



Iowa High Model United Nations
Political and Security Committee
Management and Regulation of Nuclear Facilities
Author: Rachel Cook (cookraa@uni.edu)

Background

Nuclear Facilities' beginning can mostly be attributed to the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945. At this point, many countries began seeing nuclear power as something that could be used in any area of life "including (1) atomic-powered airplanes, rockets, and automobiles, (2) large electrical generating stations, (3) small "home power plants" to provide heat and electricity to individual homes, and (4) tiny atomic generators wired to clothing to keep a person cool in summer and warm in winter" (NRC.gov). The major issue with nuclear facilities and atomic power is what to do with the radioactive waste after the uranium fuel is "spent" or is no longer efficient in generating power to the reactor to produce electricity. Facilities must find a place to store this waste. The United States stores a majority of its waste in Idaho, Illinois, or New York where the waste can decay to a point that it is no longer harmful. The United States also has a specific commission for work on the issue of nuclear regulation called the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission which has been in place for over 50 years.

On an international level, the most important atomic agency is the International Atomic Energy Agency. This agency is the center for peaceful atomic energy usage. It was developed in 1957 to try and keep a handle on all the nations that were beginning to build and use nuclear facilities. They have three main missions which include Safety and Security; Science and Technology; and Safeguards and Verification. They regulate nuclear facilities and make sure that they are following certain health and safety codes to help protect all country's citizens from the possible deadly effects of nuclear hazards.

What Has Been Done/Past U.N. Actions

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports to the UN General Assembly every year and may report to the Security Council if a state is non-compliant to the regulations of the IAEA as well as matters of International Peace and Security. The most important past U.N. Action is the Information Circular between the IAEA and the UN which was written on October 30, 1959.

Other recent action that the U.N. continues to take is International conferences sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency. At these conferences, countries have the chance to discuss changes to the Agency and discuss any concerns they may have with the current health and safety codes.

Possible Solutions

This committee needs to discuss how the International Atomic Energy Agency can reprimand nations that are not following the health and safety codes. They also may wish to revise the health and safety codes and discuss what nations if any should be allowed to have nuclear facilities. You need to make sure that you look at the scope of the Agency and what their abilities are within the nations.

Questions to Consider

1. *How much power does the International Atomic Energy Agency actually have?*
2. *Are there any states that may need extra health and safety codes?*
3. *What are the ramifications of not following health and safety codes?*
4. *What power does the Security Council have over nuclear facilities?*
5. *Should states be allowed to maintain their own nuclear facilities?*

Consulted/Recommended Sources

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/radwaste.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/brochures/br0175/br0175.pdf>

<http://www.iaea.org/>

