

 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Climate Action, Environment,  
Energy, Mobility,  
Innovation and Technology

## Questions Posted in Meeting – 9th Review meeting

20-31 March 2023

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Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
34022	South Africa	Austria	Article 15	Section 15.3.4	<p>1) It is noted the EU countries installed Radiation Early Warning System that is continuously monitoring the ambient gamma dose rates. Explaining how the systems is maintained to ensure that it is continuously online. Please include the suppliers stakeholders involved in the commissioning and operation of the system, how the relationship, skills development and retention are maintained.</p> <p>2) It was noted that "In the event of a nuclear accident abroad, the County Administrative Boards affected still have the responsibility to provide information and take potential protective" actions in their respective regions. SSM's role as an advisory authority is maintained in the event of a nuclear accident abroad." In this role, at what level from the neighbouring country, does the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) obtain information regarding the nuclear accident abroad, i.e., the national government department responsible for nuclear emergencies, the nuclear safety authority of the neighbouring country or operators?</p>	Answered	Austria will consider to answer this question after the deadline for answers but before the Review Meeting, as the question was addressed after the deadline for written questions.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
34025	South Africa	Austria	Article 10	Safety Culture - page 27	Where is Safety Culture Enhancement Programmes addressed / required?	Answered	Austria will consider to answer this question after the deadline for answers but before the Review Meeting, as the question was addressed after the deadline for written questions.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
34026	South Africa	Austria	Article 10	Management System 1st paragraph pg 28	Should "Integrated Manage System" (IMS) not be more applicable?	Answered	Austria will consider to answer this question after the deadline for answers but before the Review Meeting, as the question was addressed after the deadline for written questions.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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33803	Canada	Austria	Article 10	Priority to Safety	<p>‘Safety due to the organisation’ states: “...experts also assess safety culture with the help of targeted discussions or specific questions in the context of the annual regulatory interview...”</p> <p>How is this annual regulatory interview managed? What form does this interview take, who attends and what type of questions are asked? / Depending on the details, this may be a good practice.</p>	Answered	<p>§ 61 Radiation Protection Act 2020 and § 40 General Administrative Procedure Act 1991 form the legal basis for the inspection and the interview (“oral hearing”). The inspection is scheduled by informing all stakeholders, such as relevant staff of the licensee, external experts in the areas of fire safety, radiation protection and labor safety about the time, place and content of the inspection. As part of the announcement, the external experts will be asked to conduct pre-inspection visits in advance of the hearing to get an impression of the current condition of the facility. On the day of the inspection, the licensee presents all relevant information of the inspection period, specifically reporting on the progress of the findings of the previous year. In the course of these presentations, questions can be asked and if necessary, additional requirements will be adopted and protocolled. This is followed by a walk-through of the facility. Once again, the collected impressions, results of the inspection and nonconformities are recorded in the protocol and finally</p>		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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signed by all persons attending the inspection.

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33804	Canada	Austria	Article 16.1	Emergency plans and programmes	“[t]he last exercise at the TRIGA research reactor took place on September 21st 2021, simulating a radiation alarm followed by a decontamination exercise.” It is not clear in the report what the results of the exercise were and what (if any) corrective actions were required and implemented. Please comment on the exercise findings, the corrective actions noted and the progress of their implementation.	Answered	The following exercise findings and corrective actions were identified in the exercise 2021: Exercise Finding 1: Specific contact addresses such as for the medical treatment facility, which are part of the emergency plan (a specific hospital in Vienna), were not well known by the exercise participants. Corrective action: More training with the emergency response plan and distribution of important information. Exercise Finding 2: Failures in implementation of decontamination procedures and performing measurements during the exercise. Corrective action: Drills and training especially with Austrian norm documents for procedures and measures in case of contamination.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
34002	South Africa	Austria	Article 17	17(1)	It is stated that Pursuant to § 53 Radiation Protection Act 2020 in order to obtain a construction licence for a research reactor applicants are required to comply with internationally recognized safety standards regarding siting. This seem to suggest that Austria does not have her own standards or regulations for siting. Does Austria have her own standards/regulations for siting and if not does she intend to develop these?	Answered	Austria will consider to answer this question after the deadline for answers but before the Review Meeting, as the question was addressed after the deadline for written questions.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
34010	South Africa	Austria	Article 13	13.2	There is no relation to the Vienna Declaration principle on this Article, Which codes and standard are being used in terms of QA? Which QA monitoring programs do you have? Do you conduct audits and inspection for the QComment: the paragraph is plain does not give insight on the QA that the license Holder is responsible for? As a regulator; what are the requirements needed for good QA management and programs?	Answered	Austria will consider to answer this question after the deadline for answers but before the Review Meeting, as the question was addressed after the deadline for written questions.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
34013	South Africa	Austria	Article 15	Section 7.1	`No question just a comment	Answered	Austria will consider to answer this question after the deadline for answers but before the Review Meeting, as the question was addressed after the deadline for written questions.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
33629	Slovenia	Austria	Article 15	page 37	The legislation aims at protecting human life and health and the environment against the danger of ionising radiation.  Q: What are the specific measures to protect the environment, as opposed to the protection of the population?	Answered	While the state of the environment can impact long-term human health, this calls for a policy protecting the environment against the harmful effects of ionising radiation. Therefore, Austria has a internationally accepted dose limit of 0.3 mSv/year for the controlled discharge of gaseous or liquid radioactive material, where the principle of optimization must be taken into account. The Federal Government performs an extensive radioactivity monitoring program of the environment, of foods and other goods and products.		2023-02-17 14:44:51



