



CHAPTER -08

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND PUBLIC OUTREACH



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AERB has the mandate to keep the public informed on radiation and nuclear safety related matters. AERB views public outreach as an essential element to build a long-lasting trust and confidence with media and the public at large. Towards this, AERB conducts various programmes and maintains its website with all relevant and updated information; issues press releases on matters related to nuclear and radiation safety, publishes quarterly e-newsletters and annual report. The details of above activities carried out during the year are given below.

8.0 AERB and Media

AERB issues press releases / website updates to keep the public informed about its important activities. The press releases are issued in Hindi and English. Details of the press releases are available on AERB website. AERB reviews news items related to nuclear and radiation safety published in various newspaper & the web and provides its response if required. AERB also routinely responds to queries obtained through AERB website.

8.1 Communication and Consultation with Stakeholders

AERB provides all necessary information to its stakeholders through its website, annual reports, newsletters, press releases/briefings and media interviews. Stakeholders and public are informed on issues related to radiological safety, major regulatory decisions, special technical reports etc. through AERB website. Information on operating NPPs including validity of operating licence, RIs, significant events, radioactive effluent discharges, occupational exposures etc. are also provided on AERB's website. AERB publishes quarterly

e-Newsletters in English and Hindi which are uploaded on its website.

8.2 Strengthening of Regulatory Interfaces

8.2.1 DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

AERB interacted with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) towards Integration of e-LORA system with National Single Window System (NSWS).

8.2.2 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

AERB officials participated as a member of Interim Commission constituted for regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services for Allied Healthcare Professionals and other related matters.

8.2.3 Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)

AERB continued to interact with DAE for administrative support in governance related matters and in matters for strengthening inter-ministerial interfaces such as integration of AERB licenses in NSWS of DPIIT, inter-governmental coordination mechanism for regulation of import of radioactive material and radiation generating equipment. AERB also provided its views and advice from radiological safety standpoint on matters specifically referred such as exercising control over atomic minerals and prescribed substances, disposal of exhausted resin generated after treatment of water etc. AERB also interacts and supports DAE in matters related to processing of representation, grievances and appeals as well as legal matters, which are directly or indirectly related to AERB's mandate.

8.3 National Conference on Regulatory Interface -2023

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has been conducting thematic National Conference on Regulatory Interface (NCRI) every year since 2017. The objective of the NCRI is to provide a platform to exchange views and opinion with the Licensees of AERB.

This year, AERB hosted a one-day NCRI-2023 on

December 08, 2023 at Mumbai. The theme was "Safety Regulations in Mining, Milling and Fuel Fabrication Facilities". Around 50 participants from various units attended the conference in person and several participants attended the conference through online mode. Feedback on AERB's regulatory processes were obtained from participants of NFC, UCIL and IREL. The queries of the participants were addressed in a panel discussion, held at the end of the conference.



Shri D.K. Shukla, Chairman AERB addressing NCRI-2023



Dignitaries at Panel Discussion during NCRI-2023



Delegates attending NCRI-2023

8.4 Public Awareness Activities

8.4.1 AERB participated in 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC) – Pride of India (PoI) expo held in, Nagpur, Maharashtra in the first week of January, 2023. AERB had setup an exhibition stall to display various exhibits on its regulatory framework and

functions as a part of public awareness activities.

A large number of students, teachers, healthcare/ environment professionals including general public visited AERB exhibition stall and interacted with the AERB officials.



AERB Officials interacting with Students during Exhibition in 108th Indian Science Congress

8.4.2 AERB set up an informative exhibition stall in DAE-BRNS biennial symposium on “Nuclear and Radiochemistry-2023” (NUCAR-2023), in the first week of May 2023, at the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) Convention Centre in Anushaktinagar, Mumbai. The exhibition stall at the symposium provided details of

regulatory requirements in the use of radiation sources, especially sources used in research and regulatory requirements in the nuclear fuel cycle facilities. Students/faculty members from various universities and representatives of industries actively interacted with AERB officials.



Exhibition Stall in DAE-BRNS Biennial Symposium on “Nuclear and Radiochemistry-2023” (NUCAR-2023)

8.4.3 Public Awareness in the Vicinity of NPPs

AERB conducted awareness programs in the vicinity of NPPs to engage with public and inform them in brief about AERB, its mandate, the facilities & activities it regulates, and its functions. Following events were conducted near NPPs:

8.4.3.1 Awareness Event near Kakrapar Site

An awareness program was conducted at C. N. Kothari Homeopathic Medical College and Research Centre, Vyara, Gujarat on July 13, 2023. The programme was attended by faculty members and students of the institute.

8.4.3.2 Awareness Event near GHVP Site

On the eve of Teacher's day, an awareness program was conducted for school teachers and principals of various schools located in the vicinity of GHVP, Haryana. The gathering interacted actively with the AERB officials and queries of the participants were addressed satisfactorily by AERB officials.

