

USNRC delegation visits AERB on October 11, 2012

A delegation of nuclear regulatory experts from United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) led by Commissioner Ms. Kristine Svinicki visited Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) on October 11, 2012. Senior officials of AERB led by Chairman, Mr. S.S. Bajaj held a meeting with the USNRC delegation. The regulatory practices adopted by AERB were appreciated by USNRC, specially the aspect of periodic safety review (PSR) conducted for all Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) every 10 years. During PSR, the design aspects are reconsidered including seismic re-evaluation and plant is required to demonstrate capability to perform its safety functions. USNRC Commissioner informed that a time frame has been identified for implementation of different action points, which have been identified for safety upgradation in various NPPs after the nuclear accident in Fukushima in March 2011. It was emphasized that incorporation of additional safety measures in the new generation NPPs does not mean that the older operating NPPs are not safe to operate or they have some deficiencies. It was recognized that the post Fukushima recommendations for safety upgradation are almost similar in most of the countries including India, USA, France, etc. and this is the outcome of a very close interaction amongst all nuclear operators and regulators at different forums around the world.

