

Presentation of the French Transparency and Nuclear Safety Law (TSN)

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History: A long road towards independence

- 1973: A division in charge of regulation of the nuclear installations safety was established within the Ministry of Industry.
- 1991: The division became a Directorate reporting to two Ministries (Industry & Environment).
- 1997: Its area of competence was extended to transport of radioactive materials.
- 2002: The Directorate became a General Directorate reporting to three Ministries (Industry, Environment & Health), with extension of the area of competence to radiation protection.
- 2006: The Law of June 13th, 2006 makes ASN an independent administrative authority.



The Law related to Transparency and Security in the nuclear field

- Confirms the fundamental principles of Nuclear Safety (IAEA Convention on Nuclear Safety).
- Formalizes existing practices.
- Introduces major changes.



The TSN Law

- The three main chapters:
 - Creation of ASN as an independent administrative authority.
 - Description of ASN tasks related to Basic Nuclear Installations (BNI) and transport of radioactive substances.
 - Establishment of the transparency & public rights to information.



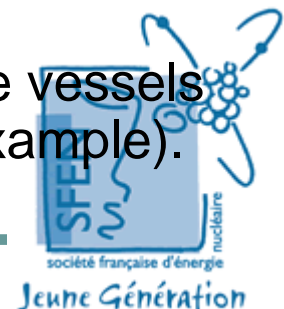
The TSN Law – Establishment of ASN

- ASN becomes an independent administrative authority.
- ASN is managed by a board of five Commissioners appointed by:
 - The President of the Republic (ASN Chairman and two Commissioners).
 - The President of the Senate (one Commissioner).
 - The President of the National Assembly (one Commissioner).
- ASN reports to the Parliament
 - A report is presented every year.



The TSN Law – ASN tasks

- The ASN tasks
 - Cover the nuclear safety and radiation protection of BNIs and small-scale nuclear installations (industrial and medical installations, research laboratories).
 - But do not cover energy policy.
- ASN is consulted on all draft regulatory texts related to nuclear safety and radiation protection.
- For installations and activities, ASN
 - Examines the major license applications for BNIs (construction, decommissioning) and gives its opinion to the Government.
 - Grants the more routine licenses (commissioning...) and defines the requirements (safety).
 - Grants the licenses for big components such as pressure vessels and for activities (transport of radioactive materials for example).



The TSN Law – ASN tasks

- Organizes inspections for nuclear safety and radioprotection with inspectors appointed by ASN, sworn-in and bound by professional secrecy.
 - Inspectors can visit the facilities or check the transport of radioactive materials at any time.
 - They have access to all useful documents and are allowed to take samples inside the facilities or at discharge points.
 - Administrative sanctions (suspension of operation) or criminal penalties (fines, prison sentences) may be prescribed to the operators.



The TSN Law – ASN tasks

- ASN assists the Government in case of emergency.
- ASN organizes continuous monitoring for radiation protection (monitoring of the environment and of workers exposure).
- ASN contributes to keep the public informed.
- ASN participates in the French representation in international organizations.



The TSN Law – Public right to information

- Any person has the right to get any information that the public authorities, the BNIs licensees, the people responsible for transport of radioactive materials or holders of such materials receive or produce.
- Each year, BNIs licensee have to draw up a public report describing:
 - The steps taken regarding nuclear safety and radiation protection.
 - The incidents and accidents subject to obligatory declaration and the measure taken.
 - The nature and the results of measurements of radioactive and non-radioactive releases into the environment.
 - The nature and the quantity of radioactive waste in interim storage on the sites.



Local Information Committees (CLIs)

- For each BNI, a Local Information Committee (CLI) is established and is in charge of keeping public informed on nuclear safety, radiation protection and impact of the nuclear activities on people and environment.
- The CLIs have existed since 1981, but the TSN Act provides a legal basis for them, and also for the National Association of CLIs.
- The CLI is composed of representatives of:
 - Local counselors and MP.
 - Environmental protection associations.
 - Economic interest groups.
 - BNI employees trade unions.
 - Medical professionals.



