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As part of ASN's duty to inform, recalled in the Nuclear Transparency and Security Act 2006-686 of 13 June 2006 (known as the "TSN" Act), this report presents the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France in 2008. In this chapter, ASN describes its actions and tools for public information and transparency. This chapter also presents the tools and actions used to inform the public about nuclear safety and radiation protection by other stakeholders.

The information issued by ASN is aimed at a variety of audiences:

- the "general public": this concerns people who either for personal reasons or because of current events find themselves at one time or another interested in ASN and what it is doing. Their interest in nuclear matters is often linked to topical, newsworthy events. The term general public also refers to all those who are more informed and who, without having any professional capacity in the field, are interested for a variety of reasons in nuclear safety in general and its supervision and regulation in particular. This is for example the case of the members of environmental protection associations or the Local Information Committees (CLIs);
- the media: whether regional, national or international, and whether written or audiovisual, the media are of particular importance for ASN, especially given how often and how frequently it is contacted by them and the variety of reasons concerned;
- the "professional public", which comprises the licensees of nuclear installations, radioactive material transporters, health professionals, learned societies, professional associations who require operational and regulatory information. This category also includes other nuclear stakeholders, such as technical experts and approved organisations;
- ASN's institutional audience, which in particular comprises elected officials and members of parliament, especially the members of the Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST).

1 DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR SAFETY AUTHORITY AND THE PUBLIC

1 | 1 From public information to transparency

The decree of 13 March 1973, which created the Central Nuclear Installations Safety Department (SCSIN), responsible for regulating nuclear safety in France, also entrusted it with the role of "proposing and organising public information on safety-related issues".

The decree of 1 December 1993, which created the Nuclear Installation Safety Directorate (DSIN), reiterated this public information duty, in the same terms.

The decree of 22 February 2002 setting up the General Directorate for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (DGSNR) expanded this public information duty to cover radiation protection: DGSNR is responsible for "contributing to public information on subjects related to nuclear safety and radiation protection".

The above-mentioned TSN Act gives ASN the status of an independent administrative authority and finally states that ASN "contributes [...] to informing the public in the fields of nuclear safety and radiation protection".

Thus, at each institutional change concerning how the regulation of civil nuclear activities is organised in France, ASN's public information role was confirmed.

In order to discharge these duties, ASN uses specific information media and actions in an effort to provide its

various audiences with information that is easy to understand and accessible to the greatest number.

It informs and notifies the various information providers. It contributes to regular information of the media, by organising thematic press conferences as well as encouraging the action of the Local Information Committees (CLIs). By virtue of Article 23 of the TSN Act, it is a member of the High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN). ASN maintains ongoing relations with elected officials and environmental protection associations.

In addition, ASN wishes to expand participation by the stakeholders (elected officials, representatives of environmental protection associations, of industry or administrations, and so on), in the drafting of general regulatory texts. It also wishes to encourage public information about how these texts are drafted and enable it to give its opinion on their content.

1 | 2 ASN's information media

1 | 2 | 1 ASN's website, www.asn.fr

ASN's website, www.asn.fr, is ASN's main tool for informing the public, with an average of more than 33,000 visitors each month, and a growing audience after 8 years of existence.

Decommissioning of nuclear installations: strong public response to the consultation on the ASN website

At the beginning of May 2008, ASN gave web users the opportunity to express themselves on its nuclear installations decommissioning policy in France. Given the lively response to this proposition (260 comments received, 4,000 pages visited, 1,500 documents downloaded) and in order to enable all those who so wish to continue to express their opinion, the consultation which should have ended on 31 May 2008, was extended by one month. All the comments have been placed on-line.

The comments submitted by the site visitors fall into three main categories:

- comments concerning the document itself;
- general questions on decommissioning;
- comments unrelated to the subject of decommissioning, but concerning nuclear power in general.

The comments directly related to the topic proposed mainly concern:

- the preparation and performance of decommissioning operations on the sites;
- the issue of decommissioning financing (cost assessments, mechanisms for provisioning and securing funding, etc.);
- management of the radioactive waste produced by decommissioning;
- the fate of the nuclear installations subsequent to decommissioning.

During the summer of 2008, ASN produced a new version of the draft document presenting its policy for the decommissioning and delicensing of nuclear installations in France. This new draft took account of the contributions by the members of the public. For example, the aspects relating to the financing of nuclear installation decommissioning were developed in the document.

The screenshot shows the ASN website interface. At the top, there is a header with the ASN logo and the text: "L'ASN assure, au nom de l'État, le contrôle du nucléaire pour protéger le public, les patients, les travailleurs et l'environnement. Elle informe les citoyens." Below this is a navigation menu with links like "Accueil", "Plan du site", "Lexique", "Nous contacter", "Aide", and "Liens". A search bar is located on the left. The main content area is titled "Le démantèlement des installations nucléaires" and contains an article with a photograph of workers in protective suits. The article text discusses the decommissioning process in France, mentioning the 1980s and the current state of operations. A sidebar on the right contains a "Sommaire" (Table of Contents) with sections like "I Les étapes du démantèlement", "II Les risques et enjeux", "III Les stratégies de démantèlement en France", "IV Le financement du démantèlement", and "V Les installations en cours de démantèlement".

ASN website for public consultation on nuclear installations decommissioning – www.asn.fr

Since it was first set up in May 2000, ASN's website has seen its audience steadily grow. In 2008, it was visited more than 425,000 times, with a peak of more than 58,600 hits in July 2008.

It presents nuclear safety and radiation protection news in France, as well as ASN actions and positions within its areas of competence. The www.asn.fr site informs the web user about a range of subjects as varied as nuclear installations, radiotherapy, radioactive waste management, protecting installations against earthquakes, or even detecting lead in paint.

The homepage shows the last 8 news subjects published, plus a link for subscription to a streaming news service (RSS). The site is built around 11 main sections presenting

ASN and its activities, the regulation of civil nuclear power in France, reference legislative and regulatory texts, the opinions of the Advisory Committees of experts (see below), publications, thematic dossiers and local news. Alongside the institutional headings, ASN proposes thematic headings for professionals, concerning the ASN's public information and documentation centre, the HCTISN, or the CLIs.

As part of its move towards greater transparency, ASN has since 1 January 2002 been publishing on its website www.asn.fr the results of all inspections carried out by its inspectors on basic nuclear installations (more than 700 per year). It also places on-line the letters sent out to the licensees following each inspection. On 1 July 2008, ASN decided to extend this publication process to include

ASN – Image and awareness

In 2008, together with the TNS SOFRES poll institute, ASN once again used the profile and image barometer created for the first time in 2005. This barometer is designed to measure ASN's recognition level and the degree of satisfaction of two samples of the public with regard to its information actions. It enables ASN to adapt its information policy to its various audiences.

The fourth wave of this opinion survey took place in October and November 2008 with a representative sample of the general public and a sample representing the more informed and professional public (in particular consisting of journalists, elected officials, association managers, administrators, CLI chairmen, health professionals and teachers).

The general public was more aware of ASN in 2008: 29% of those questioned said that they knew ASN was the organisation in charge of nuclear regulation in France, representing a significant increase over 2007 (+ 8 points). This progress can in particular be ascribed to the events that occurred during the summer (especially those on the Tricastin site), which helped raise ASN's profile.

Similarly, among the more informed public, the particular context of 2008 led to greater awareness of ASN, with 77% of those questioned being familiar with the ASN name, either spontaneously or after prompting (+ 9 points in relation to 2007).

At the same time, awareness of ASN's duties has significantly changed among the general public: inspection and supervision of nuclear installations and activities is still that most commonly mentioned (78% of those questioned, score stable in relation to 2007), while this year, its regulatory role was mentioned more than in the past (18%, + 10 points).

The informed public confirmed its greater familiarity with ASN's duties: as in 2007, a vast majority (91%) mentioned its inspection and supervision role. Its regulatory role was also mentioned more frequently (43%, + 6 points in relation to 2007). The information role was however mentioned less than in 2007 (19%, 4 points).

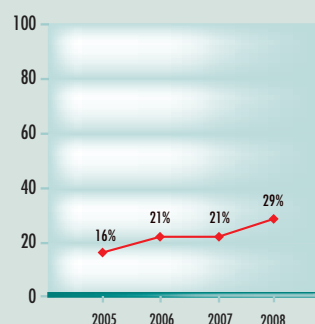
Furthermore, following the events that occurred on the Tricastin site, at the end of August 2008, ASN conducted an additional survey with a representative sample of the general public to identify what they remembered and the impact of these incidents on the French population's confidence in the perceived supervision and safety of the installations.

Using a method identical to the awareness and image barometer enables comparisons to be made and changes measured.

The results of this survey revealed that the incidents were clearly remembered (70% of those questioned), there was dissatisfaction with the public safety precautions taken by the nuclear installations (-12 points in relation to 2007) and a drop in confidence with regard to the effectiveness of the checks carried out by the authorities, particularly with regard to the safety of the installations (-18 points in relation to 2007).

With regard to information, 30% of those questioned felt that they were poorly informed about nuclear supervision and regulation in France. Given this context, ASN's profile had already risen considerably by the end of August 2008: 28% of those questioned said that they were aware of the organisation, as against 21% in the autumn of 2007. ASN's interventions were remarked upon and were clearly associated with the incidents in the nuclear installations.

ASN's profile among the general public



the radiotherapy inspection follow-up letters (about 200 per year) and eventually aims to publish all the follow-up letters concerning small-scale nuclear activity inspections.

Since 5 April 2005, ASN has also placed on-line the information notices concerning EDF reactor outages. In these information notices, it gives the context of the outage, the main worksites involved, the supervision and monitoring actions it carried out and the main events that occurred during the outage. These notices are published after the ASN has approved restart of the reactor concerned.

Finally, ASN decided to publish documents regarding the meetings of the Advisory Committees of experts (GPE) (see chapter 2, point 2|3|5): ASN calling on a GPE to examine a particular subject, GPE opinion and ASN stance. This decision applies to the GPE meetings held after 1 October 2008. The associated elements will be published once ASN has adopted a stance on the subject in question.

