



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**

WM 2015 Session 095 Panel: International Co-Operation in Fuel-Cycle Activities, Including the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC)

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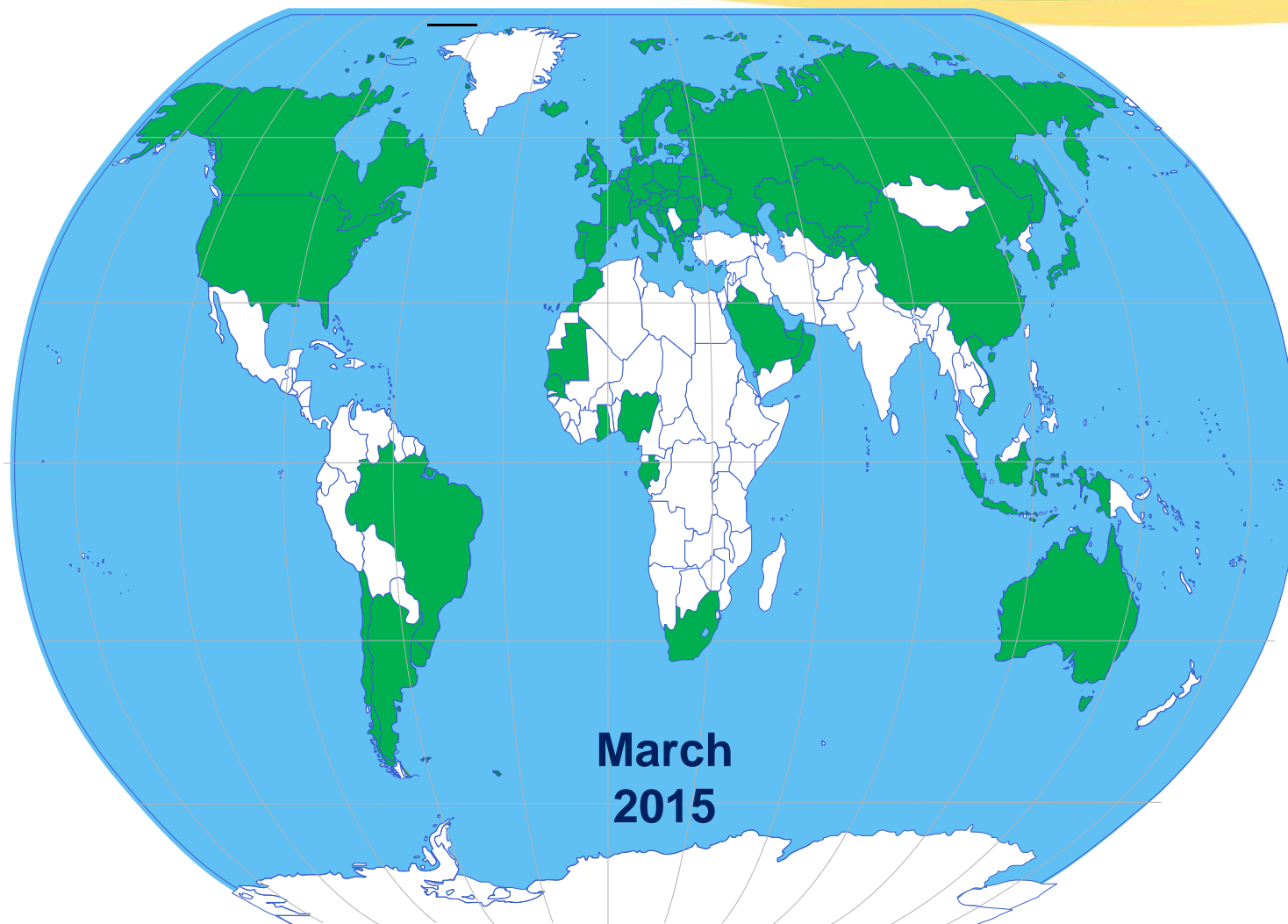
March 18, 2015

Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

- Entered into force June 18, 2001
- Currently 69 Contracting Parties (68 nations and Euratom) ratified the Joint Convention
- Sibling of Convention on Nuclear Safety (Nuclear Power Plant safety)
- International peer review process to raise the worldwide safety culture for spent fuel and RW facilities
- Based on IAEA overarching safety Principals
- 3-year cycle: self assess and prepare National Report on prescribed topics; peer review National Reports; pose questions/comments; answer questions/comments; and present/discuss confidentially at the Review Meeting of the Parties