8.4.3.3 Awareness Event near Rajasthan Site

An awareness program was conducted for around 300 school children and teachers in various schools (3 nos) located in the vicinity of Rajasthan site, on October 11, 2023. Following the program, AERB officials interacted and clarified the queries raised by the participants.



Public Awareness Event at Rajasthan Site

8.5 Development of Short Awareness Film

A bilingual film on AERB was developed for showcasing it in public awareness programmes. The film was released on Independence day (i.e. August 15, 2023) by Chairman, AERB. The film covers in brief information about inception of AERB, its mission, the facilities & activities it regulates, its functions & decision making process and its strengths to perform regulatory functions.

8.6 Awareness Programmes for Stakeholders for Radiation Facilities

8.6.1 Awareness Program for Manufacturer/Suppliers of Scanning Equipment

In India various X-ray based equipment are used for scanning & analytical purpose, which includes X-ray baggage inspection systems, Food Scanners, PCB analysers, XRF etc. These scanning equipment are manufactured in India as well as imported from other countries. An online awareness program was conducted on January 27, 2023, by AERB to strengthen the role of manufacturer/suppliers in ensuring radiation safety.

8.6.2 Awareness Program on Radiological Protection in Therapy with Radiopharmaceuticals

An awareness program on "Radiological Protection in Therapy with Radiopharmaceuticals" was conducted on February 9, 2023 on virtual mode. The program was attended by participants from various licensed Nuclear Medicine facilities. The participants were able to gain valuable insights on the regulatory framework in Nuclear Medicine therapy, update on patient release criteria in ^{177}Lu therapy and the requirement of delay-tank, and special safety considerations for Alpha Therapy.

8.6.3 Awareness Program on Regulation in Research Accelerators

An awareness program on "Regulation in Research accelerators" was conducted on February 22, 2023 in virtual mode. The program was attended by participants from various research facilities such as RRCAT, VECC, IPR, IUP AC, etc.

8.6.4 Awareness Program on Safe Management of Disused Sources

A safety promotional meet on "Safe management of disused sources" for Nucleonic Gauge (NG) users / suppliers, was conducted on December 12, 2023 at AERB, Mumbai to disseminate information on regulatory requirements and role & responsibilities of NG users / suppliers with regard to safe management of disused NG sources. The program was attended by participants from NG Suppliers and end-user of NGs possessing disused sources.

8.6.5 Awareness Program on Safety & Regulatory Aspects in Industrial Radiography

State-wise webinars/seminars were conducted for the Licensee and Radiological Safety Officers

(RSO) of Industrial Radiography Facilities on Radiation Safety & Regulatory Inspections of Industrial Radiography (IR) practice with an objective to improve awareness on radiation safety in industrial radiography facilities and thereby to enhance safety culture of such facilities. Topics related to Radiation Protection and Regulatory Aspects of IR Facilities, Regulatory Inspection of IR practice, Accidents in IR practice & Lessons Learned, and User Guidance on AERB e-Licensing web portal (e-LORA) for IR practice were covered during the programme.

Eastern Region Regulatory Centre (ERRC) conducted the programme (Webinar) for the States of Assam, Bihar, Odisha & Jharkhand. 30 participants attended the programme.

Southern Region Regulatory Centre (SRRRC) conducted the programme in hybrid mode for the State of Tamil Nadu with physical participation of facilities in and around Chennai in SRRRC auditorium, and virtual participation of facilities outside Chennai in Tamil Nadu. A total of 47 participants attended the programme at SRRRC and about 30 participants attended virtually.

AERB HQ along with Northern Region Regulatory Centre (NRRRC) conducted the programme (Webinar) for the States of Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, & Rajasthan. about 61 participants attended the programme.

Participants actively interacted with AERB officials during the programme and sought clarifications on safety and regulatory aspects of industrial radiography practice and processing of licensing applications.

8.7 DAE Safety & Occupational Health Professional Meet

AERB and Uranium Corporation of Indian Ltd. (UCIL) jointly organized the 39th DAE Safety and

Occupational Health Professional Meet during December 27-29, 2023 at Narwapahar Site. The themes for this years Meet were 'Proactive efforts to maintain safety culture & role of technology in enhancement of safety' and 'Ergonomics and stress management'.

Chairman, AERB delivered Dr. S. S. Ramaswamy Memorial Endowment lecture on the "Developing, Sustaining and Strengthening of Safety Culture" during the meet. Distinguished speakers from the field of industrial safety and occupational health delivered talks which proved to be of immense value to the audience. About 100 participants attended the event. The meet provided a platform for information sharing by the practising professionals to further enhance the safety culture & stress management. An exhibition showcasing



Shri Dinesh Kumar Shukla Lighting the Lamp



Shri Dinesh Kumar Shukla delivering Dr. S. S. Ramaswamy Memorial Endowment Lecture

occupational & fire safety related equipment manufactured by various private industries was also arranged during the meet.

AERB presents Industrial Safety awards and Fire Safety Awards every year to the DAE units which achieves highest performances in Industrial Safety. During the meet, AERB Industrial Safety Awards and Fire Safety Awards for the year 2022 were presented to the winners of DAE units.