In order to facilitate access to the information being sought, the site will be overhauled in mid-2009 in order to make for easier browsing and identification of the content presented.

In 2008, new content and services continued to be added to the site.

In addition to the new sections “Radiotherapy inspection follow-up letters” and “Advisory Committee opinions” mentioned above, ASN has included a new thematic section on-line, dedicated to post-accident experience

feedback from Chernobyl. This section, called PAREX, gives access to a large base of historical, sociological, legal and technical information (several tens of pages, about sixty photos, a number of scientific documents and links to the web pages of our various partners). This information about the post-accident management of Chernobyl from 1986 to 2005 is being published for the first time.

At the same time, two new thematic dossiers on nuclear power plants and the disposal of radioactive waste have been added to the site. These dossiers offer the readers a certain number of reference points (diagrams, sketches, glossary, map of France, etc.) as well as a bibliography so that they can investigate the subject in greater detail.

The part of the site in English was also expanded in 2008, with the creation of a dedicated website, <http://nuclear-safety.asn.fr>, also accessible from the French version. This site contains all the reorganised ASN content in English, supplemented by the “Latest news” section and another section devoted to ASN’s annual report in English (<http://annual-report.asn.fr>).

1 | 2 | 2 The ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France

The ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France is the result of collective analysis and summary work involving all ASN entities. Its aim is to constitute a reference document offering a yearly inventory of changes and of the problems encountered within the organisations regulated by ASN. It is a means of broadening the scope of reflection to nuclear safety and radiation protection projects and outlook, by proposing summary sheets on topical issues or subjects of particular importance.

In line with its aim of reporting on its activities, its duties and the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France, ASN submits its annual report every year to the President of the Republic and to the Government, and presents it to the members of the OPECST, as well as to the other members of Parliament. These hearings, to which the press is invited, take place in the National Assembly and in the Senate. The first one since ASN’s status was changed, took place on 8 April 2008 and was an opportunity to review the significant events of 2008, but also to look at the outlook and issues for nuclear safety and radiation protection both in France and abroad.

The report is distributed to nearly 2,000 subscribers. The subscribers to the ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France are representatives of the administration, local elected officials, licensees and those in charge of regulated activities or installations, associations,



Homepage of the ASN website: www.asn.fr



Presentation of the ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France in 2007 to the OPECSST on 8 April 2008

professional trade unions, learned societies, private individuals, and so on.

Since 1996, this report has been translated into English (available on the ASN website, but also on a CD-ROM) to promote exchanges between nuclear safety authorities and inform foreign nuclear safety and radiation protection stakeholders (experts, members of international organisations, licensees, researchers, journalists, teachers, etc.). This version has its own subscribers, 70% of whom are residents of non-French-speaking countries, primarily in Europe (60%), Asia (14%) and North America (12%).

The French and English versions of the ASN report can be downloaded from www.asn.fr, giving it a reach extending far beyond the subscriber distribution lists and enabling the reader easily to consult the chapter(s) of particular interest to him or her. Since 2006, the English version has also had a dedicated section at the address <http://annual-report.asn.fr>. This interactive section enables the reader to send a page to another web user, give an opinion, subscribe to a newsletter concerning the latest ASN publications in English, and so on.

The ASN report can also be consulted at ASN's public information and documentation centre, as well as on the website, www.asn.fr, in both its French and English versions. It can also be sent free of charge, on request by letter to the following address: ASN publications, 6, place du Colonel-Bourgoin, 75572 Paris Cedex 12.

1 | 2 | 3 *Contrôle* magazine

Every two months, ASN publishes its *Contrôle* magazine, which is sent out to nearly 10,000 subscribers. The readers of *Contrôle* in France are national and local elected officials, the media, journalists, members of the HCTISN and the CLIs, associations, licensees, administrations, private individuals, etc. Abroad, *Contrôle* is sent out in particular to the nuclear safety authorities of countries with which ASN has close relations.

Contrôle comprises a detailed report on a specific subject concerning nuclear safety or radiation protection, entitled "Les Dossiers de *Contrôle*", and a current affairs part reporting on ASN activities, especially at regional level.

The special report presents the ASN view of the subject covered and gives an opportunity for the various stakeholders concerned to express themselves: licensees, administrations, experts, environmental protection associations, journalists, etc. ASN's foreign counterparts are also asked for their viewpoint and an article is regularly devoted to an example from a sector of activity other than nuclear. Readers are given a broad range of views on and approaches to a particular subject, helping them reach their own opinion. The "Dossiers de *Contrôle*" are also published separately and can be consulted on the website www.asn.fr.



Covers of the issues of *Contrôle* magazine published in 2008

Contrôle also presents the latest news on nuclear safety in the regions (regulation of nuclear installations and radioactive material transport), major national and international events and the major decisions reached by ASN. It reports on the activities of the CLIs, the HCTISN, the BNI Consultative Commission (CCINB) and the Advisory Committees of experts.

Press conferences are organised when each issue of *Contrôle* is published. They are regularly attended by journalists from the mainstream press and from media specialising in the nuclear, environmental and medical fields.

In 2008 *Contrôle* covered the following subjects:

- the relations between ASN and the various stakeholders, one year after the TSN Act (n° 178 – January);
- ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France in 2007: extracts (n° 179 – April);
- post-accident management of a nuclear accident (n° 180 – July);
- decommissioning of basic nuclear installations (n° 181 – November).

Contrôle is free and is distributed on the basis of voluntary subscription (subscription form available on www.asn.fr or by mail from the following address: ASN Publications, 6, place du Colonel Bourgoïn, 75572 Paris Cedex 12). Out of print numbers can be consulted at the on the website, or in ASN's public information and documentation centre.

1 | 2 | 4 ASN publications intended for the general public

ASN's national presentation brochure

The brochure presenting the new ASN was published at the end of 2006. It presents ASN's status and the resources it deploys so that, on behalf of the State, it can regulate nuclear safety and radiation protection and inform the public. It also presents ASN's organisation, aims, values and duties. It is in particular distributed at meetings and events attended by ASN and was updated in December 2008. It is also available in English.

ASN regional division presentation brochures

ASN's new status has led it to raise its profile in the regions, which is why brochures presenting each of the eleven ASN regional divisions were published in June 2007. These brochures present the regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection in the regions under the responsibility of each of the ASN representatives, along with the contribution by the divisions to public information. They present the nature of the installations regulated and give figures on the make-up of the ASN teams in the regions and the number of inspections performed every year.

Each regional brochure is incorporated into the ASN national presentation brochure.

The regional brochures are distributed at meetings, at training sessions and at the regional symposia attended by the divisions. They are also communicated to the local

administrations (*préfectures*¹, DRASS, DDASS, DRTEFP, etc.), to the stakeholders (CLIs, environmental protection associations, media, etc.), to the heads of the installations and activities regulated, to professional trade unions, and so on. They will be updated in 2009.

ASN's public information and documentation centre brochure

This brochure presents the information centre, its documentary collection and how it works. In 2009, the new version will be distributed to various information sources: educational documentation centres, "major hazard" correspondents in the academies, scientific museum media libraries, higher education libraries, CLIs, associations, licensees, health authorities, research organisations, exhibitions and symposia involving ASN participation and the communication departments of the DRASS, DDASS and *préfectures*.

The information sheets

The "ASN information sheets" are designed to provide targeted, concise and pedagogical information on the main topics of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

These sheets are widely distributed among the general public and the teaching sector. They are available at the exhibitions and symposia in which ASN participates and are sent out to various information providers such as CLIs

and the documentation centres for teachers. They are also available to the regional divisions for local communication operations.

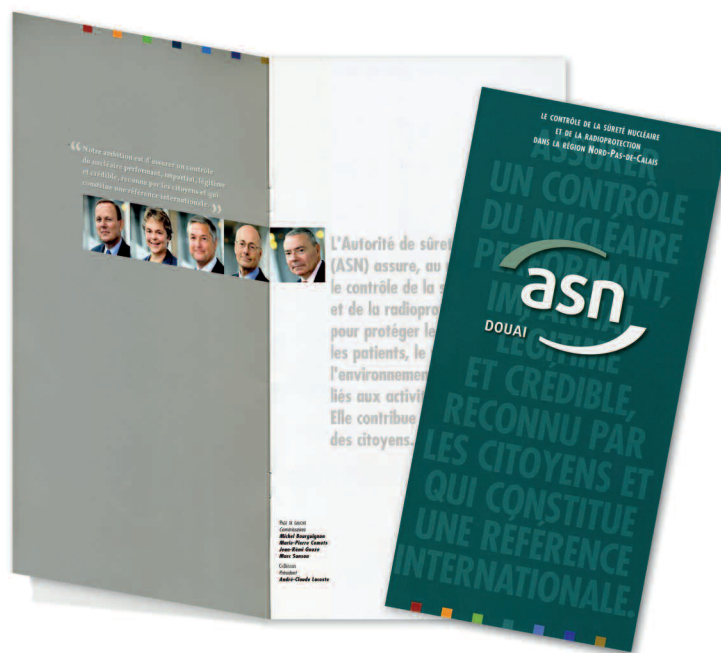
The collection currently comprises 7 numbers.

Sheet no. 1, "Administration of stable iodine in the event of a nuclear accident", in particular presents how taking stable iodine counteracts the possible effects on the thyroid of a release of radioactive iodine.

Sheet no. 2, "Radiation protection principles", presents the principles of justification, optimisation and limitation of ionising radiations exposure doses and the application of these principles to radiation protection of the public, patients and workers. A revised edition of this sheet was published in 2008.

Sheet no. 3, "Nuclear or radiological: which term to use?" clarifies the definition and usage of these two words in various fields of activity (industry, medical, research) and in the corresponding regulations.

Sheet no. 4, "Radiation protection values and units", describes the characteristics of ionising radiations. It defines the various values and units concerning this radiation or radioactivity, as well as how they are specifically used in quantifying the corresponding hazards.



