

URANIUM STEWARDSHIP: PRINCIPLES AND CODE OF PRACTICE

Uranium Stewardship is a WNA programme of action seeking to define, and achieve worldwide industry adherence to, principles and practices designed to ensure that uranium and its by-products are managed in ways that are safe, environmentally responsible, and economically and socially acceptable.

Through this programme WNA will engage all industry sectors involved with the uranium life cycle, as well as relevant stakeholders, with the objective of replacing standard industry practice with best practice while sustaining an ongoing industry effort to improve best practice.

In pursuing this objective WNA has identified key Principles of Uranium Stewardship and will aim to obtain, from all relevant enterprises, formal commitment to a Code of Practice that translates these principles into worldwide industry performance.

Principles of Uranium Stewardship

The WNA sets forth these Principles of Uranium Stewardship as the basis for a Code of Practice, to which relevant enterprises are invited to commit and adhere:

- 1. Support the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology.**
- 2. Act responsibly in all areas we manage and control.**
- 3. Operate ethically with sound corporate governance.**
- 4. Uphold and promote fundamental human rights.**
- 5. Contribute to the social and economic development of regions where we operate.**
- 6. Provide for responsible sourcing, use and disposition of uranium and its by-products.**
- 7. Support best practice and responsible behaviour throughout the nuclear fuel cycle.**
- 8. Improve continually in all areas of our performance.**
- 9. Communicate regularly on progress.**
- 10. Review and update.**

Uranium Stewardship

Code of Practice

Enterprises committing to Uranium Stewardship agree to adhere to this Code of Practice:

1. Support the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology.

Actively support and comply with applicable statutes, safeguards agreements, regional and bilateral accords, conventions and international treaties.

2. Act responsibly in all areas we manage and control.

Support compliance with regulatory and other requirements by establishing and operating management systems geared to that objective.

Commission periodic independent audits to verify compliance with legal and other requirements, assess management system performance and identify opportunities for improvement beyond compliance.

Participate in voluntary systems of review and exchange designed to enhance and maintain nuclear safety, including inspections and assessments, peer reviews and voluntary reporting.

Engage with relevant stakeholders in our decision-making processes.

3. Operate ethically with sound corporate governance.

Adhere to the principle and practice of transparency as defined in international, regional and national guidelines, with respect to all types of civilian nuclear activity.

Make provision for the safe operation and decommissioning of existing and proposed facilities and activities.

Report regularly and publicly on operational performance against the guidelines contained in accepted reporting standards, with emphasis on the application of Principles of Uranium Stewardship in corporate decision-making.

Adopt specific procedures to measure and assess commitment to and compliance with this Code of Practice.

4. Uphold and promote fundamental human rights.

Uphold the human rights of our employees, contractors and the public, respecting culture, customs and values and maintaining dignity and diversity.

5. Contribute to the social and economic development of regions where we operate.

Contribute to the long-term well-being of local communities and regions where we operate.

Implement fair and progressive recruitment, training and compensation practices.

Give high priority to the sustainability of communities following cessation of operations.

6. Provide for responsible sourcing, use and disposition of uranium and its by-products.

Develop management systems that emphasize safety, health and environmental protection in the sourcing, use and ultimate disposition of uranium and all its by-products and transformation products.

Include integrated activities in the overall management of risk to public safety and the environment.

Ensure adequate training to achieve effective monitoring and control measures with respect to releases and wastes to prevent pollution, and inform the public about these measures.

Act to prevent illicit or unsafe use of nuclear material, and take all necessary precautions to protect civil society and the environment from any harmful effects from fissile material.

7. Support best practice and responsible behaviour throughout the nuclear fuel cycle.

Contribute to a database illustrating best practice throughout the nuclear fuel cycle, and support the sharing of this knowledge within the industry and among stakeholders.

Be proactive in promoting responsible behaviour in all sectors of the fuel cycle.

8. Improve continually in all areas of our performance.

Establish, implement, and maintain management systems to formalize continual improvement ensuring the safety and health of workers, the public and the protection of the environment.

Implement quality management processes during all stages of activity to ensure that operations are carried out safely, efficiently, and effectively.

Apply as low as reasonable principles that drive continuous improvement and reduce the impact of activities on global health and the environment.

9. Communicate regularly on progress.

Engage in dialogue with communities in which we operate and other stakeholders through an open consultation process.

Assess and report on economic, social and environmental performance.

10. Review and update.

Identify and engage with organizations interested and able to conduct independent review and evaluation of industry application of the Principles of Uranium Stewardship.

Actively engage with other industry adherents to the Principles of Uranium Stewardship, and with relevant stakeholders, in an ongoing effort to improve the industry's overall performance as measured against the standard embodied in this Code of Practice.

REFERENCES

- The IAEA statute (www.iaea.org/About/statute_text.html)
- Safeguards agreements concluded pursuant to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Treaties/npt.html)
- Regional and bilateral accords providing for IAEA verification (www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Treaties/index.html)
- The Convention on Nuclear Safety (www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/nukesafety.html)
- The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/cppnm.html)
- The Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/cenna.html)
- The Convention on Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/cacnare.html)
- The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (www.imo.org/Conventions/mainframe.asp?topic_id=258&doc_id=681)
- The Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management (www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/jointconv.html)
- Other international treaties and conventions that contribute to ensuring the safe and peaceful worldwide use of nuclear technology (www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/index.html)