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33630	Slovenia	Austria	Article 15	page 38	Austria has a dose constraint of 0.3 mSv/year for the controlled discharge of gaseous or liquid radioactive material.  Q: Is this an universal dose constraint (or limit?) and is it decided on a case by case basis during the licensing procedure.	Answered	Austria has a dose limit of 0.3 mSv/year for the controlled discharge of gaseous or liquid radioactive material. So it is a limit and not a constraint (as it is not quite correctly written in the report). The competent authority has to specify, on a case-by-case basis, in the frame of the licensing process the maximum possible discharges to ensure compliance with the dose limit of 0.3 mSv/year. The principle of optimization is also applied as a central element of radiation protection here, of course.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
33799	Canada	Austria	General	Summary - Changes in the Legislative Framework	It is noted that a revised Radiation Protection Act was implemented in 2020. What were the changes made to the radiation protection programs that were required by the new legislation? What was the impact on personnel safety?	Answered	Relevant safety documents such as the SAR have been modified to reflect the Radiation Protection Act 2020 and its derived ordinances. In regards to personnel safety, the revised Radiation Protection Act 2020 has not changed provisions on dose limits, categorization of exposed workers or work place monitoring. Overall, a high standard of personnel safety has continued to be in effect.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

33800	Canada	Austria	General	Summary and Priority to Safety	It is noted that "The impact of the changes can be seen throughout the whole report. Austria plans to invite an IRRS Follow-up Mission." What are some of the specific findings/recommendations that were made and what were the specific actions taken by BMK? When is a follow-up mission planned?	Answered	<p>Many recommendations and suggestions have already been implemented in the revision of the new Austrian Radiation Protection Act, some are still open:</p> <p>One finding was that "Austria shall consider re-organizing the existing fragmented system of several federal regulatory authorities into a simpler structure that would allow for more efficient use of available resources." As a consequence Austria has transferred the regulatory oversight of the research reactor from the Ministry of Science to the Ministry for Climate Action as of 1 Jan 2021.</p> <p>"Austria shall consider making more use of international peer review services." In the meantime Austria has made use of an ARTEMIS Mission in November 2022.</p> <p>"Austria shall specify criteria on which facilities need preparation and implementation of radiation protection measures during construction." The competent authority will prepare a guideline on that.</p> <p>"The regulatory body should ensure that all requirements for the control of public exposures are in compliance with the IAEA GSR Part 3." This recommendation is still open. A guideline is under</p>	2023-02-17 14:44:51
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preparation. A follow-up mission is planned for 2025.

33801	Canada	Austria	General I	Summary p. 21	<p>Section B (Summary) summarized the Challenges and Suggestions from the 7th CNS Review Meeting. Of note were: Challenge 1: To ensure independence of both licensing and supervisory processes and Challenge 4: Consolidate competencies in the field of Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection". The separation and consolidation of activities under BMK as stated addresses Challenge 4; however, what are the controls/firewalls to ensure proper regulatory independence given both stakeholder bodies (BMK and BMBWF, as the funding agency) are federal entities? This is also generally discussed in Article 8(2) pg 21 but no specific points are made regarding independence and the assurance of it. Please clarify.</p>	Answered	<p>Pursuant to Article 19 of the Federal Constitutional Law Federal Ministers are among the highest executive organs. They are not subject to instructions of other entities. The federal ministries act as auxiliary bodies to the respective federal ministers. Their number, tasks and competences are laid down in the Federal Ministries Act [BGBl. No. 76/1986, Bundesministeriengesetz 1986]. The ministries are characterized by the principle of monocratic organization, which means that the federal ministers decide on and are responsible for the conduct of business in compliance with the law. Additionally, § 48 para 7 Radiation Protection Act 2020 stipulates that the Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology shall ensure guarantee of the effective independence of the competent authority for research reactors. There has been a consolidation of competencies in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection. This consolidation was prompted by the new Radiation Protection Act (StrSchG 2020), which resulted in the transfer of radiation protection competencies from the Federal Ministry of Education,</p>	2023-02-17 14:44:51
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Science and Research (BMBWF) to the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK). As a result, the BMK is now the sole competent authority for radiation protection in the relevant facilities.

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33802	Canada	Austria	Article 8.1	p. 21	<p>“The Federal Minister of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology is the competent regulatory authority competent authority” and “The staff must undergo regular training to maintain competence. The director also has to undergo an interview with the director general”.</p> <p>How is staff competence assessed and by whom? Also, how is the competence of the director general assessed and who independently confirms competence of BMK staff and leadership?</p>	Answered	At the start of their employment at one of the federal ministries, employees have to go through so called basic training, which consists of general, legal and economic courses. The performance of employees is assessed centralized for all ministries. Employees working at the competent authority have to attend additional courses, technical meetings or conferences to obtain and maintain necessary competences. This criteria will be assessed by the respective superior staff (typically the head of department or in case of the director general the head of directorate) and discussed with the employee annually.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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32920	France	Austria	Article 14	P 36	It is indicated in the report that review assessment are established annually by the regulator. Could you develop how is it established ?	Answered	The report states that “Review assessment plans and priorities are established by the regulatory body on an annual basis and communicated to the licensees”. The Supervision Handbook gives guidance on the contents of the annual planning. The planning specifies supervisory meetings and their thematic focus and details of the inspection (e.g. date, start of preparation work). The plan is communicated to the licensee, who will have the opportunity to comment. Once the planning is coordinated with the licensee the review assessment plan and priorities are established.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
32921	France	Austria	Article 15	P 37	According to the report, the authority has experience regarding the typical occurring dose for a certain kind of practice. What is the basis used by the authority to established these doses ?	Answered	A certified dosimetry service is tasked with the dose assessment of exposed workers. The dosimetry service sends the results of the dose assessment to the Central Dose Register with the information on the exposure situation/type of practice of the person under surveillance. Authorised authorities can access this data and are therefore able to determine typically occurring doses for certain practices based on		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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							empiric dose values in the Central Dose Register.		
32922	France	Austria	Article 16	P 42	Do the 2022 Triga exercises come back to a more classical form? Is there any evolution to take into account the pandemic situation?	Answered	Due to restrictions associated with the pandemic, changes were necessary at times. The 2021 emergency exercise was performed on a smaller scale to reduce the risk of infection to persons involved. With the removal of the restrictions, the exercises at the TRIGA Reserach Reactor in Vienna come back to the form as they were before the pandemic.		2023-02-17 14:44:51



