCLI took part in the public debates held in the autumn of 2005 concerning radioactive waste and the EPR project.

During its general meeting of 19 October 2005, the ANCLI modified its articles of association, in particular so that its ability to represent the various CLI member categories could be improved.

The ANCLI is now more representative and at the end of 2005 acts as the umbrella organisation for about twenty CLIs, or about two-thirds of the total.

The ANCLI's activities in 2005 were also marked by the following actions.

#### DÉCLIC bulletin

The ANCLI publishes an information bulletin called DÉCLIC, of which it distributes 6000 free copies. In 2005, issue number 9 was published.

#### • INFO sheets

These information sheets are distributed as part of the DÉCLIC bulletin, or on request.

#### • ANCLI annual symposium

The ANCLI held its 5th annual symposium on 14 and 15 September in Dijon, on the subject "Power plant ageing: what health, environmental and socio-economic effects?".

#### Training

The ANCLI organises training for CLI members. In 2005, a session was devoted to the local safeguard plans and their implementation. About twenty CLI members took part.

#### Scientific committee

This committee was set up on 5 March 2003 and brings together experts from various disciplines in order to answer the scientific questions posed by the CLIs. After a year in which its activities had been suspended, the scientific committee was reactivated in September 2005. It set itself, in particular, the goal of meeting 6 CLIs in 2006, of taking part in the various public debates on radioactive waste and the EPR, and of organising regional conferences on precise topics chosen by the CLIs.

#### • Site visits

In May 2005, the ANCLI organised a visit to the MELOX plant and the Visiatome at Marcoule.

#### **3** The high council for nuclear safety and information

The High Council for Nuclear Safety and Information (CSSIN) was created by a decree dated 13 March 1973 and its role was extended by another decree dated 2 March 1987.

Its role covers all issues concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection and information of the public and media with regard to these matters.

The Council comprises personalities chosen for their information and communication skills, or their expertise in scientific, technical, economic or social fields, members of Parliament, representatives of environmental protection associations, of labour organisations, of nuclear facility licensees and of the administrations concerned.

The composition of the Council was renewed by an order dated 27 May 2005 from the Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development and the Minister Delegate for Industry. Mr Michel van der Rest, who is Science Director of the Life Sciences department at the CNRS, was appointed chairman.

The new Council held its first meeting on 28 September 2005 and this was an opportunity for the members of the Council to present proposals for questions which they wanted to see included in the Council's programme of work for the next five years of its mandate.

These proposals include, although with no order of priority at this stage:

- the conditions of public information about nuclear safety in the 146 BNIs and the tens of thousands of medical installations,

-management of nuclear waste,

- -the transparency of the current organisation of safety,
- -plant ageing,
- the risks linked to the terrorist threat,
- -the safety of the planned new large installations: George Besse II, EPR, ITER,
- -organisational vulnerability,
- -professional training on nuclear safety issues,
- -management of emergency situations,
- -the risks linked to the existence of plutonium,
- -monitoring of medical irradiation and its potential impact,
- -safety during dismantling of facilities and management of their waste,
- -creation of a rating for radiation protection incidents,
- -analysis of safety incidents and lessons learned,
- -supervision of uranium mines.

These proposals led to a wide-ranging discussion with a view to drafting an initial version of the Council's programme for the coming years, with the programme to be finalised during the next meeting.

The Council expressed its wish to ensure wider coverage of its work than in the past and undertook to publish the minutes of its five annual plenary sessions.

#### **4** The institute for radiation protection and nuclear safety

The IRSN, created by the law of 9 May 2001 and the decree of 22 February 2002, was set up as an independent public establishment as part of the national drive to reorganise the supervision of nuclear safety and radiation protection, in order to concentrate public assessment and research resources in these fields. The IRSN reports to the ministers for the Environment, Health, Research, Industry and Defence.

The Institute runs and implements research programs to ensure that the national public assessment capability is soundly based on the most advanced scientific knowledge in these fields at an international level and to contribute to the development of scientific knowledge concerning nuclear and radiological risks. Its role is to provide technical support for the public authorities with competence for safety, security and radiation protection in both the civilian and defence sectors (secret BNIs, weapons systems and nuclear-powered ships). Finally, the decree that created it gives it certain duties outside the scope of research, in particular in monitoring of the environment and of populations exposed to ionising radiation. These missions in particular include radiation protection training, management of national databases (national nuclear materials inventory, national radioactive sources file, SISERI file containing worker exposure to ionising radiation, etc.) as well as helping to inform the public of the risks linked to ionising radiation.

In accordance with this same decree, the IRSN publishes the results of its R&D programmes, except for those related to defence, primarily on its website, www.irsn.org. This same year, the website received more than 900,000 visits and about 900 messages in its contact@irsn.fr mailbox.

The IRSN reports on its activities in the public annual report it officially communicates to its supervisory Ministries, as well as to the Higher Council for Nuclear Safety and Information, to the Higher Council for Public Health in France and to the Higher Council for the Prevention of Professional Risks. The 2004 version of this exhaustive activity report is available in French and English on the IRSN website and can be obtained on request either on paper or on a mini CD-ROM from the Institute (IRSN BP17 92262 Fontenay-aux-Roses Cedex).