ASN institutional brochure for each Division

1. Office of the *préfet* (in a *département*, representative of the State appointed by the President).



Welcome to the ASN's public information and documentation centre on Monday-Friday from 10 to 12 am and from 2 to 5 pm – 6, place du Colonel-Bourgoin – Paris 12

Sheet no. 5, “The French nuclear fuel cycle” presents the operators involved in the sector, where the facilities are located, the various phases involved in the production and then reprocessing of civil nuclear fuels and how this activity is supervised.

Sheet no. 6, “Radiological emergency situations”, presents the situations which could lead to a release of radioactive substances, the main parties involved in managing them and the various measures that exist in France to protect the population in the event of a nuclear accident.

Sheet no. 7, “Radon”, explains the origin of this radioactive gas, the risk it presents for individual health, the possible preventive or corrective steps and the measures provided for in the regulations to reduce this risk.

1 | 3 The public information and documentation centre

The Public Information and Documentation centre was inaugurated in 2004 and is open to all (professionals, students, associations, private individuals) in ASN's Paris premises.

It offers more than 1,000 documents for consultation, covering ASN's areas of competence: nuclear safety, radiation protection, but also radiophysics, radiochemistry, design of nuclear installations, nuclear medicine, radioactive waste management, the fuel cycle, risk management, the environment, regulations, etc. The centre also offers on-site consultation of original administrative documents such as the public inquiry files pertaining to Basic Nuclear Installation licensing or modification procedures and impact assessments.

In this centre, the public has access to all ASN publications (*Contrôle* magazine, annual reports, information sheets, etc.). It can also consult French and international publications on nuclear safety and radiation protection produced by the various stakeholders (CLIs, nuclear licensees, IRSN and other technical experts, radiology and radiation protection learned societies, professional associations, environmental protection associations and so on).

Two computers are available to visitors for consultation of the websites of the various nuclear and radiation protection stakeholders, along with educational CD-Roms. Audiovisual documents can also be viewed.

In 2008, the ASN public information and documentation centre welcomed about a hundred visitors and answered more than 2,950 queries (answers to questions from web visitors, requests for publications). It is perceived by the general public as a source of information, as was for example highlighted during events such as the Tricastin incidents in July 2008.

1 | 4 ASN's regional actions

1 | 4 | 1 Public information actions by the ASN representatives and division heads

A key step in the ASN creation process was completed on 21 September 2007, with the publication in the Official Gazette of decree 2007-1368 of 19 September 2007 enabling the appointment of ASN representatives to represent ASN in the regions.

ASN thus benefits from the nomination of 11 directors of the Regional Directorates for Industry, Research and the Environment (DRIRE) as its representatives.

The actions by the ASN representatives and division heads with regard to public information are a means, at regional level, of informing elected officials, the media and the public of the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection, along with ASN's regulatory, legislative and emergency situation management actions.

1 | 4 | 2 Exhibition: "Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation"

ASN and IRSN organise a permanent exhibition travelling around the regions, more particularly aimed at schoolchildren and the general public. The purpose of the exhibition is to provide simple, attractive and direct information on the assessment and management of nuclear energy related risks and the corresponding means of surveillance. Every year, 2 or 3 towns are chosen to host this 250 m² exhibition for a few weeks.

At each stop, the regional divisions help with the inaugural events, the conferences and dissemination of information to elected officials, the local press and the general



Poster of the ASN/IRSN exhibition "Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation"

public. All ASN publications are also proposed to the exhibition visitors, in particular to science teachers.

In 2008, after visiting Saint-Germain-en-Laye, the "Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to regulation" exhibition went to Lyon and then Auch. It received more than 5,000 visitors. The 12 thematic conferences associated with the exhibition this year attracted nearly 450 participants.

In 2008, two new animated models were produced to enhance the interactivity of the exhibition.

1 | 5 ASN and the media

1 | 5 | 1 Press relations

The ASN press department is in charge of informing the media about ASN activities and current events as related to nuclear safety, radiation protection and their regulation. This information effort is sustained throughout the year and becomes more intense during media crises.

In 2008, relations with the press helped further raise ASN's profile and enhance its credibility and legitimacy within its areas of competence, after its change in status to an independent administrative authority.

More than 20 national and regional press briefings, about twenty press releases, 90 information notes and numerous interviews gave ASN the opportunity to inform the media about current events in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection and about its strategic stances.

Many questions were raised by the journalists concerning the safety of installations, more precisely concerning the inspections carried out by ASN, the events that occurred on the Tricastin site in 2008, the EPR reactor construction site and its suspension by ASN.

With regard to the radiation protection of patients, the press department received queries concerning the organisation of ASN supervision, the implementation of the ASN/SFRO radiotherapy events rating scale, and publication of the follow-up letters after inspections conducted in the radiotherapy centres.

In 2008, for the first time, the ASN Commission presented its New Year wishes to the press. In the presence of about twenty journalists from the national and international press, the ASN Commission in particular reviewed the ramp-up of the new Authority in charge of regulating nuclear safety and radiation protection in France as well as subjects of particular importance.

ASN press relations and media crises

In 2008, the press department and some of the ASN regional divisions received keen media attention, particularly in July when the events occurred on the Tricastin site.

In the night of 7 to 8 July 2008, an incident occurred on the site of the SOCATRI company. A tank in the uranium effluents treatment station (STEU) overflowed into its leak tank. This leak tank was undergoing repairs and was not leaktight, which led to 74 kg of natural uranium being released into the environment. The entire French media and the international press contacted ASN on a daily basis for details on the nature of the release, the environmental protection measures taken, the consequences for the population and the rating of the event on the INES scale. Many interviews were given by the ASN spokespersons, in particular at the local level. In addition and to provide the press with more information, particularly following its inspection of the SOCATRI site, ASN organised a press briefing in its Lyon division premises on 11 July, attended by the entire national and regional press.

The rupture of an underground pipe carrying uranium liquid effluents on 17 July at the plant belonging to the Franco-Belgian Fuel Fabrication Company (FBFC), a member of the AREVA/NP group, located at Romans-sur-Isère in the Drôme département² also aroused the interest of the press. ASN held a press briefing in its Paris premises on 18 July in order to answer all media queries.

On 23 July 2008, ASN responded to the numerous media asking for details on the internal contamination of about a hundred workers at EDF's Tricastin nuclear power plant, during maintenance and refuelling of reactor 4.

Two other events proved to be of particular interest to the press:

- on 5 August, ASN suspended the activities of SOCATRI as a result of its monthly discharge limit for gaseous carbon 14 being exceeded in June;
- on 8 September, two fuel assemblies remained attached to the upper internal structures during defuelling of reactor 2 in the Tricastin nuclear power plant.

Furthermore, during 2008, the ASN press department was contacted with regard to two events abroad:

- at the beginning of June, the event in the Krsko nuclear power plant in Slovenia triggered queries from the press concerning the technical problem that had occurred in the installation, the Écurie alert system, ASN relations with its European counterparts and the rating of the event at 1 on the INES scale;
- at the end of August, the radioactive iodine leak from the National Radioelements Institute (IRE) in Fleurus, Belgium, near Charleroi, which was rated level 3 on the INES scale. The consequences of this leak were of particular interest to the French media.



ASN press conference in Lyon following the Socatri incidents

2. Administrative region headed by a *Préfet*.

In order to discharge its duty to “report” on its activities and duties, in particular to Parliament, a hearing – to which the press was invited – took place on 8 April 2008 in the National Assembly, at which ASN presented its Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France in 2007. The ASN Commission presented this same report on 9 April to the members of the Senate’s economic affairs commission.

In the regions, the eleven ASN regional divisions each held a regional press conference at which they clarified the new organisation of ASN and presented the regional results in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection. The local media frequently asked ASN for details about its results in the regions and conducted interviews and reports from the sites (nuclear installations or radiotherapy centres).

ASN’s inspections of nuclear power plants and radiotherapy centres were of particular interest to both the national and the regional press. The TF1 television channel in particular followed the inspectors of the Caen division during the course of an inspection at la Hague. During its evening news programme, TF1 also presented a report on an ASN inspection in a radiotherapy centre. For its part, *L’Express magazine* accompanied the inspectors of the Orleans division around the Belleville nuclear power plant. The France 3 Orleans regional TV channel carried out a report on an ASN inspection in a local radiotherapy service. The written press also gave wide coverage to the work done by the ASN inspectors in the field.

One year after implementation of the ASN/SFRO experimental scale for rating events affecting patients undergoing radiotherapy treatment, ASN held a press conference to present the results of the use of this scale, the modifications made to it and its decision to publish the follow-up letters for the inspections carried out in the radiotherapy services.

The ASN press department maintained close relations with the international press over the year. The international media (Financial Times, International Herald Tribune, Publico, RTBF, etc.) are keenly interested in issues concerning nuclear safety and reported on the stances adopted by ASN, particularly with regard to the regulation of nuclear installations in France.

1 | 5 | 2 ASN and the media in emergency situations

Under the terms of the TSN Act, ASN’s role in the event of an emergency is clear. It must “inform the public of the safety state [...] and of the possible releases into the environment and their risks for personal health and the environment” (Article 4).

ASN must in particular be capable of responding to media queries if there is a nuclear event. For this reason, some of the ten or so emergency response exercises organised every year include media pressure. This media pressure, simulated by journalists involved in the exercise, is designed to assess the responsiveness of ASN when faced with the media, as well as the consistency and coordination of the messages put across by the various stakeholders, be they licensees or authorities, both nationally and locally.

Apart from the media pressure simulated by the journalists, the intervention of experts and other players (ministers’ advisers, elected officials, CLIs, etc.) during the exercises constitutes a further step forward in managing a real nuclear accident situation, which would inevitably lead to many and varied voices being heard at the same time.

1 | 5 | 3 Training in communication and media relations

With the aim of issuing high-quality, clear and comprehensible information, stripped of any over-technical

Table 1: rating of significant events on the INES scale in 2008

Level	Pressurised water reactor	Other facilities	Transport	Total
3 and above	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
1	75	33	3	111
0	672	139	65	876
Total	747	172	68	987

The INES scale of nuclear incidents and accidents

Presentation and goals of the INES scale

In 1987, France set up a scale to rank the severity of nuclear events which was extensively used by IAEA in creating its own INES scale (International Nuclear Event Scale). This scale, based partly on objective criteria and partly on qualitative criteria, is designed to facilitate media and public understanding of the significance, in terms of safety, of nuclear incidents and accidents. It is not a tool for assessing or measuring nuclear safety and radiation protection and cannot constitute a basis for either compensation or penalties. The INES scale can in no case be used for international comparisons and in particular cannot be used to establish a cause and effect link between the number of minor incidents notified and the probability of a severe accident occurring on an installation.