Industrial Safety awards

The Industrial Safety awards are given based

on the relevant inputs/data received from each unit and its assessment with the set parameters that include longest accident-free period, implementation of safety management system, injury statistics, dangerous occurrence, type of plant and operation, safety training imparted to personnel and efforts made by the plant towards improving safety. For Industrial Safety award, DAE units are categorized based on nature of plant operation as Production Units-I and II, R&D and other Low Risk Units, and Construction Units category. Winners of the AERB Industrial Safety Awards - 2022 in various categories are as follows:

Table 8.1: List of Winners for Industrial Safety Award for the Year-2022

Categories / Groups	Winners
Construction Units	Rajasthan Atomic Power Project – 7&8
Production Units –I (NPPs & HWBFs)	Kaiga Generating Station – 3&4
Production Units –II (Others)	Zirconium Complex, Pazhayakayal
R & D and other Low Risk Units	Heavy Water Board Facility - Vadodara



Winner AERB Industrial Safety Award 2022 (Production Units-I): Kaiga Generating Station – 3&4



Winner AERB Industrial Safety Award 2022 (Production Units-II): Zirconium Complex, Pazhayakayal



Winner AERB Industrial Safety Award 2022 (R&D and Other Low Risk Units): HWBF-Vadodara

Fire Safety Awards

The Fire safety awards were instituted by AERB to ensure that maximum efforts are made by the DAE units to prevent occurrences of fire incident and ensure that appropriate management system is in place to prevent fire in these units. The award is based on the marks obtained through review

and assessment of input/data on management system, efforts for improvement, training and fire incident statistics. DAE units are categorized as Category-I and Category-II units based on fire potential. Following units were the winners of the AERB Fire Safety Awards – 2022 in these categories.

Table 8.2: List of Winners for Fire Safety Award for the Year -2022

Categories / Groups	Winners
Category –I (high fire risk units)	Kaiga Generating Station – 3&4
Category-II (low fire risk units)	Kakrapar Atomic Power Project – 3&4



**Winner AERB Fire Safety Award 2022
(Category I) - KGS - 3&4**



**Winner AERB Fire Safety Award 2022
(Category II) - KAPP - 3&4**

8.8 Theme Meeting for Stakeholders

8.8.1 Theme Meeting on “Classification of Radioactive Waste”

A Theme Meeting to share experiences on the application of AERB Safety Guide on “Classification of Radioactive Waste” was organized on March 6, 2023. About 100 officials from various organizations viz. NPCIL-HQ, NPPs, AERB, IGCAR, UCIL, BRIT and BARC, participated in the meeting. Shri D. K. Shukla, Chairman, AERB, in his

inaugural address emphasized the importance of an effective and harmonized radioactive waste classification scheme, considering both national practices and IAEA safety standards for application of graded approach in radioactive waste management. Dr. C.P. Kaushik, Former AD, NRG, BARC delivered the keynote address on “Innovation & Challenges in Radioactive Waste Management”. Invited speakers delivered talks on various topics related to radioactive waste classification and its application.



Glimpses of Theme Meeting

8.8.2 Theme Meeting on Regulatory Control of Radioactive Discharges to the Environment and Disposal of Solid Waste

A Theme Meeting on “Regulatory Control of Radioactive Discharges to the Environment and

Disposal of Solid Waste” for radiation facilities was organized on February 17, 2023. Around 40 participants from Nuclear Medicine Facilities and Board of Radiation Isotope and Technology (BRIT) attended the theme meeting.



Glimpses of Theme Meeting

8.8.3 Theme Meeting on Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness & Response

A Theme Meeting on “Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Preparedness & Response: Strengthening based on Feedback from Stakeholders” was organized on February 24, 2023. Around 100 officials from various organizations viz. NPCIL-HQ, NPPs, CMG-DAE, BARC, NDMA and AERB participated in the

meeting. Shri D.K. Shukla, Chairman, AERB, in his inaugural address, 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. The key note address was given by Dr. A. K. Nayak, Head, NCPW and Chairman, CMG-DAE. The technical sessions were followed by a panel discussion chaired by Former Chairman, AERB, Shri S.A. Bhardwaj.



Glimpses of Theme Meeting

8.9 Webinars for Stakeholders

8.9.1 Webinar on AERB Regulatory Document

A seminar was organized to disseminate the information covered in the revised publication

on AERB Safety Standard on 'Civil engineering Structures important to safety of Nuclear Facilities (AERB/NF/SS/CSE Rev-1), on September 12, 2023. The program was conducted in hybrid mode with more than 75 participants from BARC, NPCIL, DCSEM, NRB, HWB, NFC and IGCAR.



Participants attending the Webinar

8.9.2 Webinar on Experiences during NPP Project Phase

AERB is organizing Webinar-cum-Lecture Series for sharing "Experience during NPP Project

Phase". These webinars / lectures will share the experiences gained during the projects' construction, commissioning stages by the regulatory body and the utility. This year, AERB organized 5 webinar sessions on various topics.

