

## PUBLIC INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

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## CHAPTER 6

As part of ASN's duty to inform, recalled in act 2006-686 of 13 June 2006 on Transparency and Security in the Nuclear Field (known as the "TSN" act), this report presents a picture of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France in 2006. In this chapter, ASN describes its actions and tools for public information and transparency. Since 2003, 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 checking 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 setting up the General Directorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (DGSNR) expanded this public information duty to cover radiation protection: DGSNR is responsible for "contributing to public information on subjects related to nuclear safety and radiation protection". Finally, the above-mentioned TSN act, which gives ASN the status of an independent administrative authority, states that ASN takes part in information of the public on nuclear safety and radiation protection.

Thus, at each institutional change concerning how civil nuclear activities supervision is organised in France, ASN's public information role was confirmed.

In order to discharge these duties, 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.

It informs and notifies the various information providers. 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). ASN also handles the secretariat of the High Council for Nuclear Safety and Information (CSSIN) and regularly presents its actions to it. ASN maintains ongoing relations with elected representatives and environmental protection associations.

In addition, 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. This was for example the case when drafting the National plan for radioactive materials and waste management (PNGM-DR), overseen by ASN and involving various stakeholders. It was placed on-line on ASN's website in the summer of 2005, for comment.

Public information and transparency on nuclear activities were enhanced by act 2006-686 of 13 June 2006 on Transparency and Security in the Nuclear Field. This act recognised that the public has a right to access the information in the possession of nuclear installation licensees and persons responsible for the transport of radioactive materials.

## ASN - Image and awareness

*In 2006, together with the TNS SOFRES poll institute, ASN once again used the profile and image barometer created for the first time in 2005. This barometer is designed to quantify ASN's recognition level and the degree of satisfaction of the various audiences with regard to its information actions. It will enable ASN to adapt its information policy both locally and nationally.*

*The second wave of this opinion survey took place in October and November 2006 with a representative sample of the general public and a sample representing the more informed public (in particular consisting of journalists, elected officials, association managers, administrators, CLI chairmen, health professionals and teachers).*

*This latest survey shows that the general public is more aware of ASN than in 2005: 21% of the respondents (as against 16% in the first wave) claimed to be familiar with the name of ASN and were sure that there was an organisation in charge of nuclear supervision in France. Of ASN's duties, the general public (72% of respondents) clearly identified supervision of nuclear installations and activities. This public also has a clearer perception of ASN's regulatory role: 19% of respondents as opposed to 12% in 2005.*

*Among the more informed public, ASN's profile has remained high: 62% of respondents (as opposed to 61% during the first wave) are aware of the existence of an organisation responsible for nuclear supervision in France. 87% of the informed public identified ASN's supervisory role, as against 80% in 2005. ASN's information role is also more clearly perceived by this public: 21% of respondents as against 13% in 2005.*

## 1 | 2

### ASN's information media

## 1 | 2 | 1

### ASN's website, [www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr)

ASN's website has been on-line since May 2000, and was overhauled in October 2006. With a new graphic charter, it now proposes a new layout structure and new services (brochures can be ordered on-line, section dedicated to professionals, etc.).

The [www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr) site is updated in real time and provides the latest news about nuclear safety and radiation protection in France along with ASN's stance on various subjects. The new site homepage is split into three sections: news, recent events and publications and access to particular sections: professional section, ASN public information and documentation centre, CSSIN, CLIs, and the national environmental radioactivity measurements network.

The site is organised around 9 main headings presenting ASN and its activities, supervision of civil nuclear activities in France, reference texts, publications, thematic dossiers and local information.

Since 1 January 2002, and in line with its commitment to transparency, ASN's website [www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr) has published the results of all the inspections (about 700 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, 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



ASN website homepage: [www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr)

monitoring actions it carried out and the main events that occurred during the outage. These notices are published after ASN has approved restart of the reactor concerned.

Since it was first set up in May 2000, ASN's website has seen its audience steadily grow. In 2006, the site was visited by nearly 520,000 people, or nearly 43,000 per month. The site was visited 865,598 times during the course of the year, peaking in March with 110,185 visits by 68,414 individual visitors.

1 | 2 | 2

## The report on nuclear safety and radiation protection in France

Every year, this report presents the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France. It describes 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 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 outlook.

The report and its summary are sent to many of 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.fr](http://www.asn.fr).

## Contrôle magazine

Since 1978, 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 CSSIN and CLIs, 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 ASN has regular contacts.

