

Towards Harmonization: Implementing the WENRA Safety Reference Levels for Storage of Radioactive Material

Jean-Pierre Berger (ENISS/FORATOM, Brussels), Bernd Lorenz (GNS, Germany), David McGinnes (AXPO, Switzerland)

Tel. +49-201-109-1430, Bernd.Lorenz@gns.de, GNS Gesellschaft für Nuklear-Service mbH, Frohnhauser Str. 67, 45127 Essen



WESTERN EUROPEAN NUCLEAR REGULATORS' ASSOCIATION

Started working 1999 with the aim to assess and improve if necessary nuclear safety in the new Eastern European countries, which wanted to enter the European Union. WENRA finally issued two reports making a comparison between reactors licensed in the existing European Union and the reactors licensed in the applicant countries as well as of the legal systems and the mandate and power of the nuclear regulators. Having done this task successfully WENRA then engaged in harmonizing nuclear safety in Europe.

Two working groups were launched – **Reactor Harmonisation Working Group** and **Working Group on Waste and Decommissioning**.

The aim was to continuously improve safety and to reduce unnecessary differences between the countries. As an important tool in this respect the **Safety Reference Levels** have been developed.

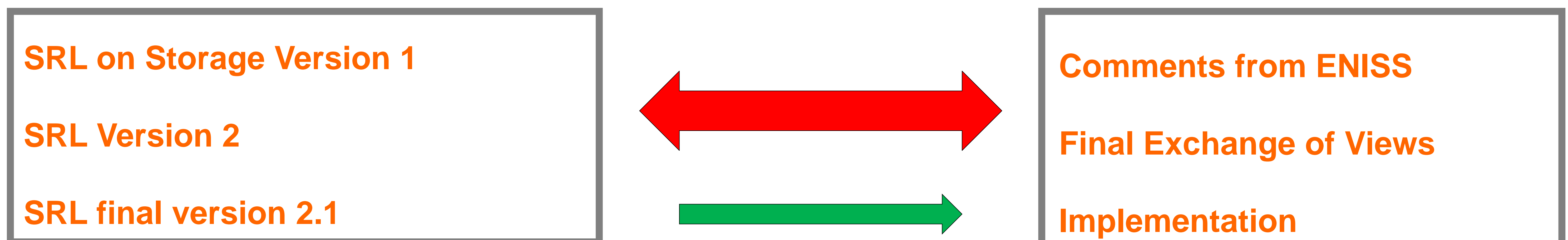
EUROPEAN NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS SAFETY STANDARDS INITIATIVE

Founded in May 2005, members are European operators/ licensees of nuclear facilities, mostly NPPs. The objectives are

- establish a common licensee view with respect to the “WENRA SRLs”
- to support an exchange of information about the interaction of license holders with their national regulators, in order to achieve a harmonised set of new regulations.
- to create an information platform for the European nuclear license holders with respect to new national and international regulatory activities
- to strengthen the influence in the revision work of the IAEA Safety Standards
- to cooperate with the European Institutions on regulatory issues in the area of nuclear safety, radiation protection, waste management and decommissioning

Two working groups were launched – **Reactor Harmonisation Working Group** and **Waste and Decommissioning Working Group**.

Stakeholder Involvement



Benchmark Exercise



Practical implementation benchmark:
central storage facility
Ahaus, Germany

Legal benchmark:
on-site storage facility
Neckarwestheim,
Germany



Implementation:

- Adjustment of the legal basis
- New Periodic Safety Review for Storage Facilities
- Process is overlapped by the “Stress Tests” for Non-NPPs in Europe
- Probably some improvements with regard to accident prevention in advance.

A fair, open and transparent process of developing a safety standard. We are confident that it will remain so for the forthcoming documents on decommissioning and waste disposal.