Type of events to which the INES scale applies

The INES scale is designed to cover events occurring in all civil nuclear installations and during transport of nuclear materials. Since 2008, it has also be used to rate radiation protection events linked to the use of radioactive sources in medical installations (except for patients) and industrial and research facilities.

In July 2008, ASN updated the ASN-SFRO scale for rating radiotherapy incidents and released it for implementation by the professionals concerned. This update concluded the trial phase for this scale, based on the INES scale launched in July 2007, jointly with the SFRO.

Use of the INES scale in France

All events with significance for nuclear safety are notified by the licensees within 48 hours. This notification comprises a proposed rating subject to the approval of ASN, which alone is responsible for the final rating decision.

Using the INES scale enables ASN to select those events and incidents which are sufficiently important for it to issue a communication:

- all the events rated level 1 and above are systematically the subject of an incident notification published on the website, www.asn.fr. Events rated level 2 and above are also the subject of a press release and a declaration to IAEA;
- incidents rated level 0 are not the subject of an incident notification, unless they are of particular interest.

vocabulary, ASN offers all of its staff training in spoken and written communication and emergency management. This training is tailored to their various responsibilities.

In 2008, communication training focused more particularly on:

- ASN's senior management, in regular contact with the local, national and international written and audiovisual media, to practice communications with the media, in particular in the capacity of spokesperson;
- ASN's inspectors to familiarise themselves with communication and press relations, including in emergency situations, particularly through writing press releases and interviews with radio and television journalists.
- training 20 ASN staff in the role of press attaché, in order to boost ASN's information capability in an emergency situation.

1 | 6 ASN and professionals

For ASN, the professionals in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection are a particularly important audience.

In addition to the section of its website, ASN drafts publications intended specifically for them and organises or takes part in many symposia, seminars and other events.

1 | 6 | 1 Publications intended for professionals

ASN produces publications intended for professionals, in order to highlight and explain its actions and roles and to explain and promote implementation of the regulations.

In 2008, it thus published guides, aimed at the professionals whose activities it regulates, presenting regulations and good practices in the fields of nuclear safety and radiation protection:

The guide entitled "Medical response to a nuclear and radiological event" was sent out on paper to all emergency medical professionals (hospitals, SMUR, SAMU, SDIS). This guide contains all the information needed to take charge of nuclear or radiological accident victims. It is the result of collective work by the medical emergency professionals, coordinated by ASN.



Summary of the *National Radioactive Materials and Waste Management Plan (2007-2009)* produced by ASN – September 2008

A draft guide entitled “Recommendations for producing annual information reports for the public, concerning basic nuclear installations” was produced in order to present the licensee’s obligations under Article 21 of the TSN Act. It should be finalised in 2009.

The ASN guides are available from its website www.asn.fr.

ASN also publishes thematic information brochures giving a concise summary of the regulatory obligations and of the ASN stance, more specifically intended for professionals. After the brochure concerning how to notify significant radiation protection events, a summary of the national plan on management of radioactive materials and waste was published in 2008.

1 | 6 | 2 Professional symposia

ASN is also developing relations with professionals through the symposia it organises and through its participation in the events they organise. These events are also opportunities for exchanges with its foreign counterparts.

The professional symposia organised by ASN

For the first time, in 2008, ASN held a seminar for the nuclear licensees, to present the main regulatory changes applicable to BNIs. This event allowed clarification of ASN’s role and its new requirements, as well as the methods and procedures for implementing this new regulatory system.

Professional seminars were also organised by several ASN regional divisions. The Bordeaux, Douai, Paris and Strasbourg divisions, for example, arranged meetings with the radiotherapy professionals to present the results of ASN inspections in this sector. A symposium held by the Nantes division looked more widely at the issue of notification of significant radiation protection events. In total, more than 250 professionals took part in these exchanges.

For the first time, ASN called a meeting of all the stakeholders active within its field of competence. This event was held at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, on 29 January 2008 and the ASN Chairman took the opportunity to present the ASN outlook for 2008.

ASN participation in professional symposia

In 2008, ASN also took part in a large number of professional symposia.

It took part in scientific medical conferences, in particular those organised by learned societies in the medical field: French radiation protection society, French radiology society, French society of medical physics, French oncological radiotherapy society, International French-speaking society of radiobiology, Association for radiation protection science and technology, French association of electro-radiology auxiliary staff. ASN was thus able, with the professionals concerned, to look at changes in the regulation of radiation protection or its legislative framework, and answer specific questions. To support the ASN presentations at these events, ASN stands were installed, in particular at the Conference of the French society of

medical physicists in Marseille (4-6 June 2008) and at the French radiology days (24-28 October 2008).

ASN also took part in more closely targeted regional events.

In June, the Nantes division participated in the western regional event by the French society of nuclear medicine. In June, the Bordeaux division took part in the first meetings of the Radiotherapy Circle of the South of France in Marseille. In October, the Orleans division and EDF jointly organised the 4th Val de Loire meetings, to examine the subject of sediments.

ASN was also associated with a number of international events: the 12th IRPA (International Radiation Protection Association) conference in Buenos Aires (Argentina) from 19 to 24 October 2008), the “European training and education in radiation protection platform” (EUTERP) seminar (Vilnius, Lithuania, from 23 to 25 April 2008) and the Open Day at the French Embassy (Washington, USA, 11 April 2008).

In the medical field, the Nantes division took part in the nuclear medicine congress in Rennes, held in May, while the Marseille division took part in the radiology congress

held in Monaco in June. In October, the Marseille division took part in the 14th edition of Hopitech, a trade fair devoted to national training in hospital techniques and engineering, in order to raise the radiation protection awareness of the professionals attending.

More generally, the ASN divisions took part in professional meetings such as the regional seminars held by the Regional Union of independent physicians and the regional assemblies of health professionals (radiotherapists, radiation physicists, radiologists, oncologists, dental surgeons, stomatologists, etc.) and in professional continuous training courses, in particular for biomedical engineers or radiology operators, and for persons “with competence for radiation protection” (PCR).

These interventions, and this national and regional presence, help to raise the profile of ASN and establish ties with professionals, particularly in the small-scale nuclear sector, in order to improve implementation of the principles of safety and radiation protection.

Finally, on 10 December, in partnership with the National Association of Local Information Committees (ANCLI), ASN organised the 20th national conference of Local Information Committees (see point 3|1).

2 THE RIGHT TO NUCLEAR SAFETY AND RADIATION PROTECTION INFORMATION

The TSN Act contains a number of extremely important provisions with regard to public information. Nuclear activities are now among those for which the Act requires the greatest possible transparency.

The Act in particular guarantees “the public’s right to reliable and accessible information on nuclear security” (Article 1 of the TSN Act).

This right to information concerns all fields of ASN activity, and in particular:

- informing the public about events occurring in BNIs or during the transport of radioactive materials, about discharges or releases from BNIs;
- informing workers about their individual radiological exposure;
- informing patients about the medical procedure, in particular its radiological aspect.

For its part, ASN has for a number of years been developing a public information policy and will therefore ensure the implementation of these new measures, which

primarily target the licensees it regulates. As many of these new rules are being seen for the first time, questions may well arise. ASN will do all it can to allow discussion between all stakeholders concerning the problems encountered and the good practices to be employed.

2|1 Information released by the licensees

2|1|1 Distribution of information by the licensees

The main licensees of nuclear activities operate a policy of voluntary public information.

They are also subject to a number of legal obligations, either general (such as the environmental report required by the Commercial Code for public limited companies), or specific, such as those pertaining to the nuclear sector. The TSN Act now requires that all BNI licensees issue a yearly report on their situation and their nuclear safety and radiation protection actions (see box for text of

Article 21 of the TSN Act). The report on any given year must be published no later than 30 June of the following year.

The first annual reports for public information were for 2006 (they were published in mid-2007). ASN then analysed these reports, after which it began to draft a report writing guide containing various recommendations to ensure that these reports complied with the objectives of the Act, provided information that was sufficiently complete and accessible to the general public and that the general public was made more aware of their publication. A preliminary version of this guide was sent out to the licensees in February 2008 and was discussed with them during the course of the year. This led to a provisional version of the guide, published by ASN in early 2009, so that the licensees could apply it when writing their reports for 2008. During the course of 2009, broader discussions involving representatives of the various audience categories will take place, in association with the French High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security, in order to produce a final version of the guide.

In parallel with the work being done on the guide, ASN in 2008 analysed the second edition of the reports (for 2007). Its main conclusions are summarised below.

ASN's conclusions following this analysis are on the whole positive. The reports were submitted in good time and comply with the obligations laid out in the TSN Act with regard to the subjects to be addressed. On the whole, efforts were also made to produce reports tailored to the target audience – the general public – through the use of clear language, informative diagrams and glossaries.

The reports are now all available on-line, with the exception of a few “small licensees”.

In a certain number of cases, the reports were also presented to the BNI's CLI.

Behind this apparent uniformity, the actual situation however differs somewhat: some licensees followed the ASN recommendations in its draft guide for implementation of the article, while others, short of time, were unable to do so.

Generally speaking, the reports stick too closely to the subjects mentioned in the Act, without providing the additional information that would make them easier to assimilate by the readers.

Many of the reports contain little or no strategic orientations, long-term objectives and comparative data.

In general, the reports contain no qualitative and quantitative elements concerning public information (number of queries, types, response times, etc.).

Finally, greater emphasis on transparency and on the public's right of access to information (Articles 19 and 21 of the TSN Act) would be useful.

For the coming years, ASN aims to continue its discussions with the licensees so that good practices can be shared and areas for progress identified. ASN will also make efforts to promote adoption by the licensees of the implementation guide, which should be finalised in 2009.