The *Contrôle* print run comprises 9,000 copies and it consists of two parts:

- the first, entitled *Dossiers de Contrôle*, is devoted to a specific topic dealing with nuclear safety or radiation protection;
- the second is devoted to news. It reports on what 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 ASN; activities of CLIs, CSSIN, the interministerial commission on basic nuclear installations (CIINB) and advisory committees of experts.

Press conferences are organised when each issue of *Contrôle* is published. They are regularly attended by journalists from the general press and the specialist “nuclear”, “environment” and “medical” press.



Covers of the issues of *Contrôle* published in 2006

In 2006 *Contrôle* covered the following subjects:

- February → Risk (no. 168)
- March → Nuclear safety and radiation protection in France in 2005 (abstracts) (no. 169)
- May → International radiation protection: national radiation protection authorities (no. 170)
- July → Protecting people during emergency situation (no. 171)
- October → Improving patient radiation protection in medical practices (no. 172)
- December → Use of radioactive sources in industry and research (no. 173)

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

The *Dossiers de Contrôle* are published separately, but also available on the [www.asn.fr](http://www.asn.fr) site. Back numbers can also be consulted in the public information and documentation centre.

## 1 | 2 | 4

### Other ASN publications

#### ASN's presentation brochure

The brochure presenting the new ASN was published at the end of 2006. It reflects the new ASN status and describes the resources implemented by ASN to supervise nuclear safety and radiation protection on behalf of the State and to inform the citizens. ASN's aims, values, roles and new organisation chart are presented in it. It is in particular distributed at meetings and events attended by ASN.

#### ASN's public information and documentation centre brochure

This document presents the information centre and outlines its documentary base and the practical aspects of how it works. It is widely distributed to various information providers: 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 ASN participates, as well as the communication departments of DRASS, DDASS and the *préfectures*<sup>1</sup>.

#### The 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 ASN participates and are sent out to various information providers such as CLIs



ASN presentation brochure

1. Regional government representative's ("préfet") offices.



Some of the public information sheets

and the documentation centres for teachers. They are also available to the regional divisions for local communication operations.

The collection currently comprises 7 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.

Sheet no. 3, “Nuclear or radiological: which term to use?” clarifies the definition and usage of these two words in various fields of activity (industry, medical, research) 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 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.

Sheet no. 7, “Radon”, explains the origin of this radioactive gas, the risk it presents for individual health, the possible preventive or corrective steps and the measures provided for in the regulations to reduce this risk.

The information brochure for response teams in the event of a radiological emergency

This brochure, available on ASN's website ("Professionals" section) summarises the information and basic instructions to be followed by personnel liable to intervene in managing a radiological emergency, whether or not radiological risk specialists.



The information brochure for intervention crews in the event of a radiological emergency

1 | 3

The public information and documentation centre

ASN's public information and documentation centre was opened to the public in 2004 for consultation of documentation concerning the areas of competence of ASN. It offers visitors more than 1,000 documents freely available for consultation.

This centre offers the public access to all of ASN's publications. They can also consult publications dealing with nuclear safety and radiation protection produced by various parties (CLIs, CSSIN, nuclear licensees, IRSN and other technical experts, radiology and radiation protection learned societies, professional associations and environment protection associations, etc.).

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 magazines, 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 2006, ASN's public information and documentation centre dealt with requests from nearly 1,300 people and welcomed 92 visitors.



## 1 | 4

### ASN and the media

## 1 | 4 | 1

### Press relations

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

Its press department maintains regular relations with national, local and international journalists.

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

ASN also organises regional press conferences, in particular to coincide with the annual round-ups given by its regional divisions.

ASN's press department issues press releases that mainly concern:

- the decisions taken and stances adopted by ASN on sensitive nuclear safety and radiation protection issues;
- the regulatory actions (authorisation to start up or shut down installations, environmental discharge licences, etc.);
- incidents of a certain importance, in particular incidents rated 2 and higher on the INES scale.

In 2006, questions from journalists chiefly concerned:

- the TSN act and the change in ASN status, with its transformation into an independent administrative authority;
- ASN's position on radioactive waste and act 2006-739 of 28 June 2006 concerning the sustainable management of radioactive materials and waste;
- dismantling of nuclear installations;
- prevention of legionella around nuclear power plants;
- radiotherapy incidents and accidents;
- the safety of nuclear installations 20 years after Chernobyl;
- the consequences of drought on the operation of nuclear power plants in France;
- the uses and production of polonium 210 following the poisoning of Alexandre Litvinenko with polonium 210.

