

Note:
This is a translation of the RSK document entitled
“BMUV-Konzept zu den Tätigkeiten der RSK ab dem Jahr 2024”
In case of discrepancies between the English translation and the German original, the original shall prevail.

BMUV concept for RSK activities from 2024 onwards

as at 6 September 2023

Consultation topics of the RSK:

Safety issues relating to NPPs in Germany until they are free of nuclear fuel: This includes the continuation of consultations on reportable events at NPPs in Germany that may be relevant for NPPs until they are free of nuclear fuel. Concept-related and individual issues relating to the safety of nuclear power plants in Germany until they are free of nuclear fuel can also be discussed, where appropriate.

Safety issues relating to research reactors in Germany: This covers reportable events in research reactors in Germany. Concept-related and specific issues relating to the safety of research reactors in Germany can also be discussed, where appropriate, including, among other things, the development of rules and regulations in view of the forthcoming end of this activity by the Nuclear Safety Standards Commission (KTA), issues in connection with plant modifications and issues in connection with international reviews.

Nuclear security issues: consultations on security issues concerning the safety-related consultation topics mentioned here (e.g. IT security).

Current safety issues relating to NPPs and research reactors abroad, especially in neighbouring countries: This includes, among other things, events occurring or situations arising, results of safety reviews, results of peer reviews such as in particular the EU Topical Peer Review (TPR), issues concerning long-term operation / lifetime extensions and any new-build projects. The RSK should generally be involved in the relevant processes.

Fundamental safety aspects of new developments in the field of reactor safety and security: This includes, among other things, consultations on the further development of existing reactor concepts for light water reactors, issues relating to the development of new reactor designs and reactor concepts, in particular small modular reactors (SMRs), as well as general new developments in the field of reactor safety (e.g. introduction of passive safety features, accident tolerant fuels (ATF), etc.).

Further development of the European nuclear rules and regulations (WENRA, ENSREG, ENSRA) for plants in operation: The consultations ensure the involvement of the RSK in Germany's contribution to the further development of these rules and regulations.

Development of European requirements for new reactor designs (WENRA, ENSREG, ENSRA): The consultations ensure the involvement of the RSK in Germany's contribution to the development of related regulations.

In future, the BMUV will regularly provide information from the relevant committees and working groups of WENRA, ENSREG and ENSRA at RSK meetings.

Further development of the international nuclear safety standards (IAEA): The RSK is (still) involved in the drafting and revision process.

Issues relating to German R&D activities in the field of reactor safety: The BMUV has taken over the tasks of the BMWi in the field of application-oriented basic research on reactor safety in Germany. The RSK has so far been involved in the tasks of the BMWi's project committees through individual

members. To facilitate broader consultations, the RSK is now more intensively involved in this area, and, in particular, more RSK members have been appointed to the relevant project committees. RSK consultations on this subject area are intended to help in deciding which R&D priorities could be expedient to maintain and develop competence in Germany for the assessment of international developments and international cooperation on, among other things, reactor safety issues.

Way of working and composition of the RSK from 2024 onwards

Six meetings (three in person / three virtual) are planned for the RSK in 2024. The BMUV will align the appointments to the RSK with the above topics of consultations, i.e. the area of research reactors, security, increased international representation and the area of research on reactor safety and its interfaces will be more strongly represented. The agendas are systematically orientated towards the above-mentioned topics of consultations, with additional reporting from the ESK Committee on Decommissioning for exchange on cross-cutting issues.

To date, the BMUV has been comprehensively advised by the RSK and its committees. All committees hold several meetings in 2023 on topics relevant to the BMUV. The effort required of participants is lower than it was a few years ago due to the use of virtual meetings. According to the BMUV, the motivation to attend the committee meetings remains high.

In 2024, the RSK will be adapted to the situation after the shutdown of the last nuclear power plants on the basis of the existing RSK committees (Plant and Systems Engineering, Pressure-Retaining Components and Materials, Electric Installations and Reactor Operation): It is planned to change the "Reactor Operation" and "Electric Installations" committees such that, in addition to the topics dealt with so far, they can also increasingly deal with current nuclear security, e.g. issues relating to security operations of nuclear power plants and research reactors or issues from the area of IT security.

The Committee on Pressure-Retaining Components and Materials and the Committee on Plant and Systems Engineering will be continued, although their work will focus on the aforementioned topics of consultations. Only four meetings (two in person / two virtual) will be scheduled in advance for each of the committees in 2024. More meetings may be held for specific consultation topics. With a view to increased support for the RSK by RSK working groups in the future, efforts will be made to streamline individual consultation topics around the dates planned in advance. In addition, joint meetings will be organised for the respective topics.

The RSK is asked to base its proposals for committee appointments on the topics of consultations. The aim is to have the smallest possible committees having the necessary expertise.

Appointments to the RSK and its committees will again be made every two years for the years 2024 and 2025. At the end of 2025, an evaluation will be carried out to determine which structure of the RSK should be used to efficiently provide advice to the BMUV in future. Another important review date is when all German nuclear power plants are expected to be free of nuclear fuel in 2028.

Statutes of the RSK

Further experience should be awaited before the Statutes will be revised. Fundamental amendments to the Statutes are therefore not planned for 2023. A corresponding note should be placed on the RSK website for clarification.