

Report on the one-day Theme Meeting on
“Emerging Issues in Regulation of Nuclear Facilities”
held on February 20,2009 at Kalpakkam

Safety Research Institute in association with the Institution of Engineers (Kalpakkam Local Centre) organised a theme meeting on “Emerging Issues in Regulation of Nuclear Facilities” to mark the completion of a decade of Safety Research Institute, on February 20,2009. About 120 participants from various DAE units as well as academic institutions attended the meeting.

The workshop was inaugurated by Shri S.K. Sharma, Chairman AERB. Prof P. Rama Rao and Prof. S.P. Sukhatme, former chairmen of AERB addressed the gathering. Key note address on “R &D for Ensuring Safety in Fast Reactors and Associated Fuel Cycle Facilities” was delivered by Dr. Baldev Raj, Director, IGCAR. Shri S.E. Kannan, Director SRI gave an overview of the research activities currently being pursued at SRI as well as those that are planned to be taken up in near future. Prof. P. Rama Rao released `SRI Highlights-2009` brought out during the occasion.

There were two sessions on topics “Emerging issues” and “Role of R& D”. In the first session, there were four invited talks covering the nuclear industry by speakers who are distinguished professionals in the respective fields. They clearly brought out some of the issues to be resolved / challenges to be met to achieve the planned growth of nuclear power generation in the country. In the second session, there were two talks and the distinguished speakers highlighted the role of R & D in regulation of NPPs covering both national and international scenarios.

At the end, there was a panel discussion on the topic `The Role of R&D in Regulation`. The panel consisted of Prof. S.P. Sukhatme, Former Chairman AERB, as moderator and Shri S.K. Sharma, Chairman AERB, Shri S.K. Mehta, Chairman, ACPSR-LWR, Shri G.R. Srinivasan, Former Vice-Chairman, AERB and Shri S.S. Bajaj, Former Sr. Exe. Director, NPCIL as members. The discussions brought out some of the salient points such as:

- Development of in-house capability of safety review and analysis of LWRs in AERB
- Making best use of PSA, keeping in view some of its limitations, in risk informed regulation
- Hydrogen management, taking into account the steam condensation
- Mock up and experimental studies related to safety, wherever possible, to get a greater insight into the problems
- Extending research and development work related to safety to demonstration stage
- Identification/development of computer codes for safety analysis and their validation
- Participation in international programmes for updating the knowledge and development of expertise.