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32923	France	Austria	Article 6	P 11	The reactor was largely modified between 2014 and 2017, but the radiation protection act entered into force in 2020. How was safety taken into account in these modifications, and in particular the experience of Fukushima accident?	Answered	The changes in the Radiation Protection Act 2020 are structural but do not influence technical parameters where safety is concerned. Thus, by following the previous radiation protection act during refurbishment of the reactor, the radiation protection act of 2020 is also taken into account. The structural changes in the new Radiation Protection Act 2020 are reflected in changes in the documentation of the TRIGA research reactor. Regarding the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident, the research reactor is located in Vienna at an approximate elevation of 190m above sea level. Therefore, there is no risk of a fast paced tsunami reaching the facility. Additionally, historical data shows that the probability of an earthquake with a magnitude close to that of 2011 in Japan (9,0 Richter scale) is very unlikely. As a reference, the most powerful earthquake in Vienna to date was measured in 1590 with a magnitude of 6.0 Richter scale. Generally, the TRIGA Mark II research reactor does not need a forced cooling process to prevent		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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fuel melting due to the low thermal capacity and burnup. No active cooling is necessary for spent fuel.

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32924	France	Austria	Article 6	P 11	Is there any safety modification of the research reactor due to the change of fuel ?	Answered	In 2012, a transition from high enriched to low enriched fuel was successfully carried out at the TRIGA Research Reactor in Vienna. This transition resulted in a reduction of risk associated with fuel handling and operation. However, despite this decrease in risk, the facility has implemented several measures to increase safety requirements to ensure the continued safe operation of the reactor. As part of these efforts, various components, including the reactor instrumentation and safety warning systems, have been upgraded to meet state-of-the-art standards. These improvements can be viewed as valuable contributions to the ongoing safety of the TRIGA Research Reactor.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
32358	Cyprus	Austria	Article 7.2	p. 18	"The authority and its expert(s) review and assess the submitted documents. During the inspection, the reports of the licence holder are assessed and any measures to be taken are recorded". Does the regulatory body use any internal guidance and procedures to ensure harmonisation in regulatory review and assessment of	Answered	The Supervision Handbook for the research reactor gives guidance on the content and process of the inspections. Depending on the content presented by the licensee, the competent authority on a case-by-case basis will initiate appropriate steps. Possible measures are prescribed in the		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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					documentation submitted by the license holder?		Radiation Protection Act 2020 as well as the General Radiation Protection Ordinance 2020.		
<b>32359</b>	Cyprus	Austria	Article 10	Safety assessments, p. 29	"Austria requested an IRRS Mission in June 2018. The received recommendations and suggestions were reviewed in order to decide next how the adopted Action Plan would be reflecting these results". What is the status of implementation of the actions included in the Action Plan as a result of the IRRS Mission in June 2018?	Answered	Many recommendations and suggestions have already been implemented in the revision of the new Radiation Protection Act 2020. Some recommendations are still open and are being discussed between the authorities involved with the intend of improving and amending already existing structures, which is not always an easy task.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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32360	Cyprus	Austria	Article 16.1	Emergency plans and programmes, p. 39-42	How does Austria ensure the coordination of on-site emergency plans and procedures in place with the National Radiation Emergency Plan and the response plans of the federal provinces? Does the regulatory body evaluate some of the exercises conducted by the operators?	Answered	The coordination of on-site and off-site emergency plans is a requirement by the Austrian Radiation Protection Act 2020 and the General Radiation Protection Ordinance 2020. On-site emergency plans have to address coordination issues and the regulatory body reviews the emergency plans. In addition, one section of the Austrian National Radiation Emergency Plan focuses on off-site emergency response for nuclear facilities in Austria such as the research reactor in Vienna or the central waste management and interim storage facility of Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf. The emergency response plans of the federal provinces are based on and coordinated with the Austrian National Radiation Emergency Plan. According to the legal requirements, operators of nuclear facilities have to perform emergency exercises on a regular basis. Experts from the regulatory body participate in some of these exercises. The findings and corrective actions identified in the exercises are addressed during the		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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							inspection of the facilities by the regulatory body.		