In application of the framework agreement signed in 2004, which defines the procedures for dialogue between the IRSN and the ASN, as well as the principles governing the technical support the Institute provides to the ASN, an annual protocol identifying the actions to be performed by the IRSN on behalf of the ASN was signed in 2005.

In 2005, the IRSN submitted about 700 opinions to the ASN and about 20 reports to the advisory committees. It in particular presented its expert opinions to 19 sittings of the advisory committees. These opinions primarily concerned:

- the periodic safety review concerning the third ten-yearly outages for the 900 Mwe reactors,

- the periodic safety review concerning the second ten-yearly outages for the 1300 MWe reactors,

-review of lessons learned from operation of French and foreign pressurised water reactors during the period 2000 to 2002,

-review of the draft safety analysis report for the future EPR reactor,

-review of the preliminary safety analysis report for the Georges Besse II centrifugal enrichment plant, -review of the waste management policy. Finally, the travelling exhibition jointly managed by the ASN and the IRSN, entitled "Nuclear activities under close supervision", was presented in the towns of Evry and Bourges. For its run in Evry alone, the exhibition welcomed 1800 visitors, including 300 university students and 200 high school students. This was also an opportunity to organise a round table about the transport of radioactive materials, which was attended by about a hundred people.

The decision was also taken to revamp the exhibition in 2005 and the title, poster and seven thematic booklets were revised. The seven booklets were in fact replaced by an educational visitor's guide.

In addition, a newsletter was created, designed to give a regional and "topical" feel to the exhibition.

For further information, contact www.irsn.org.

### **5** THE OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Nuclear safety and radiation protection are complex areas in which many parties are involved. Given the diversity of available information, the public can now make up its own mind in particular by consulting the websites of the main organisations concerned. The information they make available varies in nature, from the most general to the most scientific, from the layman to the informed professional.

In line with its policy of transparency, the ASN presents a non-exhaustive list of the main websites dealing with nuclear matters in the broadest sense:

- Local Information Committees (CLIs) and High Council for Nuclear Safety and Information (CSSIN)
  - -www.asn.gouv.fr (the Nuclear Safety Authority's site is also the point of entry for the CLI and CSSIN sites);
  - -www.ancli.fr (site of the National Association of CLIs).

• Parliamentary assemblies (reports from the Parliamentary Office for the assessment of scientific and technological options, bills, work done by committees, etc.)

- -www.assemblee-nationale.fr (site of the French Parliament);
- -www.senat.fr.
- Licensees
  - -www.andra.fr (site of the National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management);
  - -www.cea.fr (site of the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique);
  - -www.cogema.fr (site of the Compagnie Générale des Matières nucléaires);
- -nucleaire.edf.fr (EDF site devoted to the French nuclear power plants);
- www.framatome-anp.com (site of Framatome-ANP, manufacturer of French nuclear reactors);
- -www.laradioactivite.com (popularisation site, produced jointly by the CEA and the CNRS).
- Associations
- -www.criirad.com (site of the Commission for Independent Research and Information on Radioactivity);
- -www.greenpeace.fr (Greenpeace site);
- -www.wise-paris.org (Wise site);
- -www.sortirdunucleaire.org (site of the "Sortir du nucléaire" association).

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- ·Health agencies and technical experts
  - -www.afssa.fr (site of the French Food Product Safety agency);
  - -www.afssaps.sante.fr (site of the French Health Product Safety agency);
  - -www.afsset.fr (site of the French Environment and Labour Health Safety Agency);
  - -www.invs.sante.fr (site of the Health Monitoring institute).

• Learned societies

- -www.sfr-radiologie.asso.fr (site of the French Radiology Society);
- -www.sfrp.asso.fr (site of the French Radiation Protection Society);
- -www.sfen.org (site of the French Nuclear Energy Society).

•Higher education establishments and research centres (engineering colleges, universities, university hospitals, etc.).

- ·Legislative and regulatory texts
  - -www.legifrance.gouv.fr;
  - -www.ladocfrancaise.gouv.fr;
  - -www.ecologie.gouv.fr (law-related part of the Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development's website).
  - -www.industrie.gouv.fr;
  - -www.sante.gouv.fr.

#### 6 OUTLOOK

Setting up an opinion barometer is an important step for the ASN in its public information role. This barometer is designed to quantify the level of recognition of the ASN and the degree of satisfaction with its information action and should enable the ASN regularly to assess the relevance and quality of the information actions it carries out. Subsequent surveys following on from that of 2005 will be conducted and the results will help the ASN enhance its institutional image and raise its profile and the perception of its functions.

Changes to the www.asn.gouv.fr website are also an important project for the ASN in 2006. To better inform the public about what it is doing and about the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France, in particular in the local nuclear sector, the new site will enable the web user to access all subjects that interest him or her, easily and rapidly.

Along the lines of the information brochures it distributed regarding supervision of nuclear power plants, the ASN wishes to expand its information programmes aimed at the general public.

The ASN will also continue its policy of stakeholder consultation when drafting regulatory texts of general scope. It aims to make it increasingly possible for web users to find out about these projects and comment on them.

The ASN goal is to be recognised, both nationally and internationally, as an effective, legitimate and credible regulator. This to a large extent depends on its ability to disseminate information, to involve other stakeholders and to report on its actions. All of the ASN's current and future actions in the field of public information and transparency are designed to achieve this goal.