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Revision of the IAEA Safety Standards for Decommissioning - Progress and Issues

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The work of the IAEA is founded on the three pillars of: safeguards and verification, safety and security and science and technology. The IAEA Statute requires the secretariat "... to establish or adopt, in consultation and, where appropriate, in collaboration with the competent organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies concerned, standards of safety for protection of health and minimization of danger to life and property (including such standards for labour conditions), and to provide for the application of these standards ...". Through the Commission on Safety Standards and the safety standards committees, the IAEA has created a well-established process for development, and for Member State approval of international safety standards.

A set of publications within the framework of the IAEA Safety Standards Programme, addresses decommissioning. This set is made up of one Safety Requirements and several Safety Guides in the IAEA Safety Standards Series. Three Safety Guides, concerned with the decommissioning of nuclear power plants and research reactors, nuclear fuel cycle facilities, and medical, industrial and research facilities, are being revised on the basis of the revised Safety Requirements, as well as the experience of Member States, and outcomes of international conferences and initiatives. In addition, in 2011, the committees will evaluate and determine whether to revise the Safety Requirements. The presentation will discuss the current status of the international safety standards for decommissioning, and safety reports that complement these safety standards, as well as challenges related to revising these safety standards and reports.