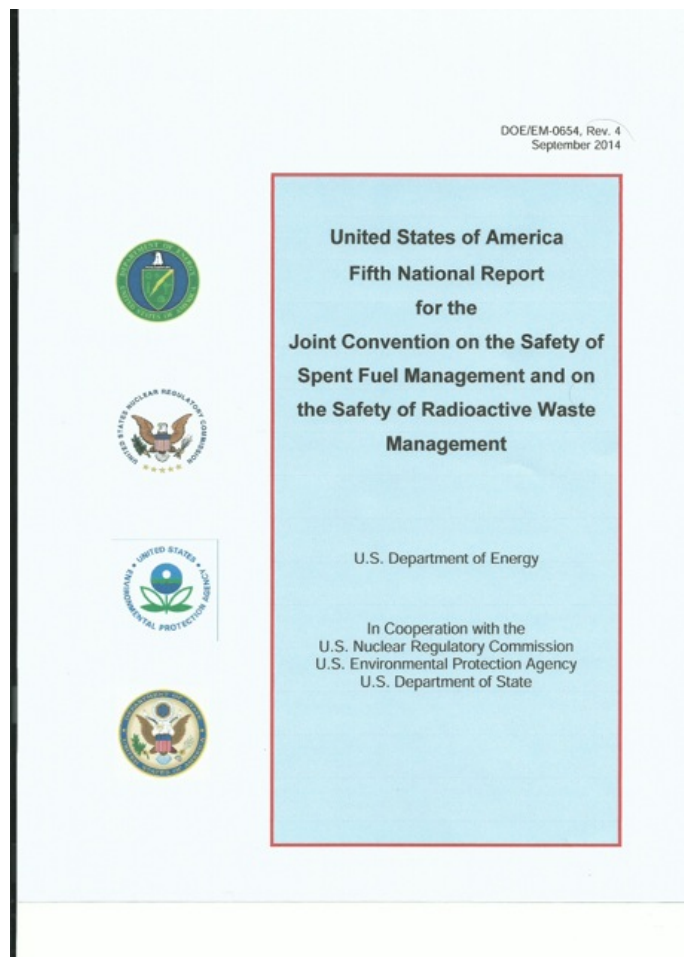


69 Current Joint Convention Contracting Parties



USA Joint Convention Status

- DOE/EM leads technical implementation
 - Interagency Executive Steering Committee (DOE and State Dept. co-chairs) with active participation of EM, NRC, and EPA executives
 - Working Group (DOE/EM lead) with DOE/NNSA, NRC, and EPA members
- US team preparing for 5th Review Meeting in May 2015
 - State Dept., DOE/EM, and NRC shared US presentation
 - US technical experts (DOE, NRC, EPA) available during discussion period
 - Active US leadership: President of Review Meeting and 3 additional NRC or DOE Country Group officers
 - Proposals for discussion in “Open-Ended Working Group” sessions



http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/10/f18/5th_US__National%20Report_9-18-14.pdf

Recap of Joint Convention Topical Meeting on Back-end of the Fuel Cycle

- During the 4th Review Meeting, Contracting Parties decided to hold a Joint Convention Topical Meeting on the safety contributions of various current and potential approaches to managing the back end of the fuel cycle.
- It was held in October 2013 (at IAEA HQ) and was attended by 55 participants from 21 Contracting Parties, as well as representatives from OECD/NEA.
- Presentations highlighted a wide variety of approaches: open fuel cycle, closed fuel cycle with reprocessing, commercial fuel supply and reprocessing, wait and see attitude regard disposal options, and initiatives on geologic repositories.
- Common themes emerged: importance of openness and transparency and effective public engagement, importance of progress with development of laboratories and disposal facilities; and the importance of non-proliferation, i.e., incorporating Pu production into MOX to avoid building Pu stocks.
- Whatever approach is taken the responsibilities are with Contracting Parties for safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.
- Both national and multinational approaches, may in principle, be consistent with Joint Convention.

Follow-on Discussions Planned at the May 2015 Review Meeting

- A brief presentation will be provided at the Opening Plenary session on the 2013 Topical Meeting.
- An Open-Ended Working Group Session a US proposal will be discussed that continues to promote a discussion among Contracting Parties on this topic and is in harmony with the conclusions of the 2013 Topical Meeting.
- As currently written, the US proposal would add reporting requirements in the National Report in cases where a Contracting Party is involved or expects to be involved in the management or disposal of spent fuel or radioactive waste through a multi-national approach.