More precisely, the following observations concern the reports issued by the main licensees.

ANDRA

The reports submitted for 2007 by ANDRA, pursuant to Article 21 of the TSN Act, for the two BNIs it operates (Manche repository and Aube repository) were significantly better than those submitted for 2006. The 2007 reports on the whole meet the requirements of Article 21 of the TSN Act.

ASN is pleased to note that when producing its reports for 2007, ANDRA used the recommendations contained in the draft guide. The reports in particular follow the standard layout recommended by ASN.

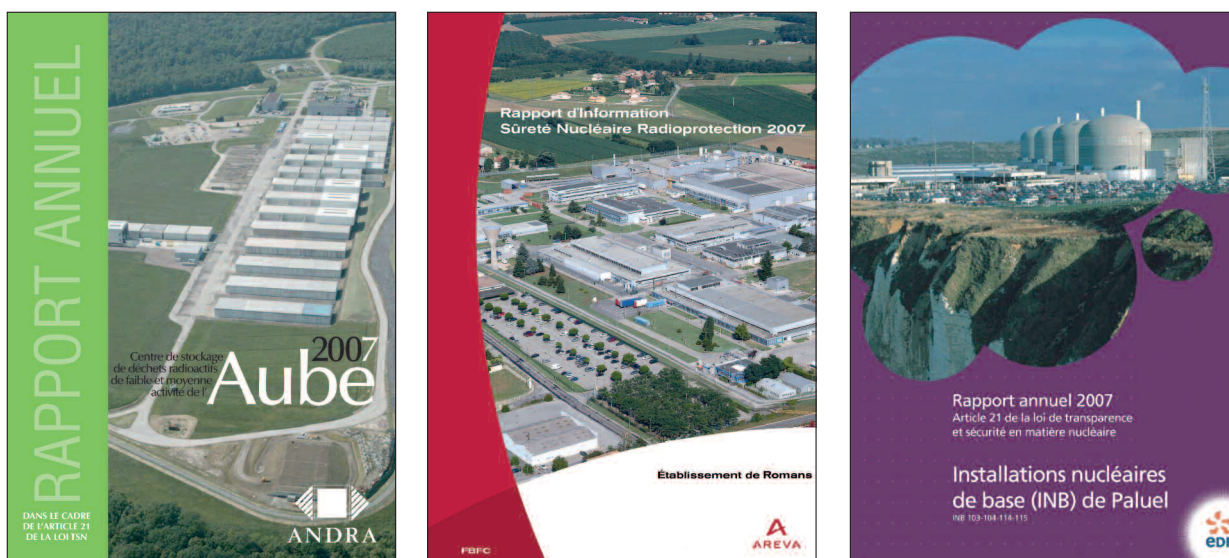
Finally, ASN observes that the annual report covering the Manche repository (CSM) is more complete (particularly concerning management of water in the centre and the steps taken for nuclear security), when compared with that devoted to the Aube repository (CSA), which is less detailed. ASN thus recommends that the 2008 version of the CSA report take account of the experience feedback from the 2007 report on the CSM.

AREVA

The reports from the nuclear licensees belonging to the AREVA group, produced for 2007, show real signs of progress over the previous year. In all of them, the harmonised graphic charter, the quality of the images and the level of language are particularly satisfactory and appropriate to the target audience.

AREVA took account of certain recommendations contained in the ASN draft guide.

However, the intrinsic quality of these reports remains highly variable from one licensee to another: the considerable efforts made by the Tricastin site and by FBFC to comply with the ASN draft guide are worth mentioning, but the progress expected from the La Hague and Mélox sites must also be noted.



A few licensee reports transmitted pursuant to article 21 of the TSN Act

Even if the reports often contain large amounts of data and figures, there is often a complete lack of context and conclusions in terms of safety and radiation protection. Consequently, it would seem difficult for an inexperienced audience to reach an informed opinion.

Furthermore, three topics, even though mentioned by the 13 June 2006 Act, are given little coverage: transport, preparation for emergency situations and access to information.

CEA

The reports for 2007 from the nuclear centres in which CEA operates BNIs, are on the whole good information documents intended for the general public, covering the sections listed in Article 21 of the TSN Act. The language is comprehensible to the public and the reports also contain elements to help with understanding. Each centre is placed in a broader context and strategy and objectives are stated. Finally, the data presented are coherent with the data ASN obtains from elsewhere.

However, ASN observes that CEA did not make any significant improvement to its reports, which are on the whole similar to those submitted for the year 2006. The reports for 2007 do not for example take account of the recommendations contained in the draft guide for implementation of Article 21 of the TSN Act, sent out by ASN to the licensees in February 2008.

Furthermore, even if the CEA reports are available on the Internet, some of them are relatively hard to find.

It would therefore be advisable, in its future reports, for CEA to more clearly highlight the trends and performance of its BNIs, by putting the various data, operating feedback and objectives into some kind of context and perspective. CEA could also usefully supplement its reports by presenting the steps it takes with regard to public information.

EDF

As in 2006, the 2007 annual reports for public information produced for the EDF nuclear power plants complied with the requirements of the TSN Act, but without going any further than the subjects explicitly mentioned in Article 21.

These reports seem to be clear and well-organised enough to be read by the general public, even if there are still too few illustrations. Improvements could also be made in terms of:

- avoiding redundancies within the report, for example by only mentioning information concerning site discharges once;
- systematically commenting on the numerical data and placing them in context;
- being more precise with regard to the state of the containment barriers, particularly with respect to the safety criteria, which need to be recalled;
- enhancing the information concerning incidents notified to ASN, and the results of the internal and external inspections performed.

With respect to the distribution of these reports, a significant improvement over 2007 was observed, as they are now available on-line on the EDF website.

2 | 1 | 2 Access to information in the possession of the licensees

Since the TSN Act came into force, the nuclear field now has a unique system of public access to information.

Previously, access to nuclear-related documents was governed by two general texts which also applied to other fields:

- the Act of 17 July 1978 introducing a variety of measures designed to improve relations between the administration and the public, which in particular instituted freedom of access to administrative documents: the administration was thereby required to release to whoever so requested the documents in its possession, whether it had received or produced them, with a number of exceptions primarily designed to prevent prejudice to public safety, industrial or commercial confidentiality, or to protect individual privacy and personal data; preparatory documents for a decision yet to be taken are also excluded from this right of access;
- chapter IV of part II of book I of the Environment Code, entitled “right of access to environmental information”, which states that the public authorities and persons tasked with a public service duty relating to the environment, must communicate to anyone who so requests the information in their possession concerning the environment: this in particular concerns information regarding the state of the environment, information concerning decisions, activities and factors liable to have an impact on the environment, and information on human health, safety or living conditions whenever they could be altered by environmental factors, or decisions taken in this field. As with the 1978 Act, there are exceptions.

These two systems for access to documents and information naturally apply to the nuclear field. What they both share is an obligation of communication placed on the public authorities or those acting on their behalf.

Chapter I of part II of the TSN Act of 13 June 2006, contains a major innovation in that it creates a right of access to information that is binding on the licensees. They are now required to communicate to whoever so requests, the information in their possession, whether received or produced by them, concerning the risks related to their activities and the safety or radiation protection measures they have taken to prevent or mitigate these risks.

This arrangement is consistent with the principle of the responsibility of the licensee: as the licensee has overall responsibility for the safety of its installation, but also for communicating about the risks created by its installation and the steps it intends taking to prevent or mitigate their consequences.

As with the other access rights mentioned above, the TSN Act contains provisions, designed in particular to protect public safety or industrial and commercial confidentiality.

The procedures involved in the enforcement of this right are similar to those concerning the other access rights: if a licensee refuses to communicate the information requested, the applicant may refer the matter to the Committee of Access to Administrative Documents (CADA), an independent administrative authority, which will then rule on whether or not the refusal is justified. Should the parties involved fail to abide by the CADA ruling, the administrative courts will decide on whether or not the information should be released.

This new right is a major change to the legal and regulatory requirements of transparency as applied to nuclear activities. Currently, there is no equivalent applicable to other fields.

This right of access entered into force on 14 June 2006 for licensees of BNIs. It could be extended to those in charge of transporting radioactive substances and those in possession of radioactive sources, other than BNI licensees, exceeding thresholds to be determined by decree.

ASN is monitoring the implementation of this new right. The information collected in 2007 and 2008 shows that it has so far been little used, by just a few organisations. ASN contacted those licensees who had refused to communicate information, to encourage them to adopt a less strict interpretation of the notion of confidentiality as protected by law. ASN also offered to provide the CADA with technical opinions, as and when necessary, on whether or not the documents referred to this Committee should be released.

2 | 2 Public information procedures

The Charter for the Environment introduces the participation principle whereby on the one hand everyone has access to information about the environment, including hazardous activities and materials and on the other, the public is involved in drafting projects with an important impact on the environment.

Articles L.121-1 and following of the Environment Code created a National Public Debates Commission (CNDP), responsible for ensuring that the public is indeed involved in the drafting of national-interest planning and construction projects of the State, local authorities, public institutions and private individuals, in those categories of operations specified by decree of the *Conseil d'Etat*³, if their socio-economic stakes are high or they have significant impacts on the environment or regional planning.

3. France's highest administrative court.

EXTRACTS FROM PART III OF THE TSN ACT ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AS REGARDS NUCLEAR SAFETY

Chapter I

Right of information concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection

Article 18

The State is responsible for informing the public about nuclear safety and radiation protection regulation measures and results. It provides the public with information on the consequences in France of nuclear activities conducted outside the country, in particular in the event of an incident or accident.