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32580	Slovenia	Austria	Article 7	Art.7.1/7.2 Pages 14-17	<p>Is it sufficient for the Austrian legal system that the legislation (e.g. § 49 Radiation Protection Act 2020) refers to the fairly general "the state of the art and internationally recognized safety standards", as you repeatedly state in the context of obtaining a construction license and/or decommissioning license, or somewhat more detailed basic requirements are needed in the national legislation?</p> <p>It is not clear from the report where are prescribed, if at all, e.g. requirements regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- monitoring of operating indicators,</li> <li>- monitoring of aging processes and implementation of measures to reduce or eliminate the effects of these processes,</li> <li>- maintenance, inspection and testing of facility systems and components,</li> <li>- content, quality and method of use of safety analyses,</li> </ul>	Answered	The Radiation Protection Act 2020 stipulates fundamental rules that are further described in the General Radiation Protection Ordinance 2020. Those clauses that refer to the state of the art and internationally recognized safety standards shall ensure the application of relevant standards. Furthermore, detailed requirements for the operation of the research reactors are prescribed in the specific operation licence (including operating indicators) and documents which are required for the operation by the legal framework (e.g. maintenance plan, repeat test plans, safety analysis).		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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32597	Slovenia	Austria	Article 16.2	page 42	<p>If necessary, representatives of the Austrian Broadcast Corporation (ORF) and the Austrian Press Agency (APA) will be included in the coordination board of the National Crisis and Disaster Management.</p> <p>Q: How do you identify rumors, incorrect and misleading information that might be circulating widely in a nuclear or radiological emergency? Which organization is responsible for this?</p>	Answered	<p>According to the Austrian Radiation Protection Act 2020, BMK is responsible for informing the public in case of nuclear or larger scale radiological emergencies. Trusted sources such as official information of the national competent authorities, the EC (ECURIE) or the IAEA are primarily taken into account by the radiation protection on-call duty service at BMK. In order to identify rumours, incorrect or misleading information media statements of the Austrian Press Agency or other sources, in particular Twitter are monitored by communication experts of the BMK, making it possible to quickly react to false information or rumours that are being shared.</p>		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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32919	France	Austria	Article 8	Article 8	The Supervision Handbook seems to be the basis for the inspections of the Triga research reactor. Could you precise, how and how often is it modified ?	Answered	The Supervision Handbook of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research as the the former competent authority was published in 2018. There is no fixed interval or process for changes of the Supervision Handbook. The regulatory body will adapt it if processes change or additional information is needed. This could be due to changes in relevant laws, or merely for optimization purposes. The last major update of the Supervision Handbook took place in 2021 when it was adapted to fit the requirements of the new Radiation Protection Act 2020 and its ordinances.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
29974	Iceland	Austria	General	A INTRODUCTION	Iceland commends Austria on a well-structured report and appreciates the effort made by Austria to simplify the review process by highlighting the major changes since the last RN.	Answered	Thank you for the comment.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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29975	Iceland	Austria	General	B SUMMARY, p. 8	Has Austria identified any new methods or innovative approaches from the measures and work-arounds that had to be applied during the COVID-19 pandemic, that might survive and be implemented permanently as improved procedures? Could "[...] putting an emphasis on preparatory work and (virtual) meetings before the actual inspections took place" be potential examples of this?	Answered	The most important lesson from the Covid-19 pandemic is to remain flexible and to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. Video conferencing tools can still assist for regular meetings but also for preparatory work of inspections as a precautionary measure in cases where participants show light symptoms.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
29976	Iceland	Austria	General	B SUMMARY, p. 7	Looking towards the future, what does Austria foresee to be the most important advantage of the implementation of the new Radiation Protection Act 2020?	Answered	The biggest advantage is that Austria has a new, modern radiation protection law that implements international recommendations and the requirements of European Community law in the areas of radiation protection, nuclear safety and radioactive waste management.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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29977	Iceland	Austria	General	B SUMMA RY, p. 7	In a few words, what does Austria foresee to be the most important advantages of the changes regarding the Regulatory body?	Answered	The most important advantage of channeling the competence for oversight of research reactors at the Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology is to concentrate competences at a central entity. Now, oversight of general radiation protection, emergency preparedness, research reactors, waste management facilities and particle accelerators for nonmedical applications are jointed in one department. Due to this circumstance, knowledge, skills and competences are combined in one department.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

32356	Cyprus	Austria	General	International peer review missions, p. 9	Austria reports that from 20 –30 November 2022, an ARTEMIS Mission will take place in Austria. Since the CNS review meeting will take place after the ARTEMIS mission is completed, could Austria briefly report on the major findings from this review?	Answered	<p>In brief, the ARTEMIS Review Team lauded Austria for its comprehensive strategy for the predisposal management of radioactive waste that is being implemented, while at the same time highlighting that decisions regarding the disposal of the radioactive waste have to be made. However, with the establishment of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management in 2021, the Review Team also acknowledged that Austria is making significant progress towards finding a disposal solution.</p> <p>The Review Team further commended Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf (NES), the only Austrian organisation for the management of radioactive waste, for their waste treatment facilities, which represent the “state of the art”, as well as for their mature and well thought-out segregation process with appropriate treatment and package systems for each type of radioactive waste.</p> <p>All in all, the Review Team expressed three recommendations and four suggestions for Austria to improve the management of radioactive waste. The recommendations comprise the following:</p>	2023-02-17 14:44:51
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- To enhance the functional separation of responsibility for regulatory oversight and implementation of the national programme;
- To update the national strategy to include a consolidated implementation plan for disposal;
- To clarify the minimum frequency and content of periodic safety review and review of the decommissioning plan for waste management facilities.

Once the final report is available, Austria will notify the European Commission and the Member States about the outcomes of the ARTEMIS mission. The final report will be made available on the website of the BMK and in the mission report database of the IAEA.