## 1 | 4 | 2

### ASN and the media in emergency situations

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 ASN 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.

**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 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.

*Type of events to which the INES scale applies*

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 ASN, IAEA's 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.

*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 ASN, which alone is responsible for the final rating decision.

Using the INES scale enables 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.fr](http://www.asn.fr) website.
- incidents rated level 2 and above are in addition the subject of a press release;
- incidents rated level 0 are not always made public by 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	0	1	0	1
1	74	25	15	114
0	665	104	48	817
Total	739	130	63	932

**Rating of nuclear events on the INES scale in 2006**

In addition, “real” media requests are often made during these exercises, with journalists observing 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.

## 1 | 4 | 3

### **Training in communication and media relations**

With the aim of issuing high-quality, clear and comprehensible information, stripped of any over-technical vocabulary, ASN offers all of its staff training in spoken and written communication and emergency management. This training is tailored to their various responsibilities.

In 2006, communication training enabled:

- ASN’s 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;
- 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 | 5

### **ASN’s regional actions**

## 1 | 5 | 1

### **Public information actions by the regional delegates and division heads**

ASN’s new status will make its regional actions more visible and enable it to expand its public information work at a local level. The roles of ASN spokesperson and regional representative are now performed by the 11 regional delegates and their division heads.

Every year, DRIREs used to 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, which is welcomed by the local media, will be developed further. It gives those populations living in the vicinity of nuclear installations a precise and often more detailed picture of their level of safety than that available in the national media. As of 2007, this press presentation will be made by ASN’s regional delegates.

The heads of the various regional divisions are already responding to many interview requests from local and regional media. Some divisions also take part in training seminars designed to familiarise journalists with industrial risks. Their interventions are more specifically focused on nuclear safety and radiation protection and their role will be enhanced by ASN’s new status.

Similarly, the participation by ASN’s regional delegates in CLI meetings helps improve local media understanding of issues linked to nuclear safety and radiation protection.

1 | 5 | 2

### Exhibition: “Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation”

ASN and IRSN organise a permanent 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 several weeks.

At each stop, ASN’s regional delegates help 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 2006, after a presentation at the Fontenay-aux-Roses town hall, the exhibition now called “Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation” and previously known as “Nuclear activities under close supervision”, was installed for a total of 14 weeks at the Agora des Sciences in Marseille, where it received 4,400 visitors, including about 900 secondary school students.

In 2006, certain modules of the exhibition were updated. This overhaul of content and support documents will be continued in 2007.



**Poster for the ASN/IRSN exhibition  
“Nuclear power and society: from  
understanding to regulation”**

1 | 6

### Symposia and professional meetings

In 2006, ASN maintained its presence at symposia, meetings with professionals and international seminars.

It also took part in a large number of scientific conferences, in particular organised by medical learned societies: Société française de radiation protection, Société française de radiologie, Société française de médecine nucléaire et d’imagerie moléculaire, Société française de physique médicale. With the professionals concerned, ASN was thus able to look at the new means of supervising radiation protection and the new regulatory framework, while answering specific questions, for example concerning their facilities.

In addition to the presentations and talks by ASN, stands were in particular set up at the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) conference from 15 to 19 May 2006, as well as at the French radiology conference (21-25 October 2006).

At the same time, ASN supported and participated in the Environment Events held in Bordeaux on 11 May 2006 and the conferences of the “Vraiment Durable” (*Truly Sustainable*) association organised in Dunkerque on 5 and 6 October and in Annemasse on 23 and 24 November 2006.

ASN also took part in international symposia, notably that of 11 to 15 December 2006 on the occasion of the International Conference on Lessons Learned from the Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities, organised by IAEA in Athens (Greece).

On 12 December, ASN also held the 18th national conference of Local Information Committees, devoted to the consequences of the TSN act (see point 3|1).

## 2 THE RIGHT TO NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION INFORMATION

Since the TSN act came into force, the nuclear field now has a unique system of public access to information.