Article 19

*I. – Any person is entitled to obtain information from the licensee of a basic nuclear installation or, when the quantities are higher than thresholds laid down by decree, from the person in charge of a radioactive substances transport or in possession of such substances, whether said information is received or produced by it, concerning the risks linked to exposure to ionising radiations as may result from this activity and concerning the safety and radiation protection measures taken to prevent or mitigate these risks or this exposure, in the conditions defined in Articles L. 124-1 to L. 124-6 of the Environment Code.
[...]*

Article 21

All licensees of basic nuclear installations shall produce a yearly report setting forth:

- the steps taken concerning nuclear safety and radiation protection;*
 - nuclear safety and radiation protection incidents and accidents, subject to the declaration obligation pursuant to Article 54, which have occurred within the boundary of the installation, along with the steps taken to contain them and the consequences for human health and the environment;*
 - the type of measurements and results concerning radioactive and non-radioactive discharges from the installation into the environment;*
 - the nature and quantity of radioactive waste stored on the site of the installation, along with the steps taken to minimise the volume and the effects on health and the environment, in particular on soil and water.*
- [...]*

Nuclear projects are often subject to the public debate procedure. In 2005 and 2006, three public debates concerned the ASN, but there were none in either 2007 or 2008.

The TSN Act and its implementing decree of 2 November 2007 reinforced public information and consultation concerning BNI-related procedures. The authorisation decree and the final shutdown and decommissioning authorisation for a BNI are now systematically subject to a public inquiry. These authorisations are also subject to the approval of the *Conseil général*⁴, the municipal councils concerned and the Local Information Committee (CLI). Draft requirements to be issued by ASN concerning BNI water intake, discharges or detrimental effects are also presented to the CLI and the Departmental Council for the Environment and for Health and Technological Risks (CODERST).

ASN has also prepared a trial period for public consultation procedures on projects concerning the environmental impact of a BNI, but which are not covered by the public inquiry process. This trial should take place during the course of 2009.

2 | 3 Information released by the other stakeholders

Nuclear safety and radiation protection are complex areas in which many parties are involved.

Given the diversity of available information, the public can now make up its own mind in particular by consulting the websites of the main organisations concerned. The information they make available varies in nature, from the most general to the most scientific, from the layman to the informed professional.

4. Département level administrative council.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of the main websites dealing with nuclear matters in the broadest sense:

- Health agencies and technical experts
 - www.afssa.fr (site of the French Food Product Safety agency);
 - www.afssaps.sante.fr (site of the French Health Product Safety agency);
 - www.afsset.fr (site of the French Environment and Labour Health Safety Agency);
 - www.invs.sante.fr (site of the Health Monitoring institute).
 - www.irsn.fr (site of the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety).
- Parliamentary assemblies (reports from the Parliamentary Office for the evaluation of scientific and technological choices, bills, work done by committees, etc.)
 - www.assemblee-nationale.fr (site of the National Assembly);
 - www.senat.fr (site of the Senate).
- Associations
 - www.criirad.com (site of the Commission for Independent Research and Information on Radioactivity);
 - www.fne.asso.fr (site of the French federation of nature and environmental protection associations);
 - www.greenpeace.fr (Greenpeace site);
 - www.robindesbois.org (site of the “Robin des bois” association);
 - www.sortirdunucleaire.org (site of the “Sortir du nucléaire” association).
 - www.wise-paris.org (Wise site);
- Local Information Committees (CLIs) and French High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN)
 - www.ancli.fr (site of the National Association of CLIs, with links to the individual CLI sites);
 - www.asn.fr (ASN’s site is also the point of entry for the CLI and HCTISN sites).
- Higher education establishments and research centres (engineering colleges, universities, university hospitals, etc.).
- Licensees
 - www.andra.fr (site of the National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management);
 - www.aveva-nc.fr (formerly COGEMA);
 - www.aveva-np.com (site of Framatome-ANP, manufacturer of the French nuclear reactors);
 - www.cea.fr (site of the *Commissariat à l’énergie atomique*);
 - www.in2p3.fr (site of the National Institute for Nuclear Physics and Particle Physics);
 - www.laradioactivite.com (popularisation site, produced jointly by the CEA and the CNRS).
 - <http://nucleaire.edf.fr> (EDF site devoted to the French nuclear power plants).
- International organisations and bodies
 - www.ec.europa.eu (site of the European Commission);
 - www.iaea.org (site of the International Atomic Energy Agency);
 - www.nea.fr (site of the Nuclear Energy Agency).
- Learned societies
 - www.aidnsf.org (site of the International Nuclear Law Association (INLA));
 - www.sfen.org (site of the French Nuclear Energy Society).
 - www.sfr-radiologie.asso.fr (site of the French Radiology Society);
 - www.sfrp.asso.fr (site of the French Radiation Protection Society);.
- Government sites
 - www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning);
 - www.industrie.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Employment);
 - www.interieur.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry for the Interior, Overseas Territories and Local Authorities);
 - www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr;
 - www.legifrance.gouv.fr;
 - www.sante.gouv.fr (site of the Ministry for Health and Sport).

3 LOCAL INFORMATION COMMITTEES AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL INFORMATION COMMITTEES

3 | 1 The Local Information Committees (CLIs)

The CLI operating framework

Further to the circular from the Prime Minister, dated 15 December 1981, Local information Committees were set up in the 1980s around most of the nuclear installations, at the initiative of the *Conseils généraux*.

The TSN Act further enhanced CLIs by giving them a legal status. Its Article 22 provides for the creation of a CLI for each BNI (a CLI may be common to several installations near each other). It defines the role of a CLI as being a general one of monitoring, information and discussion concerning nuclear safety, radiation protection and the impact on individuals and the environment of the nuclear activities carried out on the site's installations.

The Act confirms that creation of a CLI is the duty of the Chairman of the *Conseil général* and gives the list of the various categories of members: representatives of *Conseils généraux*, of the municipal councils or representative bodies of groups of *communes*⁵ and *Conseils régionaux* concerned, members of Parliament for the *département*, representatives of associations for protection of the environment or economic interests, representative employee and medical profession labour unions, as well as qualified personalities. The representatives of the State's departments, ASN, and those of the licensee have an automatic right to participate in the work of the CLI, in an advisory capacity.

The CLI is chaired by the Chairman of the *Conseil général* or by an elected official from the *département* designated by him for this purpose.

The CLI receives the information it needs to function from the licensee, from ASN and from the other State departments. It may request expert assessments or have measurements taken on the installation's discharges into the environment.

CLIs are financed by the regional authorities and by ASN. In 2008, ASN devoted about 600,000 euros to CLIs and the CLI association. It also submitted a proposal to the Government for implementation of the system, stipulated in the TSN Act, to finance the CLI budget from funds collected from the BNI tax, although this system has not yet been put into practice.

ASN support for the CLIs is not restricted simply to financial aspects. ASN considers that correctly functioning CLIs make a contribution to safety, by regularly questioning those in charge and that this is an important factor in "ecological democracy". ASN also aims to ensure that the CLIs receive information that is as complete as possible. With the agreement of the licensees, it also invites CLI representatives to take part in inspections. In September 2008, an operation of this type in the Gravelines plant enabled the CLI to take a sample and then have it analysed by the laboratory of its choice.

In addition to direct assistance, ASN support for the CLIs includes measures aimed at creating a favourable environment for them. A circular sent out to BNI licensees at the end of 2007, had already encouraged them to facilitate CLI access, as far upstream as possible, to the procedure dossiers for which the opinion of the CLI is required, so that they have enough time to produce a well-founded judgment. Similarly, ASN considers that the development of a diversified range of expertise in the nuclear field is essential if the CLIs are to be able to base their opinions when needed on the opinions of experts other than those called on by the licensee or ASN itself. It thus proposed that the French High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security examine this issue.

After discussion with the CLIs, their national association (ANCLI) and the Assembly of *départements* of France (ADF), ASN in 2007 sent the Government a draft decree for implementation of the TSN Act with regard to CLIs, which led to decree 2008-251 of 12 March 2008 on BNI Local Information Committees. This decree specifies how the CLIs and their federation are created and function. It set the end of 2008 as the deadline for ensuring the conformity of all existing CLIs and for creating a CLI for any BNI that did not already have one.

There are at present about 30 CLIs created under the circular of 15 December 1981. To this must be added the local information and monitoring committee (CLIS) of the Bure underground laboratory, created pursuant to the Act of 30 December 1991 concerning research into radioactive waste management (the corresponding legal provision now appears in Article L. 542-13 of the Environment Code), along with about fifteen information committees created around defence-related nuclear sites, in application of Articles 4 and 5 of a decree dated 5 July 2001.

5. Smallest administrative subdivision administered by a mayor and a municipal council

EXTRACTS FROM PART III OF THE TSN ACT ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AS REGARDS NUCLEAR SAFETY

Chapter II
Local Information Committees

Article 22

I. – A local information committee is set up at all sites comprising one or more basic nuclear installations as defined in Article 28. Its role is a general one of monitoring, information and discussion concerning nuclear safety, radiation protection and the impact of the activities of the site’s installations on individuals and the environment. The local information committee disseminates the results of its work widely, in a form accessible to the largest number possible.

[...]

The representatives of the Nuclear Safety Authority and the other State departments concerned, as well as the representatives of the licensee, may attend the sessions of the local information committee in an advisory capacity. They have an automatic right of access to its findings.

[...]

The licensee, the Nuclear Safety Authority and the other State departments send it all documents and information it needs to carry out its duties. Depending on the case, the provisions of Article 19 of this Act or those of chapter IV of part II of book I of the Environment Code and of abovementioned Act 78-753 of 17 July 1978 apply to this transmission.

The licensee informs the committee of any incident or accident mentioned in Article 54 of this Act, as promptly as possible.

[...]

With regard to the ten or so BNIs which did not have a CLI prior to 2008, the Chairman of the *Conseil général* may, if there is already a CLI in his *département* for another BNI, either extend the competence of this CLI to the BNIs which do not yet have one, or create one or more CLIs specific to these installations.

To help with implementation of the new regulations applicable to CLIs, ASN in October 2008 drafted a presentation note that it sent out to the persons responsible locally.

The renewal of the *Conseils généraux* in March 2008 no doubt slightly delayed the CLI conformity process. A summary at the end of 2008 shows that the 31 December 2008 deadline was not always met but that the movement is now well under way and should be completed during the first half of 2009.

This renewal of the *Conseils généraux* and the changes made necessary by the new texts concerning CLIs, led to considerable turnover in the members of these Committees in 2008.

CLI activity

As in previous years, CLI activity reached high levels in 2008.

