

INSC Country Report

Country: Argentina

Date: 2016 - 09- 9

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1. Political situation in nuclear in your country

After taking the new Authorities in December 2015, President Mauricio Macri reaffirmed the nuclear policy that was being carried in our country in recent years described in the previous Country Reports.

Anyway there was a period of study plans and contacts made by the previous government. The Undersecretary of Nuclear Energy was established within the Ministry of Energy and Mining. Authorities of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), of Nucleoeléctrica S.A. (NA-SA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Authority were changed.

The new Authorities are implementing such plans.

2. News on nuclear facilities (NPP's, WSF's etc.) in your country (power upgrades, lifetime extensions, new build etc.)

With respect to the life extension of the Embalse Nuclear Power Plant (CANDU), it is ongoing with a high participation of the national nuclear industry (over 75%). Its output will be increased by 6% over the 700 MW installed.

It is studying the life extensión of Atucha I. As regards the fourth Nuclear Central, President Mauricio Macri met Ian Zhimin, Chairman of the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC). They signed agreements for the construction of a Nuclear Power Plant (CANDU). It will be installed near to Atucha I and Atucha II, around 760 MW. Also agreed with the Chinese, the construction of a fifth Nuclear Power Plant (light water and enriched U)

Meanwhile, the CAREM (SMR) 25 MW reactor, is still under construction having awarded the construction to the national TECNA Company. Construction of Multipurpose Reactor, RA-10 is running and it is also working on U enrichment plant gaseous diffusion and studying laser technology and ultracentrifugation to meet local needs of enriched U. On the other hand, it is working on the dry storage of spent nuclear fuel.

3. News on companies (projects, financial results, production etc)

Throughout 2016, our country has been implementing agreements signed between Governments and agreements between institutions from various countries in order to promote, develop and carry out activities in the nuclear field. Bilateral agreements have been signed with countries of the Latin-American region. It is maintain relation with CANDU ENERGY for the life extension of Embalse Nuclear Power Plant; with the Government of the People's Republic of China for the construction of the fourth and fifth Nuclear Power Plants and with the company ROSATOM of the Russian federation in order to define a sixth NPP plant. Through the ARCAL Agreement (Regional Cooperative Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean), it has collaborated with several projects in the region. With Brazil, Argentina is collaborating in the construction of two Multipurpose Reactors and through the ABACC (Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials), peaceful use of nuclear material is very verified.

4. Public opinion towards nuclear (results latest PO polls)

Despite the publicity carried out by the National Atomic Energy Commission and Nucleoeléctrica Argentina S.A. and its multiple applications, public opinion remains reluctant to acceptance.

However, life extension of the Embalse Nuclear Power Plant led to a public hearing to opt for life extension or the closure of the Embalse NPP. Despite strong pressure from green movements against the extension of life, a deep study of the environmental impact of it carried out by the aforementioned Cedyat convinced the public of the benefits of the Nuclear Power Plant and safety

5. Stakeholder dialogue (Attitudes of NGOs, media, local communities towards nuclear)