



From Public Information to Public Participation

Public Participation in the French Regulatory Process

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Right to information and transparency Environmental protection

- **Aarhus convention** adopted by France in July 2002:
 - (1st pillar) **access to environmental information** for citizen
 - (2nd pillar): **participation** to decision process
 - (3rd pillar): access to justice



- **European Directive of January 2003 on public access to environmental information**

- « *Increased public access to environmental information and the dissemination of such information contribute to a greater awareness of environmental matters, a free exchange of views, more effective participation by the public in environmental decision-making and, eventually, to a better environment.* »

Right to information and transparency Environmental protection

- **The French Constitution**
 - Article 7 of the Environmental Charter of 2004 provides that « *everyone has the right [...] to have access to information [...] and to participate in the public decision-taking process likely to affect the environment.* »



- **Act of July 1978 to improve relations between the public and administration:** freedom of access to administrative documents

Look at by CADA independent commission



- **The Environmental Code**
 - Public debate
 - Public enquiries
 - Impact studies
 - Public participation



A major milestone: the Act related to transparency and security (June 2006)



Transparency

Nuclear regulation for
nuclear facilities

Nuclear Safety
Authority (ASN)

- Definition of transparency in the nuclear field
- Right of any person information on the risks from public entities and operators

Creation:

- National level: High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Security (HCTISN)
- Local level: local information commissions (CLI) near all nuclear facilities



High Committee - Local information committees

• **Composition:** politicians, NGOs, trade unions, operators, French and foreign experts...

• **Missions:** information exchange, expertise, legal consultations,...





Right to information and transparency: Autorité de sûreté nucléaire

- Independent from operators, government
- Under the control of Parliament (public hearings)
- Commissioner's positions are made public
- *The nuclear safety Authority participates in informing the public in its spheres of competence*
- Duty of information should an emergency situation occur
- Annual ASN Report on the state of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France
Presented to the President of the Republic,
to the Government and
to Parliament



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Publications

On the website (www.asn.fr)

- ASN resolutions
- Events (INES scale)
- Follow-up letters of inspections
- Important positions
- Expertise or reports (advisory committees, IRSN...)
- News about ASN or pedagogic supports (video)



Also on paper :

- Annual report
- « Contrôle »
- « Transparence »
- Guides



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Media



- Frequent relations with local and national media.
- About 30 press briefings per year at national and regional level.
- Some 20 press releases, about 100 information memos and numerous interviews each year.
- Every year, ASN presents its *Report on the status of nuclear safety and radiation protection in France* to journalists.

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Stakeholders

•Questions to ASN

- Directly to ASN or during procedures on regulations, guides or activities/facilities
- MP, NGOs, professionals, members of the public,...
- Obligation to answer within 1 or 2 months
- Regular monitoring of these questions

•Pluralist expertise groups

- Complex, controversial issues
- Various stakeholders
- No need of consensus

•Examples:

- National plan on management of radioactive waste
- Management of post-accident
- Tritium
- Research on leukemia around NPP
- Social human and organisational matters

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Stakeholders

- Professionals (operators, associations or professional groups, learned societies...)
- Public information campaigns (iodine, radon...)
- Schools
- An information center
- Common itinerant exhibition with IRSN
- Annual barometer about ASN perception by the public. It shows for instance that 29% of the general public knows ASN

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Right to information and transparency: Perspectives

- **IRRS mission** in France (Nov. 2014) underlined two good practices in this field:
 - *Establishment of a framework for the provision of information and the engagement of stakeholders in transparent decision making*
 - *ASN has incorporated measures to achieve transparency, effective public communication and engagement of stakeholders*



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Right to information and transparency: Perspectives

What's next?

- Recent update (July 2014) of the **European Directive on nuclear safety**
- Project of law on energy transition: greater involvement of CLI (*Local information committees*)
- ASN work on the 'risk awareness' with the CLIs

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Right to information and transparency: Conclusions

Transparency, information and participation :

- Essential:
 - To be accountable to the people for which we act
 - Necessary to independence
- Demanding:
 - Trust is hard to gain, easy to loose
 - To be considered as a real job not an addendum to technical, administrative or legal work

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