Previously, access to nuclear-related documents was governed by two general texts which also applied to other fields:

- the act of 17 July 1978 introducing a variety of measures designed to improve relations between the administration and the public, which in particular instituted freedom of access to administrative documents: the administration was thereby required to release to whoever so requested the documents in its possession, whether it had received or produced them, with a number of exceptions primarily designed to prevent prejudice to public safety, industrial or commercial confidentiality, or to protect individual privacy and personal data; preparatory documents for a decision yet to be taken are also excluded from this right of access;

- chapter IV of part II of book I of the Environment Code, entitled “right of access to environmental information”, which states that the public authorities and persons tasked with a public service duty relating to the environment, must communicate to anyone who so requests the information in its possession concerning the environment: this in particular concerns information regarding the state of the environment, information concerning decisions, activities and factors liable to have an impact on the environment, and information on human health, safety or living conditions whenever they could be altered by the environmental factors, or decisions taken in this field. As with the 1978 act, there are exceptions.

These two systems for access to documents and information naturally apply to the nuclear field. What they both share is an obligation of communication placed on the public authorities or those acting on their behalf.

Chapter I of part II of the TSN act of 13 June 2006, contains a major innovation in that it creates a right of access to information that is binding on the licensees. They are now required to communicate to whoever so requests, the information in their possession, whether received or produced by them, concerning the risks related to their activities and the safety or radiation protection measures they have taken to prevent or mitigate these risks.

This arrangement is consistent with the principle of the prime responsibility of the licensee: as the licensee has prime responsibility for the safety of its installation, but also for communicating about the risks created by its installation and the steps it intends taking to prevent or mitigate their consequences.

As with the other access rights mentioned above, the TSN act contains exceptions, in particular in order to protect public safety or industrial and commercial confidentiality.

The procedures involved in the enforcement of this right are similar to those concerning the other access rights: if a licensee refuses to communicate the information requested, the applicant may refer the matter to the administrative documents access commission (CADA) an independent administrative authority, which will then rule on whether or not the refusal is justified. Should the parties involved fail to abide by the CADA ruling, the administrative courts will decide on whether or not the information should be released.

This new right is a major change in the legal framework of nuclear transparency. In this respect, the nuclear field is now the most advanced.

This right of access entered into force on 14 June 2006 for licensees of BNIs. It is as yet too early to draw any initial conclusions, but ASN is monitoring implementation closely.

This access right could be extended to those in charge of transporting radioactive substances and those in possession of radioactive sources, other than BNI licensees, exceeding thresholds to be determined by decree.

**EXTRACTS FROM PART III OF ACT 2006-686 OF 13 JUIN 2006 ON TRANSPARENCY  
AND SECURITY IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, CONCERNING INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC  
ABOUT NUCLEAR SAFETY**

**Chapter I**

**Right of information concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection**

Article 18

The State is responsible for informing the public about nuclear safety and radiation protection regulation measures and results. It provides the public with information on the consequences in France of nuclear activities conducted outside the country, in particular in the event of an incident or accident.

Article 19

I. - Any person is entitled to obtain information from the licensee of a basic nuclear installation or, when the quantities are higher than thresholds laid down by decree, from the person in charge of a radioactive substances transport or in possession of such substances, whether said information is received or produced by it, concerning the risks linked to exposure to ionising radiation as may result from this activity and concerning the safety and radiation protection measures taken to prevent or mitigate these risks or this exposure, in the conditions defined in articles L. 124-1 to L. 124-6 of the Environment Code.

[...]

Article 21

All licensees of basic nuclear installations shall produce a yearly report setting forth:

- the steps taken concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection;
- nuclear safety and radiation protection incidents and accidents, subject to the declaration obligation pursuant to Article 54, which have occurred within the boundary of the installation, along with the steps taken to contain them and the consequences for human health and the environment;
- the type of measurements and results concerning radioactive and non-radioactive discharges from the installation into the environment;
- the nature and quantity of radioactive waste stored on the site of the installation, along with the steps taken to minimise the volume and the effects on health and the environment, in particular on soil and water.

[...]

### 3 LOCAL INFORMATION COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL INFORMATION COMMITTEES

#### 3 | 1

#### Local Information Committees

A circular from the Prime Minister dated 15 December 1981 set up the Local Information Committees (CLIs) around most of the nuclear installations, at the initiative of *conseils généraux*<sup>2</sup>.

The TSN act further enhanced CLIs by giving them a legal status. Article 22 of this act provides for the creation of a CLI for each basic nuclear installation (a CLI may be common to several installations if they are located close to each other). It defines the role of a CLI as being a general one of monitoring, information and discussion concerning nuclear safety, radiation protection and the impact on individuals and the environment of the nuclear activities carried out on the site's installations.

