

Theme meeting on Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness & Response - Strengthening based on Feedback from Stakeholders

A one day theme meeting on Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) was conducted on February 24, 2023 at AERB. The theme meeting was organized with an intent to get stakeholders feedback on the implementation of revised approaches especially the classification and declaration of emergency, the methodology/approach for recommending protective action recommendations that are corresponding the plant conditions, revised response framework and off-site exercise methodology. Last year AERB published a Safety Code on Management of Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies in line with updates in International standards (IAEA, ICRP etc.) The theme meeting also intended to identify the thrust areas that needs attention of the stakeholders for strengthening the preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency.

In the inaugural session, Shri Deepak Ojha, Head, DRP&E welcomed the gathering with a background on the developments in the recent past in the area of emergency preparedness and response and AERB's objective for organising the theme meeting.

Shri D.K. Shukla, Chairman, AERB in his inaugural remarks highlighted AERB's initiatives in the recent past to achieve a paradigm shift in approach for emergency response especially the early phase and the necessary arrangements to ensure a required level of preparedness. He also, expressed his expectations from the theme meeting for further enhancing EPR arrangements. The key note address was given by Dr. A. K. Nayak Head, NCPW and Chairman, CMG-DAE who presented an overview on role and responsibility of nodal department (DAE) and an overview on major nuclear accidents occurred in past.

The programme of the theme meeting had a technical sessions dedicated to discuss the key areas of decision making during early and intermediate phases of an emergency along with the associated regulatory oversight and expectations. One of the technical session was dedicated to obtain the feedback from all stakeholder (all NPP sites, CMG-DAE, NDMA and AERB). The technical sessions were followed by a panel discussion chaired by Former Chairman, AERB, Shri S.A. Bhardwaj. The theme meeting had participation from all NPP sites, NPCIL-HQ, HSEG-BARC, CMG-DAE, NDMA and AERB. The programme ended with the closing remarks by Shri S. B. Chafle, Executive Director, AERB.

The theme meeting and the panel discussions observed that all NPPs and response organizations are implementing the revised requirements. All NPPs have developed plant specific initiating conditions and emergency action levels and are conducting the emergency exercises as per the new methodology. Based on the observations/feedback from 12 integrated command control and response (ICCR) off-site emergency exercises conducted strengthening majors have been implemented by NPPs as well as response organizations. Areas for further strengthening of EPR were also identified.



Panel Members (from left to Right) : Shri R. S. Sundar, Former ED (O) NPCIL, Shri V. K. Sharma, Director (O), NPCIL, Shri Shri S.A. Bhardwaj, Former Chairman, AERB, Shri S. B. Chafle, Executive Director, AERB, Dr D.K. Aswal, Director, HSEG, BARC & RER,.