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32357	Cyprus	Austria	General	Challenges and Suggestions from the 7th CNS Review Meeting, p. 9	Austria reports that "With the support of external experts, the competent authority reviews updates of the safety report. The safety analysis report (SAR) for the research reactor is prepared in compliance with the relevant IAEA requirements". How does Austria face the challenges associated with a critical internal competence to be in a position to independently evaluate, accept or reject the work done by external experts?	Answered	The competent authority has competent internal experts who can examine the opinions and statements on certain issues of the external experts. If questions arise during the examination, these will be discussed and, if necessary, the external expert opinions and statements will be modified accordingly.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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29888	Italy	Austria	Article 15	Page 38	Could Austria specify if in addition to the dose constraints for the discharge of effluents, general dose constraints are also set for direct irradiation? If, on the other hand, the latter are established on a case-by-case basis, could Austria specify how they are established?	Answered	Austria has specified several dose constraints in the legislation: For public exposure from temporary storage of residues from NORM in the undertaking, a dose constraint of 0.3 mSv shall be applicable for the effective dose per calendar year. The activity of stored sources, the shielding effect of containers shall be coordinated in such a manner as to ensure that the effective dose resulting from storage does not exceed 0.3 mSv per year for members of the public, and 1 mSv per year for exposed workers. Furthermore, NORM from types of practices must only be cleared if the effective dose resulting from annual exposure of the members of the population on account of the clearance does not exceed 0.3 mSv per year. Dose constraints can also be established in the frame of the authorisation of a practice on a case-by-case basis. Decision-making is based on typical empirical values for practices.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
29889	Italy	Austria	Article 15	Page 38	Could Austria specify if periodic medical examinations are foreseen even for exposed workers of category B ?	Answered	No, periodic medical examinations are not foreseen for exposed		2023-02-17 14:44:51



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							workers of category B (only for category A).		

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29907	Italy	Austria	Article 16	Page 40	<p>With reference to the statement “The Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection is responsible for radioactivity monitoring in food and drinking water, for the procurement, pre-distribution, storage and a distribution system of potassium-iodine-tablets for Iodine Thyroid Blocking (ITB) and participates in accordance with the responsibilities as mentioned above”.</p> <p>Could Austria explain the distribution system of potassium-iodine-tablets for Iodine Thyroid Blocking (ITB)? Is this protective measure foreseen for large areas of the country?</p>	Answered	<p>Predistribution: 1. Keeping a stockpile in schools and childcare facilities. 2. Personal storage at home for people under the age of 40: The most important target groups (people under the age of 18, people who are pregnant or breastfeeding) can obtain potassium-iodine tablets free of charge at pharmacies; people between the ages of 18 and 40 can purchase them at a low price. People over the age of 40 are advised against taking iodine tablets. Additionally, there are stockpiles in the provinces to ensure a comprehensive and prompt supply in affected areas in case of an emergency.</p> <p>Distribution in case of an emergency: The distribution to the population can be activated any time. One of the first protective actions will be a sirens warning by the Austrian-wide sirens warning system and Radio/TV announcements by Austrian authorities for potentially higher affected regions to inform the population that they should retrieve</p>		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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potassium-iodine-tablets. The actual intake of the tablets will be ordered in a later announcement shortly before a contamination is expected to reach Austria.

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
29908	Italy	Austria	Article 16	Page 42	With reference to the statement “The last exercise at the TRIGA research reactor took place on September 21st 2021, simulating a radiation alarm followed by a decontamination exercise. Due to pandemic access restrictions, it was not possible to perform a larger scale exercise”. Are off-site authorities usually involved in playing Triga annual exercise?	Answered	Emergency exercises alternate between smaller on-site exercises and larger scale exercises that include off-site authorities. Depending on the specific scenario of the exercise off-site authorities involved are typically representatives of the competent authority (BMK), the fire brigade, the police or rescue services. For instance, in 2022 the scenario was a sudden electronics or cable fire at an experiment station in the reactor hall. In addition to the licensee's team, approximately 20 firefighters and an observer from the regulatory body were present throughout the exercise.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
29924	Italy	Austria	Article 14	Page 35	Please, could Austria give more information on the periodic safety review and the ageing management carried out on the TRIGA research reactor?	Answered	<p>In the course of the last periodic safety review in 2014 safety improvements were identified. The following years several components such as the reactor safety system, the wastewater treatment system, parts of the pipes of the secondary line, the heating-, ventilation- and air condition system have been renewed to ensure reliable and safe operation of the TRIGA Mark II Research Reactor.</p> <p>Ageing management is tracked closely by continued repeat tests. They are reviewed by the competent authority and external experts in the course of on-site inspections. Taking into account manufacturer specifications and documentation these tests specify at what intervals which components must be inspected. If deficiencies or worn-out components are identified, they are subsequently evaluated and remedied accordingly. Additionally, experience with other TRIGA operators is exchanged regularly for example at international conferences, the Research Reactor Operators Group (PROG) or the</p>		2023-02-17 14:44:51

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Arbeitsgemeinschaft  
 Forschungsreaktoren (AFR) to  
 exchange operating experience and  
 to identify potential areas that have  
 showed signs of ageing at other  
 facilities.

