

STRENGTHENING THE NUCLEAR SAFETY REGULATORY AUTHORITY (ROM/9/019)

KI New

MODEL PROJECT

CORE FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	m/d	US \$	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
1997	3.0	39,600	0	35,000	6/0	18,900	2/0	19,200	0	0	0	112,700
1998	3.0	41,850	0	30,000	9/0	29,700	3/0	30,600	0	0	0	132,150

FOOTNOTE a/ FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	m/d	US \$	m/d	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$	US \$
1997	0.15	6,975	0	30,000	6/0	18,900	1/0	9,600	0	0	0	65,475
1998	0.15	7,350	0	30,000	6/0	19,800	1/0	10,200	0	0	0	67,350

First Year Approved 1997

OBJECTIVES: The major development goal of increasing the supply of electricity by safe operation of nuclear power plants created the context for this project. Specifically, the project seeks to upgrade Romania's legislative and regulatory infrastructure in nuclear safety to international standards.

BACKGROUND: Romania has a committed nuclear power programme. Unit 1 (660 MW(e) CANDU type reactor) of the Cernavoda NPP is in the commissioning phase and is expected to start commercial operation in Autumn 1996. Unit 2 is in an advanced stage of completion. The National Commission for Nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN) is the nuclear regulatory body responsible for all licensing activities. The Agency has been assisting CNCAN since 1991 with the TC project ROM/9/007 in various safety and regulatory aspects, such as regulatory process administration, facility licensing procedures, safety evaluation and review, radiation protection, and operator certification and recertification, through expert services, fellowship programmes and key staff training. CNCAN, as the licensing authority, has requested further support to strengthen the regulatory infrastructure to ensure that all organizations engaged in activities directly related to the Cernavoda NPP establish policies that give due priority to nuclear safety and radiation protection. CNCAN will have to double its present human resources to meet the regulatory needs of the planned nuclear power programme in conformity with IAEA safety standards. This requires a well structured, comprehensive training programme for the new staff. Moreover, the Nuclear Safety Convention calls for regulatory bodies of the countries that are parties to it to report periodically and participate in peer reviews on quality assurance (QA) and nuclear safety issues. The Romanian Government, in the light of the recommendations of the IAEA - IRRRT mission of 1992, is contemplating strengthening CNCAN by enhancing the legislative and regulatory framework. A new Nuclear Law has been drafted, which is expected to be promulgated towards the end of 1996 to replace the existing Law 61 of 1974. During the ongoing project, several programmes were implemented, such as a regulatory management programme, a licensing and commissioning programme, and a regulatory staff training programme. This has led to the commissioning license for Unit 1 of Cernavoda NPP in 1995. Effective and timely advice in the past by Agency expert missions and support for training programmes have made it possible to review and carry out assessments on seismic engineering, stress analysis, accident analysis, and use of PSA in the regulatory process. As a result, the regulatory capability of CNCAN has improved, and confidence in safety assessment has been raised. However, some of the regulatory aspects indicated in the project plan require still further improvement.

PROJECT PLAN: The project will concentrate on internal quality assurance programmes, regulatory aspects of power reactors in operation, integration and training of staff required for the new licensing tasks of CNCAN, separation of the review and assessment process from the decision making process, programmes for dissemination of information to the public and the enhancement of safety culture in the nuclear sector at various levels, such as government agencies, utilities, industry, contractors engaged in construction, and technical support organizations.

NATIONAL COMMITMENT: Government commitment to the nuclear power programme is clear and necessary infrastructure facilities, qualified staff and equipment are available. The national regulatory body (CNCAN) is firmly in place.

AGENCY INPUT: The Agency will provide experts to advise on QA, regulatory and licensing procedures; supply essential hardware and software; train regulators on licensing procedures; and provide a systematic approach to developing a nuclear safety legislative and regulatory infrastructure.

PROJECT IMPACT: The project will help improve the safety of Cernavoda NPP. Strengthening CNCAN will lead to overall improvements in management practices and increased awareness of nuclear safety culture. Upgrading the nuclear safety legislative and regulatory infrastructure for nuclear power plant design, construction, commissioning and operation, and improved dissemination of information to the public on the regulatory aspects of nuclear power plant operation and related activities, will both contribute to increased confidence in safe operation of nuclear facilities.