

**Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) hosted National Conference on Regulatory Interface (NCRI)-2017 during November 28-30, 2017, at Mumbai**

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) hosted a three-day National Conference on Regulatory Interface (NCRI)-2017 during November 28-30, 2017, at Mumbai. The conference was organised for the first time in India, with a purpose for engaging all its stakeholders associated with use of nuclear energy and ionising radiation sources towards further strengthening nuclear and radiation safety. The objective of the conference was to foster an environment wherein, the Licensees, Stakeholders, professional bodies could interact, discuss and provide valuable feedback to AERB on the various issues related to Nuclear/ Radiation Safety, Regulatory requirements, practices world-wide, emerging trends in design and manufacturing, challenges in supply chain and effectiveness of Quality Assurance programs.

More than 300 delegates participated in the conference, with representation from the NPCIL, BHAVINI, Nuclear Fuel Complex, Nuclear component manufacturing industries and various professional bodies such as Indian Radiologists Association, Association of Nuclear Medicine Physicists of India, Association of Radiation Oncologists of India, Association of NDT Service Organisation of India, amongst others.

The NCRI - 2017 was held in two segments. The first segment was on 'Safety of Nuclear Power Plants' (November 28 & 29, 2017), which focused on stakeholders involved in nuclear energy namely, licensees of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs), manufacturers, suppliers and vendors of equipment / components of NPPs. The Plenary sessions and talks by expert speakers addressed the current topical issues related to safety challenges on diversified NPP technologies, nuclear safety in fleet mode of Indian PHWRs & imported LWRs etc. The technical sessions touched upon the topics related to current regulatory requirements, issues / challenges faced by the licensees in fulfilling the requirements, current issues of nuclear and radiation safety in nuclear facilities, regulatory aspects in India and worldwide, emerging trends in design and manufacturing, challenges in supply chain and effectiveness of QA programs. Each of the technical sessions were followed by an interactive panel session between the stakeholders and experts.

The second segment of NCRI-2017 was intended for the licensees of radiation facilities (RFs) and their suppliers/vendors. The presentations covered topics related to Challenges in regulatory activities in radiation facilities, feedback on regulatory requirements from User/Manufacturer/Supplier (Medical, Industrial facilities) and also touched upon generic issues related to occupational & patient radiation exposures, manpower requirements, awareness of radiation safety etc. Parallel to the technical sessions, side meetings were arranged by Chairman, AERB with the representatives from Medical and Industrial associations, for discussions on generic issues pertaining to qualification & training of radiation professionals and certain regulatory aspects related to industrial radiography.

The interaction and feedback garnered at the Conference served its objective of ensuring that insights were provided to not only optimise AERB Regulatory and Safety requirements where necessary, but the requirements were well understood and abided amongst the licencees and stakeholders. The feedback and suggestions during the deliberations will be considered appropriately by AERB for implementation of its regulations, without compromising the nuclear and radiation safety.

Chairman, AERB highlighted that *“There is a need to integrate and synchronize the efforts of all the entities involved in the institution of nuclear safety. This kind of engagement would definitely aid toward building a robust national nuclear safety system, which would not be vulnerable to any individual failure or combination of failures arising from a single participant’s inattention to nuclear safety or be subject to a common mode failure that affects all components in the system.”*



Chairman AERB delivering the keynote address during the first day of NCRI-2017



Stakeholders from Nuclear Facilities during NCRI-2017 on November 28 & 29, 2017



Stakeholders from Nuclear Facilities during NCRI-2017 on November 28 & 29, 2017



Panel discussions, post Technical session on 'Regulatory Requirements for NPPs'



Panel discussions post Technical session on 'Consenting Process of AERB for Regulation of NPPs'



Panel discussions post Technical session on 'Siting Reviews of NPPs'



Plenary session on Ensuring Nuclear Safety in Fleet Mode of Indian PHWRs



Panel discussions post Technical session on 'Ensuring Quality of Nuclear Components'



Panel discussions post Technical session on 'Ensuring Leadership and Management for Safety'



Stakeholders from Radiation Facilities during NCRI-2017 on November 30, 2017



Panel discussions post Technical session on 'Requirement of Qualified Manpower in minimizing Excessive Exposure and optimising patient Doses in Radiation and Industrial facilities'



Round table discussions with Representatives from Industrial Practices





Round table discussions with Representatives from Medical Practices