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
29925	Italy	Austria	Article 14	Page 35	<p>“The SAR has been updated several times in the past. In particular, due to relevant modifications to the reactor systems, like reactor instrumentation and control system, ventilation system and area monitoring system.”</p> <p>Please, could Austria give more information on the approval process concerning modifications of significance for radiation or nuclear safety?</p>	Answered	<p>Pursuant to § 18 Radiation Protection Act 2020 changes in the practice or in constructional radiation protection measures follow the licensing process as described in chapter 7 (2) (ii) of the 9th national report accordingly. In short, in case of modifications of significance for radiation or nuclear safety the licensee must submit the necessary documentation in advance. If structural measures are required for implementation, these have to be approved as a first step. If necessary, trial operation can be ordered. After structural measures of the modification are in place and the trial operation is successful an operating licence will be granted in a second step.</p>		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
29438	Slovakia	Austria	Article 16	p. 41	What was the scope of bilateral exercises mentioned on page 41? Did Austria perform any exercises focused on harmonisation of protective actions and better cross-border coordination?	Answered	Austria regularly participates in bilateral and regional exercises. For example there are annual joint emergency exercises with Czech Republic (by the competent authorities BMK and SÚJB) focusing on exchange of data and results of ESTE and information on protective actions. In 2022 Switzerland invited all neighbouring countries including Austria to participate in the national exercise (NPP Leibstadt). There were specific exercises within an EC project in 2022 focusing on harmonisation of protective actions and better cross border coordination. Austria participated in two regional clusters with Slovenia and Hungary (as accident countries) together with other neighbouring countries including Slovakia. Harmonisation and cross border coordination in EPR will be further taken into account in the bilateral or regional exercises in the next years.		2023-02-17 14:44:51



Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
29439	Slovakia	Austria	Article 16.2	p. 43	Could you please provide more information about call-center, which could be activated in case of a radiological or nuclear emergency? In what time frame can be the call center activated (after the announcement of the event)? What is the personnel coverage of the service? What types of training are intended for the personnel providing the service?	Answered	<p>A call center is available in the so called Situation Center of the Austrian Ministry of Interior (MOI). Time Frame for Activation: The call center can be activated at short notice within a few hours. The exact activation time may vary depending on the date and time of the event. The maximum activation time will take about 3 hours. This applies to events out of regular working hours. During regular working hours, the call center can be activated faster. Personnel coverage: Personnel coverage of the service is given by dedicated call center agents, which work at the Ministry of Interior. If necessary, the reinforcement of personnel can be covered by additional police officers in training and advanced training. During the nuclear emergency at NPP Fukushima reinforcement was not necessary.</p> <p>Education and Training: There is basic training in handling calls, dealing with stress and operating the technical infrastructure of the call center. Additional training on specific responses for different types of emergencies is provided.</p>		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
29600	China	Austria	Article 19	P60-69	It's stated that "Article 19 (3) Procedures for operation, maintenance, inspection and testing; Article 19 (4) Procedures for responding to operational occurrences and accidents; Article 19 (5) Engineering and technical support; Article 19 (6) Reporting of incidents significant to safety; Article 19 (7) Operational experience feedback" Comment: The operation, technology, procedure system and reporting system of TRIGA can provide reference to other research reactor facilities.	Answered	Thank you for the comment.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
29601	China	Austria	Article 7	P14	It's stated that "Establishing and maintaining a legislative and regulatory framework." Comment: The legislative framework provides input for other nonnuclear countries to establish their legislative framework.	Answered	Thank you for the comment.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

29867	Italy	Austria	Article 6	Page 11/60	<p>As stated in the report, the Technical University of Vienna (TU Wien) operates a pool type TRIGA Mark II research reactor since 1962.</p> <p>With reference to the 60 years operation of the reactor:</p> <p>a) is it in place a LTO ageing management program particularly regarding the integrity of the structures of the pool?</p> <p>b) was any deviation found during past pool structures controls?</p> <p>c) what is foreseen by the operating license: how long the reactor is planned to remain in operation?</p>	Answered	<p>a) The reactor tank is a double walled tank (Al on the water side, SS on the concrete side). Based on the low flux and the operation experience of other TRIGA reactors, the ageing process of the pool structures is estimated to have a 100-year time frame. Structural integrity of the concrete is tested monthly by visual inspection as well as the integrity of the tanks by checking for leakage between the tanks.</p> <p>b) In 60 years of operation, no deviation has been found.</p> <p>c) The operating licence does not specify an end date for the operation of the research reactor. Instead, based on the results of the periodic safety review that has to be carried out once every ten years to ensure compliance with the licensed design and to identify measures to improve nuclear safety, the competent authority will issue an administrative decision stating whether the requirements for continued operation have been met. The last periodic safety review took place in 2014. Since then, several components have been renewed (see answer to question ID 29924). Additionally, inspections are carried out regularly to verify the safety of the research reactor. In cases of</p>	2023-02-17 14:44:51
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imminent danger the competent authority can restrict or prohibit further operation pursuant to § 21 Radiation Protection Act 2020. The TRIGA Mark II reactor is planned to operate until 2040 and then to be decommissioned according to the legal requirements not later than 2045.

