
NPP LONG TERM OPERATION IN SPAIN – FIRST APPLICATION FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

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In the operation of the Spanish nuclear power plants (NPP), safety is always the prime consideration. Plant Life Management Programmes have been set up with the strategic objective to operate the NPPs as long as they are considered safe and reliable. The safety of each NPP is reviewed by the Spanish nuclear regulatory authority (CSN) under a continuous process. In addition, experience is gained from operating the plants and from exchanges with operators of similar units.

Current Spanish regulatory framework for renewing NPP operating licenses requires performing a Periodic Safety Review (PSR) to be performed every 10 years and submitted when applying for a new renewal of the NPP operating license.

A few years ago, CSN issued a document regarding the licensing requirements that nuclear power plants should meet in order to be granted with an operating license for long term operation (i.e, operation beyond the original plant design life, typically 40 years).

Besides the traditional PSR requirements, specific requirements regarding to long term operation (LTO) include:

- An Aging Management and Evaluation Program, including the identification and evaluation of Time Limited Aging Analysis (TLAA).
- An updated Radiological Impact Study.
- A review and assessment of regulation/standard applicability.

Garofña NPP (GE, BWR/3 design) operated by Spanish utility Nuclenor from 1971 has a current operating license up to 2009. A decision was made to apply for a new operating license, being Garofña plant the first one in Spain to face with the new long term operation requirements.

The paper will provide an overview of the methodology used in Spain to address and perform the required analyses to support the LTO application for the operating license renewal. In particular, focus will be paid on the project developed in Garofña (2002-2006) whose result has been the first Spanish application for License Renewal for LTO. Also it will be reported the ongoing work necessary to be completed before the beginning of the new extended life period (Implementation Program) and the issue on the applicability of new standards.