The CLIs usually held one or more plenary sessions, often supplemented by meetings of specialist committees (writing committee for the CLI letter at Cattenom, “population protection” and “plant operations and impact monitoring” commissions at Golfech, “technical committee” meeting monthly at Nogent-sur-Seine, “technical” and “population safety” commissions at Gravelines, “vigilance group” meeting every two months at Civaux, working groups on particular subjects at La Hague, preparatory working group prior to launch of a health inquiry at Tricastin, “economics” and “environment” commissions at the Valduc SEIVA, etc.).

A presentation of the annual operating results for the site was submitted to most of the CLIs, in particular to coincide with publication of the licensee’s annual report as required by the TSN Act.

The overhaul of the status of the CLIs was often dealt with in either the plenary or specialised meetings.

The CLIs also covered subjects such as the state and surveillance of groundwater and the environment (Blayais, Flamanville, Golfech, La Hague, Tricastin), emergency exercises and PPIs (Chooz, La Hague), the seismic risk (Fessenheim), ageing (Fessenheim), urban development around the installations (Cattenom), and so on.



Home pages of the CLI websites (Cadarache, Gravelines, Marcoule)

Particular events generally trigger a presentation at CLI meetings: for instance, an extraordinary meeting of the Tricastin CLI (the CIGEET) was organised following the SOCATRI incident on 18 July 2008 and the formal notice issued by ASN to the Cruas plant was mentioned during a meeting of the CLI of this installation.

In 2008, for the first time, CLIs were consulted about certain regulatory procedures affecting BNIs (CLIs at Bugey, Cadarache, Gard and Saclay).

CLIs are generally involved in the emergency exercises, the conclusions of which are presented to them.

CLIs are invited to take part in ASN inspections: in 2008, the Golfch and Gravelines CLIs accepted this invitation. They can also request or carry out particular expert investigations (Civaux CLI on groundwater, Golfch and Gravelines CLIs for environmental analyses, Soulaïnes CLI for a health survey, etc.).

The Cadarache CLI organised an information meeting about tritium and the Saclay CLI together with the ANCLI organised a symposium on the same subject.

In order to inform the population, nearly half of CLIs publish newsletters. Others are offered space in the publications of the *Conseil général* or the *commune*. The Saclay CLI also had its communication policy evaluated.

Information about CLI activities appears on ASN's website and that of the national CLI association (ANCLI). Some CLIs also have their own websites (Bure CLIs, Cadarache, Gard, Golfch and Gravelines CLIs, La Hague CSPI,

Valduc SEIVA). Others have pages on local authority websites (Nogent-sur-Seine and Saclay CLIs).

3 | 2 The Federation of Local Information Committees: the National Association of Local Information Committees (ANCLI)

The National Association of Local Information Committees (ANCLI) was set up on 5 September 2000. This association constitutes a discussion and information network between the CLIs and provides a resource centre. It is the point of contact for the authorities and for national and international organisations working in the nuclear field. Its aim is to create the federation of CLIs, for which provision is made in the TSN Act.

In 2008, ANCLI held a general meeting and 2 board meetings.

ANCLI has a full-time quick-response administrative centre.

This year, a specific section was added to the ANCLI website (www.ancli.fr), giving a particularly detailed presentation of the work done by its "Radioactive Materials and Waste" Advisory Committee (GPMDR).

In 2008, ANCLI performed its duty to question and to provide expertise, assistance and advice to the CLIs, in the particular context of restructuring pursuant to the TSN Act implementing decree published in March 2008, by having a number of legal investigations carried out. In May, ANCLI

in partnership with ASN, was thus able to present the CLIs with an analysis of their rights and new responsibilities. Similarly, at the end of 2008, analyses of the responsibility of the CLI members with regard to major hazards: “preventive information and CLI responsibilities” and of an information charter concerning the “distribution of information, or how to optimise the CLI response to the new information obligations” were proposed to the CLIs.

At the same time, in order to adapt the skills of the CLI members, ANCLI is initiating a review of their training needs.

ANCLI has its own group of experts, the Scientific Committee, which met 8 times in 2008 and which offered its expertise on a range of subjects such as the request from the Saint-Laurent-des-Eaux CLI, which wanted an opinion on the answers provided by the NPP to the questions and observations made by ASN further to its inspections on effluents, or responded to the referral of the Advisory Committee for Radioactive Materials and Waste with regard to the tritium issue. This work was presented during the public information day on the subject of tritium in October last at the Cadarache CLI, as well as during the symposium organised by ANCLI in November 2008. Similarly, studies by the two “safety” and “environmental surveillance” groups are ongoing.

ANCLI also has three “Advisory Committees” for Radioactive Materials and Waste (GPMDR), the EPR and “Territories – Post nuclear accident” (GPPA) as well as a consultative committee. These groups held a total of 8 meetings in 2008. In November 2008, the GPMDR held a symposium on tritium, hailed as being one of the first initiatives by civil society on such a technical and wide-ranging subject.

Mr Jean-Claude DELALONDE, Chair of ANCLI, and Mrs Monique SENE, deputy Chair, were appointed members of the board of CLI representatives on the French High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN). Within the High Committee, Mrs Monique SENE was tasked with chairing a working group on radio-ecological supervision of all nuclear sites and the management of former radioactive waste storage sites.

In 2008, ANCLI in particular played an active role in various symposia and seminars (presentations in February, during the decommissioning and contaminated sites management days organised by the French radiation protection society, the symposium, in May, entitled “Why are we so afraid of radioactivity”, the seminar, in June, organised by AFSSET, InVS, INERIS, IRSN and INRETS, the public meeting in Tours on “Science, ionising radiations and health questions”, the SFRP days organised on the subject of

monitoring radioactivity in the environment, EUROSAFE in November, etc.).

ANCLI maintains close contacts with the French authorities, particularly with ASN, and regular meetings are organised between ANCLI and ASN to discuss topical issues (TSN Act, financing, status, etc.). Similarly, members of ANCLI actively participate in the ASN working groups (CODIRPA, working group on the PNGMDR, tritium working group, leukaemia pluralistic working group and soon the GEP, etc.). 19 meetings of this sort were held during the course of 2008.

ANCLI also helped organise the 20th annual CLI Conference (5 preparatory ASN/ANCLI meetings).

ANCLI is continuing its cooperation with IRSN (supervisory committee, access to expert assistance, health impacts, IRSN forward-looking study on the governance of nuclear activities, presentation of the German study on child leukaemia around nuclear sites, preparation of an IRSN/ANCLI seminar in 2009, and so on): 25 meetings of this type were organised in 2008. Mr Jean-Claude DELALONDE is a member of the IRSN board in his capacity as a qualified personality.

ANCLI was asked to take part in the work of the safety and radiation protection research steering committee shortly to be set up.

ANCLI and the CLIs are taking part in a number of European programmes (COWAM, EURANOS.).

ANCLI is heavily involved in the European association of local information committees and the EUROCLI European dialogue forums, of which Mr DELALONDE is currently chairman.

Similarly, close collaboration at a European level was set up in 2008 between ANCLI and the European Commission. These exchanges led to the particularly active participation of ANCLI in the forums on nuclear energy and in the “Transparency” and “Hazards” working groups which were created following these forums (2 forums in 2008, 6 meetings).

ANCLI launched a project for a European conference on application of the Aarhus convention in the nuclear field, which should take place in June 2009. ASN, the European Commission and the French Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning have already given their support for this initiative.

ANCLI should soon be adapting its status so that it can perform in full its CLI federation role in accordance with the requirements of the decree of 12 mars 2008.

20th Conference of Local Information Committees

The 20th Conference of Local Information Committees was held on 10 December 2008 in Paris at the initiative of ASN and in partnership with ANCLI.

Nearly 150 people took part.

As in previous years, particular efforts were made to mobilise the CLIs around this conference, involving them in its preparation and encouraging them to send larger delegations. This led to a diversification of the CLI representation: more than sixty local elected officials and representatives of associations or labour unions thus actively took part in the conference.

An introductory film traced the developments since the CLIs were first created.

Mr Jean-Louis Borloo, Minister for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning was unable to attend the conference in person, owing to commitments to the European and international climate negotiations, but did send a video message.

As in previous years, the conference brought together CLI representatives, members of the French High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN), representatives of the Conseils généraux and the préfetures of départements containing CLIs, the administrations concerned, associations and licensees of nuclear installations.

The conference was devoted to management of the means of action available to the CLIs. It was preceded by an “Inter-CLI meeting” organised by ANCLI, which in particular comprised a debate between CLI representatives and ASN on the new CLI status.

The first round-table dealt with CLI information resources and involved a presentation by the HCTISN of its view of this subject, the experience of structures similar to the CLIs, the Permanent Secretariats for the Prevention of Pollution and Industrial Hazards (SPPPI), the new legal context of the information role given to the CLIs and the evaluation by a CLI of its own communication policy.

The second round-table was devoted to the expertise available to the CLIs. It highlighted the different types of expertise a CLI requires and the need to develop a diversified range of expertise. Concrete examples of the operation of a diversified expertise structure and the launch of an expert assessment by a CLI illustrated the debates.

The last round-table dealt with the training available to the CLIs through a variety of offers, or with a CLI chairman presenting its own experience.

The event was closed by the chairmen of ANCLI and ASN.

This conference underlined a new issue for the CLIs: now that they enjoy the legal recognition they were claiming and have new rights, how to ensure that they optimise performance of the duties entrusted to them? This question also raises that of the means of developing pluralistic expertise from which the CLIs could benefit.

Wednesday 9 December 2009 was chosen as the date for the 21st conference.



Opening of the CLI National Conference, 20th edition on 10 December 2008 in Paris

4 HIGH COMMITTEE FOR TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR SECURITY

The French High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN) created by the TSN Act, was set up by a decree of 28 February 2008. A decree of 29 October 2008 broadened the composition of the High Committee, with each commission (except the Parliamentary commission) now comprising 6 instead of 5 members; additional nominations should be made accordingly at the beginning of 2009.

The High Committee is a body for information, consultation and debate concerning the risks linked to nuclear activities and their impact on human health, on the environment and on nuclear security.