The act confirms that creation of a CLI is the duty of the Chairman of the *Conseil général* and gives the list of the various categories of members: representatives of *conseils généraux*, of the municipal councils or representative bodies of groups of communes and *conseils régionaux*<sup>3</sup> concerned, members of Parliament for the *département*, representatives of associations for protection of the environment or economic interests, representative employee and medical profession labour unions, as well as qualified personalities. The representatives of the State's departments, ASN, and those of the licensee have an automatic right to participate in the work of CLI, in an advisory capacity.

EXTRACTS FROM PART III OF ACT 2006-686 OF 13 JUNE 2006 ON TRANSPARENCY  
AND SECURITY IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, CONCERNING PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT  
NUCLEAR SAFETY

Chapter II

Local Information Committees

Article 22

I. - A local information committee is set up at all sites comprising one or more basic nuclear installations as defined in Article 28. Its role is a general one of monitoring, information and discussion concerning nuclear safety, radiation protection and the impact of the activities of the site's installations on individuals and the environment. The local information committee disseminates the results of its work widely, in a form accessible to the largest number possible.

[...]

The representatives of the Nuclear Safety Authority and the other State departments concerned, as well as the representatives of the licensee, may attend the sessions of the local information committee in an advisory capacity. They have an automatic right of access to its findings.

[...]

The licensee, the Nuclear Safety Authority and the other State departments send it all documents and information it needs to carry out its duties. Depending on the case, the provisions of Article 19 of this act or those of chapter IV of part II of book I of the Environment Code and of above-mentioned act 78-753 of 17 July 1978 apply to this transmission.

The licensee informs the committee of any incident or accident mentioned in Article 54 of this act, as promptly as possible.

[...]

2. Assembly of elected officials administering a department.

3. Assembly of elected officials administering a region.

CLI is chaired by the Chairman of the *Conseil général* or by an elected official from the *département* designated by him for this purpose.

CLI receives the information it needs to function from the licensee, from ASN and from the other State departments. It may request expert assessments or have measurements taken on the installation's discharges into the environment.

CLIs are financed by the regional authorities and by ASN. In 2006, ASN devoted about 400,000 euros to CLIs and the CLI association.

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 pursuant to the act 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.

The creation of a new CLI for the national large heavy ion accelerator (GANIL) in Caen is under way.

The TSN act will lead to the creation of CLIs for a number of other basic nuclear installations which do not yet have one.

As in previous years, CLI activity reached high levels in 2006.

CLIs generally held one or more plenary meetings, often supplemented by specialised committee meetings ("population protection" and "plant operations and impact monitoring" committees at Golfech, "technical" and "population safety" sub-committees at Gravelines, "economics" and "environment" committees at the Valduc information exchange structure, SEIVA, and so on).

Site annual operating reports were presented to most CLIs. Any incidents that had occurred were generally examined in greater detail on this occasion.

CLIs also dealt with subjects such as the bill on transparency and security in the nuclear field (La Hague CSPI), population alert (Civaux CLI), the national plan for radioactive materials and waste



CLI information brochures



management (La Hague CSPI), health impact of power plants (Gravelines CLI), consequences of the 2006 early summer heat wave (Gravelines CLI).

CLIs are generally involved in the emergency exercises, the conclusions of which are presented to them.

CLIs are invited to take part in ASN inspections: in 2006, the Gravelines and Paluel-Penly CLIs accepted this invitation. They can also ask for or carry out specific expert assessments (Gravelines CLI for analysis of an incident or the MOX dossier, with the ANCLI scientific committee, Valduc SEIVA for analyses, etc.).

In order to inform the population, nearly half of CLIs publish newsletters. Others are offered space in the publications of the *Conseil général* or the *commune*. Information about CLI activities appears on ASN's website and that of the national CLI association (ANCLI). Some CLIs also have their own websites (Bure CLIS, Golfech and Gravelines CLIs, La Hague CSPI, Valduc SEIVA). Others have pages on local authority websites.

## 3 | 2

### 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 CLIs, to provide a resource centre and to act as the interface with the public authorities and national and international nuclear organisations.

In 2006, more than 20 CLIs were members of ANCLI.

ANCLI is organised into four sections (elected officials, labour unions, associations, experts and qualified personalities). It is run by a board of 20 members and, since December 2004 has been chaired by Mr Jean-Claude Delalonde, Chairman of the Gravelines CLI and member of the *Conseil général* of the Nord *département*.