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
29874	Italy	Austria	Article 7	Page 16	<p>“In order to obtain a construction licence for a research reactor pursuant to § 49 para. 1 Radiation Protection Act 2020, siting must comply with internationally recognised safety standards, the reactor needs to be designed in accordance with the state of the art and internationally recognised safety standards and a preliminary safety report and a preliminary on-site emergence response plan must be available.”</p> <p>Please give more information about the siting criteria and, eventually, about the legislative act/technical guide that has formally established the siting criteria, according to internationally recognized safety standards (e.g. IAEA safety standards,...).</p>	Answered	There are no further documents/technical guides in place describing the siting process in more detail. If a new research reactor is to be planned in the future, a number of permits not only in the field of radiation protection will have to be obtained. In the course of the approval process, relevant international standards must be complied with as the conformity will be checked by the competent authority.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
29887	Italy	Austria	Article 15	Page 37	<p>Could Austria specify if national legislation requires the license holder to establish a dose constraint also for exposed workers as a tool in prospective for compliance with the principle of optimisation?</p>	Answered	Austria takes a different approach on this issue. The competent authority may establish dose constraints by administrative decision for the purpose of optimisation for the relevant planned exposure situation. In addition, the license holder must still apply the principle of optimization to his practices.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
28965	Argentina	Austria	Article 16	(1)	Which would be your participation in the mitigation activities in case of a abroad emergency situation?	Answered	Austria can provide assistance for the country where the radiation emergency/nuclear accident happened or other affected countries. Support and mitigation activities include radiation surveying, environmental monitoring, source searching and source recovery by emergency teams of the Austrian police can be offered to countries asking for support. This Austrian resources can be offered by RANET of IAEA where Austria is a member.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
28966	Argentina	Austria	Article 16	(1)	What are the countries with which Austria interacts in preparation of its participation in case of an accident?	Answered	Austria interacts with all neighbouring countries to prepare for nuclear accidents with transboundary impact or transnational radiological emergencies. Austria has bilateral agreements and technical arrangements with neighbouring countries addressing EPR, early information exchange and cooperation in case of an emergency.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
28967	Argentina	Austria	Article 16	(2)	Which is the frequency of the emergency drills? How is the involvement in these drills of the population of different regional countries? Is there exercise for joint evacuation?	Answered	<p>An Austrian nation-wide exercise for testing the Austrian National Radiation Emergency Response Plan is conducted every 2-3 years. Smaller off-site emergency exercises focusing on specific aspects of EPR such as emergency sampling or desk top exercises are more frequently. For the Austrian participation in bilateral, regional and international exercises see answer to question 28966 of Argentina.</p> <p>Evacuation in case of an NPP accident in neighbouring countries is not necessary in Austria. The closest NPP to Austria has a distance of more than 30 km and Austria has no NPP in operation. Therefore, there are no joint evacuation plans with neighbouring countries.</p> <p>Emergency drills of the operator of the Austrian research reactor in Vienna are performed once a year. Since dispersion calculations clearly show that even in a worst-case scenario (e.g. plane crash), no evacuation because of radiation exposure beyond the facility grounds is necessary, population of different regional countries are not involved. Evacuation exercises on-site are</p>		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
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performed regularly (at least twice a year).



Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
28968	Argentina	Austria	Article 19	(3)	According to National Report during the pandemic situation, the way of performing the tasks was temporarily modified or adapted. Are there any of these modification that will remain after pandemic? Perhaps for those cases when they helped to improve the performance of the tasks.	Answered	In 2022, infection numbers remained under control throughout Austria. Tasks will therefore essentially be carried out in the same way as before the pandemic. One exception is video conferencing, which is being used increasingly.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
29153	Luxembourg	Austria	Article 16.1	page 42	The report states that the outcome of exercises as well as improvement measures are addressed in the regulatory inspections. How does this ensure that all aspects needing attention are properly identified? Please explain with some examples how this is done in practise, e.g based on the last exercise at the TRIGA on September 21st 2021?	Answered	Emergency exercises are summarized in exercise reports. Each report includes a description of the exercise scenario, an exercise log with photos documenting the exercise and a summary that concludes the input of participants as well as external observers (including experts of the competent authority - BMK) and identifies the lessons learned. This report will be discussed with and assessed by the competent authority during the supervisory inspection to ensure that all aspects needing attention are properly identified. For instance, the exercise in 2021 showed that the emergency number of the nearby hospital needed to be updated in the emergency plan. See also answer to question 33804.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

29432	Sri Lanka	Austria	Article 15	Radiation Protection	<p>It is mentioned that exposed workers are categorized based on expected effective doses. The maximum dose for exposed workers of the category B is 6 mSv per year and of the category A is 20 mSv per year.</p>	Answered	<p>Typical practices that contribute doses in the range of 6 mSv -20 mSv/year are: interventional radiology, nuclear medicine, mobile industrial radiography, radionuclide production, practices regarding radioactive waste management and workers who are directly involved with the operation of a research reactor. A medical examination shall comprise a medical history on the basis of the practice or work performed, assessment of the dose received by the examined person, a general clinical examination and a complete blood test and semi-quantitative examination of the urine using test strips, provided the examination is needed to assess fitness. A continuous fitness examination of category B workers is not required and compliant with Directive 2013/59/Euratom.</p> <p>Austria has specified several dose constraints in the legislation: For public exposure from temporary storage of residues from NORM in the undertaking, a dose constraint of 0.3 mSv shall be applicable for the effective dose per calendar year. The activity of stored radioactive sources, the shielding effect of containers shall be coordinated in such a manner as to ensure that the</p>	2023-02-17 14:44:51
					<p>What are practices that contribute doses in the range of 6mSv -20 mSv/year in Austria and what are the type of medical tests recommended annually for category A workers and why continuous fitness of category B workers are not required since they can receive up to 6 mSv.</p>			
					<p>No any mention about dose constrains for occupationally exposed person even though dose constrains are defined for public for the controlled discharge of gaseous or liquid radioactive material.</p>			
					<p>Are there any dose constrains defined in your regulations for workers.</p>			
					<p>Have Austria established radioactive wastes discharge limits for liquid and gases and clearance limits for solid radioactive wastes. If established, how can we get that information.</p>			

effective dose resulting from storage does not exceed 0.3 mSv/year for members of the public, and 1 mSv/year for exposed workers. Dose constraints can be established in the frame of the authorisation of a practice on a case-by-case basis. Decision-making is based on typical empirical values for practices.