The High Committee is chaired by Mr Henri Revol, former senator for the Côte-d'Or *département* and former Chairman of the Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST). It comprises forty members appointed for six years by decree, including:

- two deputies appointed by the National Assembly and two senators appointed by the Senate;
- six representatives of the local information committees;
- six representatives of environmental protection associations and approved health system users associations;
- six representatives of persons in charge of nuclear activities;
- six representatives of representative employee labour organisations;
- six personalities chosen for their scientific, technical, economic or social competence, or for their information and communication expertise, including three appointed by OPECST, one by the Academy of Science and one by the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences;
- the ASN Chairman, a representative of the Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety and four representatives from the ministries concerned.

The Chairman of the High Committee is appointed by decree from among members of Parliament, representatives

EXTRACTS FROM PART III OF THE TSN ACT ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AS REGARDS NUCLEAR SAFETY

Chapter III

High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security

Article 23

*A High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security is created.
[...]*

Article 24

*The High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security is an informative, discussion and debating body concerning the risks involved in nuclear activities and the impact of these activities on human health, on the environment and on nuclear security. For this purpose, it can issue an opinion on any matter in these fields, as well as on the relevant checks and information. It may also deal with all matters pertaining to the accessibility of information on nuclear security and propose any measure such as to guarantee or improve transparency in the nuclear field.
[...]*

Article 25

The High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security may request any expert assessments necessary for the performance of its duties and organise joint debates.

Its opinions are made public.

It issues an annual activity report, also made public.

The persons in charge of nuclear activities, the Nuclear Safety Authority and the other State departments concerned, send the High Committee all documents and information of use in the performance of its duties. Depending on the case, the provisions of Article 19 of this Act or those of chapter IV of part II of book I of the Environment Code and of abovementioned Act 78-753 of 17 July 1978 apply to this transmission.

of the local information committees and personalities chosen for their competence.

Following its creation on June 18, the High Committee held five meetings in 2008. It defined its operating procedures and dealt with a number of topical subjects, such as plutonium transfers between the United Kingdom and France, as well as the consequences of the incident in July at the SOCATRI plant. At the request of the Minister for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning, the High Committee issued 18 recommendations for developing information and transparency on the radio-ecological monitoring of groundwater below

nuclear sites and the former nuclear waste disposal facilities. These recommendations were presented to the minister on 7 November 2008 and received his full support. The elements presented and debated at the HCTISN meetings can be consulted on its website, www.hctisn.fr.

ASN considers that the effective creation of the HCTISN is important in that it reinforces the national discussion and debating system. ASN makes an active contribution to the work of the High Committee (in September 2008 it in particular drafted a report as part of the work done by the High Committee at the request of the minister).

5 INSTITUTE FOR RADIATION PROTECTION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

IRSN (see chapter 2, point 2|3|4) reports on its activities in the public annual report it officially communicates to its supervisory Ministries, as well as to the Higher Council for Nuclear Safety and Information, to the Higher Council for Public Health in France and to the Higher Council for the Prevention of Professional Risks. The 2007 version of this activity report is available in French and in English on the IRSN website and can be obtained on request, in paper format (in French) and/or on a CD-Rom (in English), from the Institute's communication department (IRSN, BP 17, 92262 Fontenay-aux-Roses Cedex).

In accordance with the requirements of the decree that created it, IRSN published the results of its R&D programmes, except for those concerning defence.

To coincide with the publication of IRSN's 2007 annual report on scientific and technical activities, an event was organised at the Institut Henri Poincaré in Paris on the subject of "Management of nuclear and radiological risks", comprising two sessions, one on medical aspects (treatment of irradiation victims, worker epidemiology) and the other on installations and the environment (risks for ecosystems and accidents involving reactors, primarily experimental reactors).

With regard to the IRSN.org institutional website, 2008 saw the following additions:

- two practical and regulatory information dossiers concerning the CAMARI (aptitude certificate for operators of industrial radiology appliances) and the national inventory of ionising radiations sources;
- a dossier concerning the accidental release of a uranium solution from the Socastris plant in Tricastin, which occurred in July 2008. This dossier in particular

- contains the results of all the environmental measurements taken following the incident;
- a dossier presenting the new RPL dosimetry technique;
- updates of the "Earthquakes", "Uranium mines" and "Radioactive waste" dossiers;
- the publication of some 70 news items and about thirty press releases and information notes;
- new content in the glossary, FAQ and on-line library.

In 2008, The Institute's institutional website received more than 300,000 visits, with a total of nearly a million pages viewed and more than 1000 questions sent to the mailbox at contact@irsn.fr.

IRSN also made progress in renewing its website, the new version of which should be on-line in the summer of 2009.

In terms of media coverage, IRSN received nearly two hundred and seventy requests from domestic and international journalists for meetings with experts from the Institute. IRSN was thus mentioned in the press nearly 1,000 times in 2008.

With regard to events, the process to renew the "Nuclear applications and society: from understanding to supervision" travelling exhibition co-managed by ASN and IRSN, continued in 2008. The creation of two new interactive models completed the renovation of the "Radioactivity and health" and "Artificial radioactivity and environment" modules. A new 3D model for the "Nuclear reactors" module, is also currently being prepared.

A study into future changes to this exhibition is under way.

Finally, the exhibition's website underwent a complete graphic overhaul, consistent with its new visual identity.

In 2008, the exhibition visited the towns of Saint-Germain-en-Laye (78), Lyon (69) and finally Auch (32) on the campus of Toulouse University. It welcomed more than 5,000 visitors of all ages, accompanied at all times by a pair of guides, for a total exhibition time of more than 15 weeks.

In each town, a cycle of conferences provided an opportunity for the local public to learn more and discuss matters with members of IRSN and ASN, in particular on new topics such as "Epidemiological surveys around nuclear power plants", or "the National nuclear emergency response".

For all information concerning the travelling exhibition, go to: www.irsn.org/expo.

The Institute also held three "Open days" throughout the year on its various sites: on the Le Vésinet site in May, covering the topics of monitoring the exposure of man (workers) and the environment to ionising radiations; then in September the Tournemire experimental station was visited by nearly 500 inhabitants of the Aveyron *département*; and finally, as part of the Science Fair, and after helping to organise the Young peoples area at the European City of Science in the *Grand Palais* from 14 to 16 November, IRSN opened the doors of its Fontenay-aux-Roses site, enabling the general public to attend numerous conference/debates, to meet its researchers and

engineers proposing various workshops in the fields of safety, the environment and health, to find out about the professions working at the Institute and finally to visit the crisis Technical Centre, the Simulator room, the laboratory and intervention vehicles and a number of radiation protection laboratories.

The Institute also took part in national professional medical events such as the Médec and the French Radiology Days. On an institutional stand, IRSN was present at the international Congress of the ERR (European Radiation Research Society) in Tours in September, and then at the IRPA (International Radiation Protection Association) fair organised in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October. For this occasion, the French Embassy wished to make use of the exhibition entitled "*Vous avez dit radioprotection?*" (Did you say radiation protection?), co-produced by the Pavillon des Sciences of Franche-Comté, the Montbéliard *Conseil régional*⁶ and the IRSN. This exhibition was inaugurated on 22 October in the presence of the Argentine Minister of Culture and the French Ambassador, along with numerous convention delegates at the Casa de la Cultura in Buenos Aires. It was then opened to the public and more than 3,200 people came to see it over a period of one month.

IRSN also organised international conferences such as EUROSAFE in early November in Paris, on the subject of the role of the technical safety organisations faced with a growing demand for nuclear expertise, jointly with its German (GRS) and Belgian (BelV) counterparts.

To find out more about IRSN: www.irsn.org.

6. Regional administrative council.

6 OUTLOOK

The TSN Act reinforces the public's ability to access nuclear information. It recalls and confirms ASN's role in this respect. The public information actions conducted by ASN were continued and expanded in 2008. Whether via its website, the *Contrôle* magazine or its various publications or thanks to its information and documentation centre, ASN gave the public the opportunity to learn about its actions, its organisation and its regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection.

ASN also took part in or organised several symposia and professional events, both regional and national. It was thus able to raise its profile and consolidate its relations with professionals.

Relations with the press in 2008, especially at the regional level, were frequent and regular and demonstrated media interest in topical issues (events of July 2008, EPR, installation ageing, etc.).

In parallel with the information it issued in 2008, ASN began a review of the concrete implementation of certain provisions of the TSN Act aimed at improving public information. This is the case with Article 21 which requires that each licensee of a basic nuclear installation produce an annual report that is made public and transmitted to the CLI concerned and to the HCTISN, in particular presenting the steps taken with regard to nuclear safety and radiation protection.

This is also the case with Article 19 which creates the right of access to information, directly binding on the licensees, who are required to release the information in their possession to anyone who so requests.

In 2009, ASN will be continuing this analysis work and will ensure that the parties concerned satisfactorily apply

the requirements of the TSN Act concerning public information. If necessary, ASN will remind the licensees of the new requirements of Article 19.

In addition, in association with the HCTISN, it will conduct discussions on the implementation guide for Article 21 of the TSN Act, a provisional version of which was issued at the beginning of 2009. It will contribute to the ongoing examination of the development of a diversified range of expertise in the nuclear field, which is in particular essential if the CLIs are to be able to make correct use of their new powers. Together with the CLIs and ANCLI, it will draw up a development plan for the support it gives to the CLIs.

In 2009, ASN will also develop other communication tools aimed at its various audiences: renovation of its website, changes to the *Contrôle* magazine, in particular to improve how current events are covered, newsletters on its website, "4 pages" intended for professionals and an informed public, thematic brochures, and so on. A particular effort will also be made in favour of teachers and their students.

In order to gain a clearer understanding of expectations and meet the needs of the public, ASN will in 2009 conduct a survey of the public's overall information requirements and a survey of the readership of ASN's various information media.

On all these topics of debate, ASN wishes to encourage exchanges between the various stakeholders, in particular civil society, for example by organising meetings or creating forums for debate around subjects such as research into nuclear safety and radiation protection, the safety and revitalisation of the nuclear industry, post-accident situations, risks and how they are perceived by society, and so on.