In 2006, ANCLI held a general meeting and 4 board meetings.

ANCLI has a full-time quick-response administrative centre.

It manages a website ([www.ancli.fr](http://www.ancli.fr)) and publishes the DECLIC information bulletin (several thousand copies).

In 2006, it in particular organised a seminar on "International experience feedback on participative governance in nuclear waste management" (jointly with IRSN) and a CLI training visit to the Bure laboratory.

It also helped organise the 18th annual CLI conference (see below).

ANCLI has a scientific committee which was reactivated at the end of 2005 and responded to numerous queries from CLIs. This 11-member committee met 6 times during the course of 2006.

ANCLI played an active part in the various events which marked nuclear activities in France in 2006. After the white paper published in 2005 on "Local governance of nuclear activities", it - together with CLIs - drafted a white paper on "Radioactive materials and waste in the regions", in anticipation of the act on radioactive waste. It had contacts with Ministers and members of Parliament concerning the two nuclear acts passed in 2006 (TSN act and act on radioactive waste).

ANCLI was also heavily involved in the public debate over radioactive waste and the EPR.

An agreement was signed between the Flamanville CLI, ANCLI and EDF to facilitate access to technical information about the EPR project.

### 18th Conference of Local Information Committees

The 18th Conference of Local Information Committees was held on 12 December 2006 in Paris, at the initiative of ASN.

About 140 people attended.

As in 2005, and jointly with ANCLI, a particular effort was made to mobilise CLIs for this conference, by involving them in its preparation and encouraging them to send larger delegations. This led to a diversification of the CLI representation: about sixty local elected officials and representatives of associations or labour unions thus actively took 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 *conseils généraux* and *préfectures* of *départements* with a CLI, the administrations concerned, associations and licensees operating nuclear installations.

The conference was devoted to the consequences of the TSN act and was preceded by an “Inter-CLI meeting” organised by ANCLI, allowing a debate by CLI and ASN representatives on the preparation of the implementing decree for this act devoted to CLIs.

The actual conference was opened by Mr François Loos, Minister Delegate for Industry.

An initial round-table session presented the main provisions of the TSN act and the conditions for transforming ASN into an independent administrative authority.

The other two round-tables were devoted to the changes made possible by the TSN act with regard to information. One of them was fully devoted to the new right of access to information in the possession of nuclear installation licensees concerning the risks presented by their installations and the preventive measures taken. The third subject dealt with was the new role of information providers such as CLIs, in the new legal context.

The event was closed by the chairmen of ANCLI and ASN.

Wednesday 5 December 2007 was chosen as the date for the 19th conference.



18th Conference of CLI Chairmen

Regular discussions are held by ANCLI and ASN for an exchange of views on topical issues and to deal with subjects of common interest. ASN involves ANCLI and CLI representatives in a number of working groups (drafting of the national plan for radioactive materials and waste management, etc.).

ANCLI continued its cooperation with IRSN and the corresponding supervisory committee met three times in 2006.

ANCLI and CLIs are taking part in a number of European programmes (COWAM, etc.). ANCLI received a hearing from the European Commission concerning the green paper entitled “a European strategy for sustainable, competitive and secure energy”. It maintains close contact with the European Local Information Committees and dialogue forums (Spain, Slovenia, Belgium, England, Romania).

At the initiative of Mr Jean-Claude Delalonde, Chairman of ANCLI, the European Association of local information committees and dialogue forums (EUROCLI) was created in October 2006. This initiative aims to provide CLIs with a debating platform and participative democratic forums where the goals is not simply to defend a single point of view but to use experience feedback from all parties for a cross-functional analysis and reporting on the overall impact of nuclear activities at a European level. Mr Jean-Claude Delalonde was appointed Chairman of EUROCLI for the next 2 years.

## 4 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 trade unions, 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 Council held 6 meetings in 2006, concerning the following in particular:

- the organisation of regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection;
- the bill on transparency and security in the nuclear field;
- the draft programme act concerning long-term management of radioactive materials and waste;
- the lessons to be learned from the Chernobyl accident;
- nuclear medicine;
- the EPR project.

The minutes of CSSIN sessions are available on ASN's website (under “CSSIN”).

During the course of 2007, the new High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security, created by the TSN act, will come into being and will in particular take over the duties of CSSIN.