Regarding gaseous or liquid discharges: Austria has a dose limit of 0.3 mSv/year for the controlled discharge of gaseous or liquid radioactive material. The competent authority has to specify in the frame of the licensing process the maximum possible discharges to ensure compliance with the dose limit of 0.3 mSv/year. We have no detailed values for discharges in our legislation since these values are determined on a case-by-case basis.

Regarding clearance dose constraints for solid radioactive waste: We have defined clearance limits for solid radioactive waste in our legislation. These values have been adopted from the IAEA-BSS and the Euratom-BSS (2013/59/Euratom).

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
28960	Argentina	Austria	Article 6	General	Which are the main results of continue monitoring and periodic review of safety, performed to TRIGA reactor? Which were the identified safety improvements?	Answered	Repeat tests plans specify which components must be inspected in which way and at which interval by the licensee. Prior to the inspections at the research reactor, repeat tests are reviewed by external experts and on-site inspections are carried out to conduct spot checks. If deficiencies are identified during the inspection, they are subsequently evaluated and remedied accordingly. Identified safety improvements of the last PSR are for example the maintenance of the reactor instrumentation, the replacement of the control unit of the control rod as well as the maintenance work in the area of the ventilation systems and the cooling circuits.		2023-02-17 14:44:51
28961	Argentina	Austria	Article 8	(2)	Regarding the pandemic situation, which is the current work methodology? Does it continue being hybrid?	Answered	During the winter of 2022/2023, the number of infected people remained under control throughout Austria. Therefore, the current working method is essentially the same as before the pandemic. Meetings and inspections are held on site in person. Should there be any Covid-19 related short-notice outages hybrid meetings with the help of		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
							videoconferencing tools can be arranged.		
<b>28962</b>	Argentina	Austria	Article 14	(1)	Could you indicate the frequency for SAR updating?	Answered	Pursuant to § 61 para 2 General Radiation Protection Ordinance 2020 the licensee shall update the SAR as appropriate and bring the report to the attention of the competent authority without undue delay in the event of any material changes. The last major update took place in 2021 to implement the legislative changes of the new Radiation Protection Act 2020 and the ordinances derived from it.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
28963	Argentina	Austria	Article 15	General	What type of activities is included in the so called "Category B" with a maximum dose of 6mSv per year?	Answered	A certified dosimetry service is tasked with the dose assessment of exposed workers of category A and B. The dosimetry service sends the results of the dose assessment to the Central Dose Register with information on the exposure situation and the type of practice of the person under surveillance. Therefore the competent authority can make conclusions on practices which are typical for "Category B". Typical exposure situation for "Category B" are X-ray diagnosis, dental X-ray, research in science, technology and medicine, X-Ray fluorescence, transport of radioactive material and industrial irradiation. These are the most important exposure situations typical for "Category B".		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
28964	Argentina	Austria	Article 16	(1)	Do you have a joint participation in emergency drill with other regional countries?	Answered	Yes, Austria regularly participates in bilateral and regional exercises. For example, once per year there is a joint emergency exercise with Czech Republic (by the competent authorities BMK and SÚJB). 2022 Switzerland invited all neighbouring countries including Austria to participate in the national exercise (NPP Leibstadt). Within an EC project in 2022, Austria participates in two regional clusters conducting table top exercises and exchanging relevant information and results with Slovenia and Hungary as accident countries. IAEA and Hungary organized in 2017 a comprehensive CONVEX-3 exercise assuming a nuclear accident at the Hungarian NPP Paks. There was a very active participation of Austria and all other neighbouring countries of Hungary.		2023-02-17 14:44:51

Question Id	Posted By	Posted To	Article	Ref. in National Report	Question / Comment	Status	Answer	Support Docs	Last Activity On
34014	South Africa	Austria	Article 15	Section 7.1	It is stated in page 38 that the analysis of individual dose monitoring and of incorporation monitoring may only be conducted by authorised services. Are these services authorization holders of the regulatory authority (The Federal Minister of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)? or are they authorised by other competent authorities?	Posted			2023-02-07 15:29:53



34021	South Africa	Austria	Article 15	Section 15.1	<p>The BMK (with participation of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection) is responsible for the evaluation of consequences, classification of the emergency in accordance with IAEA GSR Part 7, the decision on protective actions off-site and communication (to other federal competent authorities and to the public) of emergency exposure situations as a result of an accident in a nuclear installation, the crash of a satellite containing radioactive material, radiological terror or an accident related to practices for which emergency preparedness must be ensured for the public. For all other emergency exposure situations, responsibility rests with the provincial governors". Explain the process of decision making and who takes the final decision for category V emergencies. it is also noted that the responsibility of the emergency exposure situation is between the BWK and the provincial governors.</p> <p>2) It is noted the EU countries installed Radiation Early Warning System that is continuously monitoring the ambient gamma dose rates. Explaining how the systems is maintained to ensure that it is continuously online. Please include the suppliers stakeholders involved in the commissioning and operation of the system, how the relationship, skills development and retention are</p>	Posted	2023-02-07 14:47:45
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maintained.

3) Which organisation is responsible for ensuring operability and maintenance of the Austrian Early Warning System?

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