



## MEDIA RELEASE

IRRS Mission  
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### **SOUTH AFRICA TO HOST A FULL – SCOPE IAEA INTEGRATED REGULATORY REVIEW SERVICE (IRRS) MISSION AIMED AT STRENGTHENING NUCLEAR AND RADIATION REGULATORY INFRASTRUCTURE**

*Centurion, South Africa, 01-December 2016* – South Africa will be hosting an Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission from 5 to 15 December 2016. The Department of Energy (DoE) of South Africa requested the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to review South Africa’s regulatory system, both technical and policy, including the status of development of the regulatory infrastructure against IAEA safety standards and international best practices.

As a precursor to the mission, the regulatory authorities in South Africa conducted a self-assessment against IAEA standards. The mission will entail a full-scope review related to all regulated facilities and activities utilizing nuclear and radiation technologies by the NNR and the Directorate Radiation Control in the Department of Health.

A team of twenty-seven (27) international experts and IAEA staff led by Mr Victor McCree, a senior regulatory expert from the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) will spend eleven (11) days evaluating different aspects of the regulatory infrastructure and interviewing representatives from the Department of Energy, Department of Health (Radiation Control) and the National Nuclear Regulator of South Africa.

“The NNR is fully committed to peer review mechanisms such as the IRRS mission which is aimed at strengthening regulatory effectiveness for the protection of persons, property and environment against nuclear damage. I look forward to utilising the outcomes and recommendations of this mission to modernise and further improve regulatory effectiveness in South Africa, especially in view of nuclear expansion ambitions of the country”, stated the NNR CEO, Dr Tyobeka.

The findings of the review will inform reforms to the current regulatory system for South Africa. A press conference to give feedback on the preliminary outcomes will be held on 15 December 2016 in Centurion, Pretoria.

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### **About the IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service Mission**

The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) is a service offered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to Member States for reviewing regulatory issues, both technical and policy, and assessing the status of development of the regulatory infrastructure against IAEA safety standards and international best practices. The IRRS provides an opportunity for continuous improvement of national regulatory bodies through an integrated process of self-assessment and review. The mission aims to promote the sharing of international best practices and harmonization of regulatory approaches. Following the mission, the IAEA provides the host country with a report that contains recommendations. . For more information, please see <https://www.iaea.org/services/review-missions/integrated-regulatory-review-service-irrs>

### **About the Department of Energy**

The mandate of the Department of Energy is to administer all matters related to nuclear energy as required by legislation and international agreements. These can be divided into three key activities, namely Nuclear Safety, Nuclear Technology, and Nuclear Non-Proliferation. Nuclear energy, technology and safety policies facilitate the integration of the nuclear sector in various facets of South African society. These policies position the South African industry to be world-class leaders in various fields of nuclear expertise.

### **About the Department of Health – Directorate Radiation Control**

The Directorate Radiation Control falls under the National Department of Health (DOH) and has a responsibility for the regulatory control of Ionising Radiation Devices (x-ray equipment); Radioactive Materials that are used for medical, scientific, agricultural, industrial and commercial purposes; Non-Ionising Radiation Devices (Lasers, MRI Units, etc.); and High- and Medium Risk Electro-Medical devices. This control is exercised in terms of the Hazardous Substances Act, 1973 (Act 15 of 1973) as amended and various sets of Regulations. The objective of these control functions are to promote and legally ensure the safe use of all such technological devices, thereby protecting against the known hazardous effects, without unduly limiting the beneficial application of these technologies.

### **About the National Nuclear Regulator**

The National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) is a public entity which is established and governed in terms of Section 3 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act, (Act No 47 of 1999). The fundamental objective of the NNR is to provide for the protection of persons, property and the environment against nuclear damage through the establishment of safety standards and regulatory practices suited for South Africa. To this end, the NNR provides oversight and assurance that activities related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy in South Africa are carried out in a safe manner and in accordance with international principles and best practices.