**EXTRACTS FROM PART III OF ACT 2006-686 OF 13 JUNE 2006 ON TRANSPARENCY  
AND SECURITY IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD, CONCERNING PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT  
NUCLEAR SAFETY**

**Chapter III**

**High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security**

Article 23

A High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security is created.

[...]

Article 24

The High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security is an informative, discussion and debating body concerning the risks involved in nuclear activities and the impact of these activities on human health, on the environment and on nuclear security. For this purpose, it can issue an opinion on any matter in these fields, as well as on the relevant checks and information. It may also deal with all matters pertaining to the accessibility of information on nuclear security and propose any measure such as to guarantee or improve transparency in the nuclear field.

[...]

Article 25

The High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security may request any expert assessments necessary for the performance of its duties and organise joint debates.

Its opinions are made public.

It issues an annual activity report, also made public.

The persons in charge of nuclear activities, the Nuclear Safety Authority and the other State departments concerned, send the High Committee all documents and information of use in the performance of its duties. Depending on the case, the provisions of Article 19 of this act or those of chapter IV of part II of book I of the Environment Code and the provisions of above-mentioned act 78-753 of 17 July 1978 apply to said transmission.

## **5 INSTITUTE FOR RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY**

IRSN (see presentation in chapter 2, point 2|3|3) 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 2005 version of this exhaustive activity report is available in French and English on IRSN's website and may be obtained from the Institute, on request, on paper and/or mini CD-Rom (IRSN, BP 17, 92262 Fontenay-aux-Roses Cedex).

In accordance with the requirements of the decree that created it, IRSN published the results of its R&D programmes, except for those concerning defence. In 2006, a presentation of the Institute's flagship programmes was organised at the French national library, to coincide with the publication of the annual scientific and technical activities report. The Institute also regularly publishes information of a scientific nature on its website.

In 2006, the following in particular were placed on-line on its site:

- a file dealing with the consequences and lessons learned from the Chernobyl accident, one part being intended for the general public, the other aimed more at experts;
- a file dealing with radioactive waste management, intended for the general public;
- a heading devoted to the services proposed by IRSN;
- the first version of the RNM (national measurements network) website;
- publication of about thirty press releases and memoranda on topical subjects;
- new content in the glossary, FAQ and on-line library.

2006 was also an opportunity for a visual and technical overhaul of the site, in particular by adding a newsletter, with the aim of permanently improving the supply of information to the Institute's various audiences.

This same year, [www.irsn.org](http://www.irsn.org) received more than 1,200,000 visits and about 900 messages in its [contact@irsn.fr](mailto:contact@irsn.fr) mailbox.

Finally, the ongoing process to update the travelling exhibition co-managed by ASN and IRSN, continued in 2006. It is now called "Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation". All communication documents and the module dedicated to the Chernobyl accident have been reworked. This constant process of improvement is continuing with an overhaul of the "Radioactivity and Health" and "Artificial radioactivity and the environment" modules, which was started in 2006 and should be completed in early 2007.

At the same time, the travelling exhibition pitched its tent in Fontenay-aux-Roses and then in Marseille. It received 4,400 visitors, including 900 secondary school students. To coincide with the Marseille exhibition, a cycle of 3 conferences dealing with "reactors of the future", "radioactivity: health benefits and risks" and "environmental radioactivity monitoring" was attended by 80 participants.

For further information, contact [www.irsn.org](http://www.irsn.org).

## 6 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, 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.fr](http://www.asn.fr) (the Nuclear Safety Authority's site is also the point of entry for the CLI and CSSIN sites);
  - [www.anclifr.fr](http://www.anclifr.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](http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr) (site of the French Parliament);
  - [www.senat.fr](http://www.senat.fr).

