

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION
IN NUCLEAR REGULATORY MATTERS
BETWEEN
THE CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION
AND
THE UNITED KINGDOM OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION

October 2020

WHEREAS the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and the United Kingdom Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), hereinafter referred to as the “Participants”, wish to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation and exchange of information in nuclear regulatory matters;

RECALLING the *Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy*;

WHEREAS it is in the mutual interest of both Participants to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation and exchange of information, contemplating the exchange of the Participants’ personnel, training of personnel and assistance in the field of nuclear regulation;

The Participants have reached the following understanding:

ARTICLE I
INFORMATION TO BE EXCHANGED

- (1) Each Participant may request safety-related information from the other Participant on any matter related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy within the other Participant’s jurisdiction, including, but not limited to, information on:
 - (a) new nuclear power plant designs
 - (b) siting, construction, commissioning, operation, and decommissioning of nuclear installations
 - (c) legislation, regulations, licences, regulatory codes, standards, criteria and guides

- (d) technical reports and nuclear safety assessments, including those related to radiological safety
 - (e) nuclear incident and accident reports, and, in particular, information concerning any event that has a major radiological significance and the remedial actions undertaken in response
 - (f) safety-related research concerning licensing and regulatory control of nuclear installations
 - (g) radiation protection and physical protection of nuclear material and radioactive sources
 - (h) storage, discharge and treatment of radioactive waste
 - (i) regulation of radioactive waste management
 - (j) communication projects and strategies in the nuclear regulatory field
- (2) Each Participant will use its reasonable best efforts to provide the information that may be requested by the other Participant pursuant to paragraph (1).
- (3) Either Participant may provide the other Participant with any information that it considers may be of interest to the other Participant, without receiving a request for that information.

ARTICLE II EXCEPTED INFORMATION

Each Participant's willingness to provide information pursuant to paragraph (2) of Article I is subject to:

- (a) the respective laws, regulations or policies which govern the Participants
- (b) any other contract, agreement or commitment that binds a Participant
- (c) the right to refuse to provide information that would be unreasonably difficult or costly to identify or provide

ARTICLE III USE OF INFORMATION

- (1) Each Participant may freely disseminate any information received from the other Participant under this Memorandum of Understanding without obtaining any other permission of the other Participant, with the exception of information that has been provided in confidence.
- (2) Either Participant may clearly identify, on any information that it may provide to the other under this Memorandum of Understanding, that the information is provided in confidence and may impose restrictions on the use and dissemination of the information.

- (3) Each Participant will respect the confidentiality of any information that it receives from the other Participant that is identified as confidential, and will respect the restrictions on use and dissemination that have been imposed.
- (4) Each Participant using any information that is provided to it under this Memorandum of Understanding will assume all risks incurred by its use.
- (5) This Memorandum of Understanding cannot be used as basis for the exchange of classified information.

ARTICLE IV PEACEFUL USES OF INFORMATION AND RESULTS

In accordance with obligations arising from ratification of the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* by Canada and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, received information and the results of the activities carried out by Participants under this Memorandum of Understanding will be used exclusively for peaceful, non-explosive purposes.

ARTICLE V EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL

- (1) Each Participant may request the other Participant to accept temporary visits from members of the requesting Participant's personnel, or of an institution sponsored by the requesting Participant. The visits will be carried out for the purpose of exchanging information or of training on technical regulatory and communication issues.
- (2) Each Participant will use its reasonable best efforts to accommodate the visit that may be requested by the other Participant pursuant to the above paragraph (1).
- (3) Exchanges of personnel and visits involving personnel of an institution sponsored by a Participant may be the subject of a separate arrangement between the Participants.

ARTICLE VI FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Unless otherwise mutually understood between the Participants, each Participant will be solely responsible for its own participation costs under this Memorandum of Understanding, including those incurred by its coordinator in performing his or her responsibilities.

ARTICLE VII ADMINISTRATION

- (1) Each Participant will appoint a coordinator to act as a point of contact, implement, and administer this Memorandum of Understanding. Each Participant will, upon signing this Memorandum of Understanding, notify the other Participant of the name of the person it has appointed as its coordinator.
- (2) Each Participant will, forthwith, notify the other Participant of any change of the coordinator and will communicate, at the same time, the name of the new appointed coordinator.
- (3) Unless otherwise requested by the other Participant, all requests for information and exchanges of information provided under this Memorandum of Understanding will be made or provided to the coordinator of the other Participant.

ARTICLE VIII SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute arising between the Participants concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding will be settled amicably through mutual consultation or negotiation between the Participants.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENT

- (1) This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended in writing, with the amendment signed by both Participants in the same manner as this Memorandum of Understanding.
- (2) Any amendment will enter into effect on the date of its signature by both Participants.

ARTICLE X PARAMOUNTCY

This Memorandum of Understanding supersedes all communications, negotiations and arrangements, either written or oral, between the Participants related to this Memorandum of Understanding, prior to its signing.

**ARTICLE XI
ENTRY INTO EFFECT**

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect upon signature by both Participants.

**ARTICLE XII
TERMINATION**

Either Participant may give notice to the other Participant of its decision to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum of Understanding will terminate 30 days following the date of receipt of the notice by the other Participant, unless the notice of termination has been withdrawn by mutual understanding before the expiry of the period. In the event of termination, each Participant will continue to treat information that has been shared in accordance with Article III.

**ARTICLE XIII
NATURE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

This Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute an international agreement and does not create rights and obligations governed by the international law. The Memorandum of Understanding does not affect any other agreements that grant rights or impose obligations on the CNSC and the ONR.

Signed on 06 October 2020, in duplicate, in English and French, each text being equally authentic.

For the Canadian Nuclear Safety
Commission in Toronto, Canada:



Rumina Velshi
President and Chief Executive Officer

For the United Kingdom Office For Nuclear
Regulation in Ormskirk, UK:



Mark Foy
Chief Nuclear Inspector