



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

15 October 2014

### **NATIONAL NUCLEAR REGULATOR (NNR) TO CONDUCT A FULL SCALE NUCLEAR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE AT THE KOEBERG NUCLEAR POWER STATION ON 22 OCTOBER 2014.**

The NNR will conduct a full scale nuclear safety regulatory emergency exercise to test the effectiveness of the **Integrated Koeberg Nuclear Emergency Plan** on **22 October 2014**. During the exercise the NNR will evaluate and assess the integration and response arrangements of the various role-players to a simulated emergency scenario.

Emergency exercises are periodically organised as training for emergency teams and to test resources and organisational structures with a view to identifying and strengthening any weak points. In accordance with sections 5 and 7 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act (Act No 47 of 1999) the NNR conducts regulatory emergency exercises at the **Koeberg** and **Pelindaba** sites to test and evaluate the effectiveness of the emergency plan which also takes into account lessons learned from previous exercises and in-house drills.

Being prepared in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency is an essential part of being a responsible nuclear safety regulator. The NNR oversees and ensures that nuclear activities are carried out with the two-fold aim of preventing accidents, but also of mitigating any consequences should they occur. In accordance with the principles of defence in depth, the necessary steps must therefore be taken to deal with a radiological emergency, no matter how improbable. For this reason nuclear authorisation holders are required to maintain a comprehensive and effective nuclear emergency plan for dealing with potential risks arising from nuclear activities.

"As the **competent authority** in **South Africa**, the NNR takes nuclear safety regulation very seriously and by conducting these regulatory emergency exercises, it helps us to sharpen our ability to respond to an emergency scenario as well as to further improve South Africa's



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preparedness in the unlikely event of nuclear or radiological incidents and emergencies” stated the **NNR’s CEO, Dr M.B Tyobeka.**

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### **About South Africa’s Nuclear Safety Regulator**

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is established by the National Nuclear Regulator Act (Act No 47 of 1999) and its mandate and authority are conferred through sections 5 and 7 which detail the objects and functions of the NNR. The legislation, inter alia requires the NNR to ensure that provisions for emergency planning are in place to ensure preparedness and response to deal with potential nuclear accidents. It further requires that, where the possibility exists that a nuclear accident affecting the public may occur, the holder of a nuclear installation license to enter into an agreement with the relevant municipalities and provincial authorities to establish an emergency plan and cover the cost for the establishment, implementation and management of such an emergency plan, as it relates to the relevant nuclear installation. Such an emergency plan must be submitted by the holder of the nuclear installation license for approval by the Regulator. The NNR must also oversee and test the effectiveness of the approved emergency plans by conducting periodic regulatory emergency exercises.