- Licensees
  - [www.andra.fr](http://www.andra.fr) (site of the National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management);
  - [www.cea.fr](http://www.cea.fr) (site of the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique);
  - [www.areva.com](http://www.areva.com);
  - <http://nucleaire.edf.fr> (EDF site devoted to the French nuclear power plants);
  - [www.areva-np.com](http://www.areva-np.com) (site of Framatome-ANP, manufacturer of the French nuclear reactors);
  - [www.laradioactivite.com](http://www.laradioactivite.com) (popularisation site, produced jointly by the CEA and the CNRS).
- Associations
  - [www.criirad.com](http://www.criirad.com) (site of the Commission for Independent Research and Information on Radioactivity);
  - [www.greenpeace.fr](http://www.greenpeace.fr) (Greenpeace site);
  - [www.wise-paris.org](http://www.wise-paris.org) (Wise site);
  - [www.robindesbois.org](http://www.robindesbois.org);
  - [www.sortirdunucleaire.org](http://www.sortirdunucleaire.org) (site of the "Sortir du nucléaire" association).
- Health agencies and technical experts
  - [www.afssa.fr](http://www.afssa.fr) (site of the French Food Product Safety agency);
  - [www.afssaps.sante.fr](http://www.afssaps.sante.fr) (site of the French Health Product Safety agency);
  - [www.afsset.fr](http://www.afsset.fr) (site of the French Environment and Labour Health Safety Agency);
  - [www.invs.sante.fr](http://www.invs.sante.fr) (site of the Health Monitoring institute).
- Learned societies
  - [www.sfr-radiologie.asso.fr](http://www.sfr-radiologie.asso.fr) (site of the French Radiology Society);
  - [www.sfrp.asso.fr](http://www.sfrp.asso.fr) (site of the French Radiation Protection Society);
  - [www.sfen.org](http://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](http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr);
  - [www.ladocfrancaise.gouv.fr](http://www.ladocfrancaise.gouv.fr);
  - [www.ecologie.gouv.fr](http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr) (law-related part of the Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development's website).
  - [www.industrie.gouv.fr](http://www.industrie.gouv.fr);
  - [www.sante.gouv.fr](http://www.sante.gouv.fr).

## 7 OUTLOOK

Information of the public is one of the key roles of ASN, confirmed each time there is an institutional change in civil nuclear regulation in France, and broadened to cover ASN's evolving areas of competence.

ASN uses a variety of media to provide the public with information that is as simple and complete as possible, and accessible to the greatest possible number. The growing audience of ASN's website confirms it as the authority's number one means of communication. Its new version of October 2006 should also improve information accessibility and legibility. The *Contrôle* magazine this year looked at delicate issues, such as risk and management of emergency situations, or topics of primary public interest such as improving radiation protection for patients. The public information centre continued to welcome visitors, and in particular received a number of foreign visitors who expressed a keen interest in how it worked.

In addition to these tools, ASN played an active part in a variety of symposia, seminars and exhibitions, in particular in the medical field, which enabled it to meet the professionals whose activities it supervises.

Press relations in 2006 were regular and sometimes particularly intense, whether through the various regional and national press conferences (presentation of the *Contrôle* magazine special report or the annual nuclear safety and radiation protection review) or to deal with various subjects of interest to the media (TSN act, legionella, heat wave and drought, radiotherapy accidents, polonium 210, etc.).

ASN's public information actions were sustained in 2006. The results of the IRRS international audit in November are encouraging: the review mission indicated that ASN's public information policy and various actions in this field constitute a "good practice" and an international benchmark.

In 2007, ASN will be continuing its efforts to provide the public with objective, clear and high-quality information. The framework within which this work takes place will however be modified, with 2007 being essentially marked by the effective implementation of several provisions of the TSN act.

ASN will aim to ensure that the various provisions of this act concerning transparency are implemented effectively: right of access by the citizens to the information held by the BNI licensees and those responsible for radioactive material transports, new status and guaranteed long-term funding for CLIs, creation of a High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security.

With regard to information and communication, ASN will implement its new status. This will for example lead to a new form of relations with the media, in particular new ways of organising press conferences (topic, venue, frequency, etc.), both nationally and regionally.

In 2007, ASN will also explain its new status to its various contacts (general public, media, CLIs, associations, elected officials, and so on) and the consequences for its operations and its organisation.

At a regional level, this aspect will take on particular importance with the new role of the regional delegates. The appointment of regional delegates with powers to represent ASN locally will see ASN's regional structures initiate new information measures and forge new ties with CLIs, giving greater support to their information activities.

All the action taken by ASN in 2007 are meant to contribute to raising the image and awareness of the new ASN, boosting the credibility and legitimacy of its actions and enabling the citizens to reach their own conclusions with regard to nuclear safety.

ASN aims to guarantee efficient, impartial, legitimate and credible regulation, recognised by the citizens and regarded internationally as a benchmark for good practice. The TSN act enables ASN to be seen by the population as the independent organisation in charge of supervising nuclear safety in France. The encouraging results obtained at the end of 2006 in terms of recognition and level of public satisfaction concerning ASN's public information work, will then have to be consolidated.

