

## National Conference on Regulatory Interface (NCRI)-2021

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) hosted a one-day National Conference on Regulatory Interface (NCRI) on November 11, 2021 at Mumbai. AERB has been conducting thematic NCRI every year from 2017 onward. This year the theme was on “Self-Regulation for Safety”.



*Chairman, AERB inaugurating the NCRI-2021 as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations (From Left to Right) Shri C.S. Varghese, ED, AERB, Shri V.P.Nema, Chairman, HWB and Shri A.P.Garg, Director NFRG*

AERB’s regulatory oversight entails frequent interactions with its licensee organizations, by way of safety review meetings and periodic regulatory inspections. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic these interactions were more virtual, which nevertheless continued to fulfil the regulatory oversight requirements to a large extent. A key attribute that has emerged during this period, is the orientation of licensees towards “Self-regulation” through active involvement of in-house resource

personnel, i.e. Technical audit engineers, Quality Assurance experts, Radiological safety officers, Industrial and Fire Safety professionals etc.

Self-regulation is the process whereby licensees can monitor their adherence to safety standards and legal requirements in an honest and forthright manner and take due corrective actions in a pro-active manner, thereby fulfilling the responsibility of having the prime responsibility for safety of the facility.

The objective of the NCRI-2021 was to provide a platform to exchange views on the opinion of the Licences on self-regulation for ensuring safety, the initiatives perpetrated, and the way forward. Two major Licensee organisations i.e. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Heavy Water Board (HWB) were invited to present their experiences for NCRI-2021. The conference was carried out in hybrid mode.

Chairman, AERB, Shri G. Nageswara Rao inaugurated the Conference and delivered an inaugural speech on the importance of self-regulation in the context of nuclear facilities and how safety as a principle should permeate to the last man in the organisation. The other dignitaries who delivered talks were Executive Director, AERB, C.S. Varghese and A.P Garg, Head, Nuclear Facilities Regulation Group (NFRG), AERB. The key note address was delivered by Chairman, HWB, Shri V.P. Nema.



*Chairman, AERB delivering the inaugural address and Chairman, HWB delivering the key note address*

Head, Radiation Safety Division, AERB, Dr. P. K. Dash Sharma presented the resolution of feedback received as outcome of NCRI 2020 on Radiation Processing Facilities.

The session consisted of talks on experiences in self-regulation practices in HWPs, Operating NPCIL plants & projects and their Remote Regulatory Inspection, by senior management of the respective organisations.

Around 120+ participants attended the conference. Feedback was obtained from the conference through both online chat box and feedback forms. The participants expressed that the Conference on Self-regulation brought out some important insights which can govern future regulatory processes. Over all the Conference was well-received.

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