

Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants (SARCOP) of AERB visited IREL, OSCOM during January 22 - 23, 2019

Orissa Sands Complex (OSCOM) is one of the Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) units located at Chatrapur, Odisha, engaged in beach sand mining, mineral separation activities and processing of Monazite, for recovery of Uranium and Thorium. As part of regulatory oversight by AERB, a meeting of Safety Review Committee for Operating Plants (SARCOP) was conducted at IREL, OSCOM during January 22 – 23, 2019 for review of operational safety aspects of the facilities at OSCOM. During the meeting on January 22, 2019, SARCOP reviewed the safety management system of IREL, OSCOM and the safety status of Monazite processing plant (MoPP) at OSCOM. SARCOP also reviewed the application received from UCIL for resumption of Operation of Jaduguda Mine and Bhatin Mine, UCIL during this meeting.



SARCOP Members discussing during 739th meeting at IREL, OSCOM

Further on January 23, 2019, Shri D. K. Shukla, Executive Director, AERB & Chairman SARCOP, addressed the plant management and staff on “Human Organisation and Technical (HOT) Factors” for safe operation of plant. The intent of this address was to highlight the importance of the Human and Organisational factors in improvement of safety and safety management systems in the plant. In this address Shri Shukla highlighted the importance of organisational efforts in identifying and putting in place such conditions which encourage positive contribution from individuals and groups. He also highlighted the need for identification and elimination of latent errors / failures to ensure safety. He further emphasised that leadership is key to establish and maintain a good safety culture. With respect to the role of regulatory body, he expressed that regulators ensure the availability of robust management systems and verify the compliance with the system. He stated that the licensee’s safety performance can

generally be improved by persuasive engagement by the regulatory body and enforcement action is used as last resort if the utility doesn't respond adequately or there is an imminent danger. The session was interactive and people participated in the discussion enthusiastically.



Shri D. K. Shukla, ED AERB & Chairman SARCOP, delivered a lecture at IREL, OSCOM

SARCOP visited the Dredge and Wet Upgradation Plant (DWUP), Mineral Separation Plant (MSP) Control Room and Monazite Processing Plants (MoPP). During the site visit, SARCOP noted the engineering controls taken by IREL-OSCOM to contain the spillages of slurry within the plants. After the site visit, a feedback meeting was held with the senior management of IREL, in which SARCOP suggested that efforts should be made to improve housekeeping and recommended to identify the technical factors causing the spillages to rectify the same. IREL-OSCOM management thanked AERB for providing in-depth insights regarding safety management systems and importance of Human and Organisational factors in ensuring safety of the plant.



Site visit by SARCOP Members at MoPP, OSCOM