Local Information Committees (CLIs)

- The CLI can commission:
 - Expert assessments.
 - Epidemiological studies.
 - Measurements or analyses in the environment of emissions or releases from the BNI.
- CLI funding:
 - State
 - Local authorities



High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN)

- Instituted by the TSN Law.
- Funding by the State.
- 35 members appointed for six years:
 - Four parliamentarians (two MPs and two Senators).
 - Representatives of CLIs and environmental protection associations.
 - Representatives of licensees and employee trade unions.
 - Well-known people with expertise in this area.
 - Representatives of ASN & IRSN.
- Consultation and discussion body.
- Public information at the national level
 - Can commission expert assessments.
 - Can issue opinions, which are made public.
 - Draws up an annual report, also published.

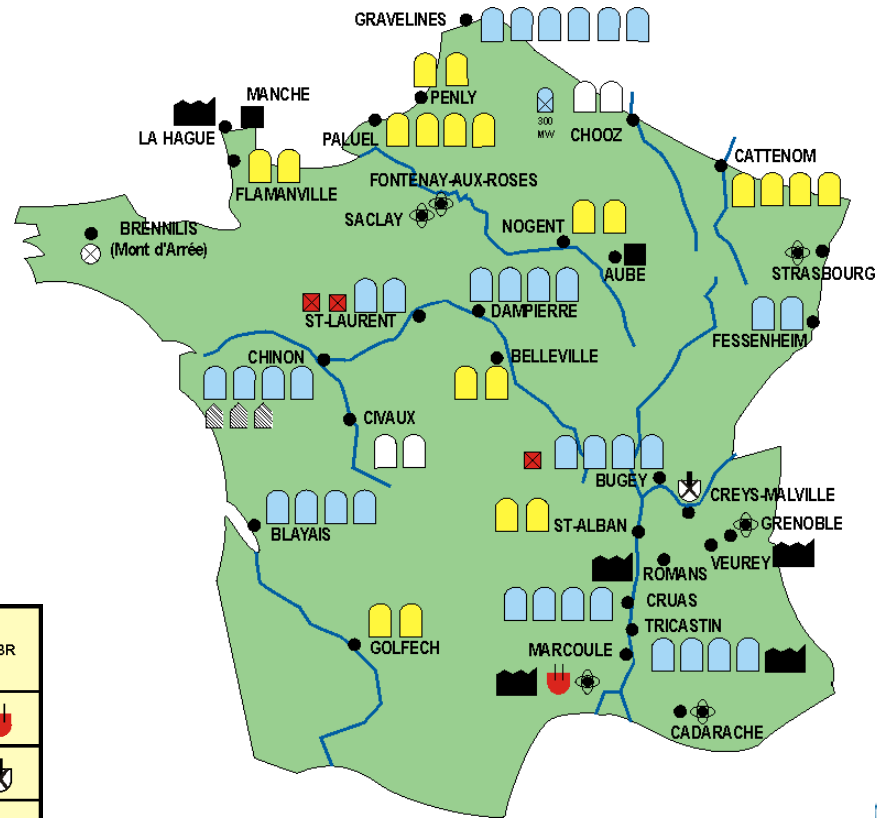


ASN – Some figures

- The nuclear installations and activities regulated by ASN are numerous and of various types:
 - 58 PWR and 1 SFR
 - All the fuel cycle facilities, excluding the uranium mines.
 - Research centers (reactors and laboratories).
 - Medical and industrial installations using radioactive sources.
 - Transport of radioactive materials.
- 164 BNIs are regulated by ASN
- 400 people working at ASN
- Budget: 48.5 MEUR.
- Technical support organization: IRSN



ASN – Some figures



REACTORS	PWR			GRAPHITE GAS	HEAVY WATER	FBR
	900 MWe	1300 MWe	1450 MWe			
IN OPERATION						
SHUT DOWN						
DECOMMISSIONED						



Conclusion

- The TSN Law is a major step in strengthening the regulation of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France.
- The aim of ASN is an effective, impartial, legitimate and credible regulation of nuclear activities, recognized at national and international levels.

