

IAEA Workshop on Incident Reporting System (IRS), Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and Corrective Actions (CA) held at Niyamak Bhavan, Mumbai during November 4-8, 2013

Operational experience is a valuable source of information for learning and improving the safety and reliability of the nuclear installations. The operating event experience review provides insights that may be useful in preventing occurrence similar event at other NPPs. The lessons learned from such events may also be incorporated into new designs for future generations of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs). The effectiveness of operating experience program depends on the quality of root cause analysis, identification of corrective actions and system for sharing of the information among the interested parties. During the review of operating practices of RAPS-3&4, the IAEA Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) had recommended that plant operators should improve their root-cause analyses to “systematically identify all learning opportunities”.

The International Reporting System (IRS) of IAEA / NEA is one of the established international systems for sharing of operating experience among the participating nations. India is one of the participating countries for this system. The reports on safety significant events in nuclear power plants are shared among the participating countries as per the established guidelines. The knowledge of IRS and its web based system enables users to share operating experience effectively, identifying lessons learnt from international events and good practices in order to promote and enhance nuclear safety.

In view of the above, AERB organized an IAEA workshop on ‘Incident Reporting System (IRS), Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and Corrective Actions (CA)’ during November 4-8, 2013 at Niyamak Bhavan, Mumbai, in order to increase the awareness about various RCA techniques and the IAEA-IRS. This workshop was attended by around thirty participants from AERB, BARC, IGCAR, BHAVINI and various units of NPCIL. IAEA arranged four experts in the field of Incident Reporting System (IRS), Root Cause Analysis (RCA) and Corrective Actions (CA) for providing guidance to the participants on the above subject. During the workshop, various techniques for establishing root cause and identification of corrective actions were discussed, along with the examples on application of these techniques on sample events that have occurred in NPPs. Also, the elements of reports submitted under IRS and the guidelines for preparation of these reports were presented. The workshop provided a good opportunity for participants to identify improvements in operating experience program of NPPs.