

'Government and Nuclear Energy'

Abstract

Mr T. Haapalehto, Administrator at the Nuclear Energy Agency of OECD, Paris

The main and common objectives of national energy policies in OECD/NEA countries are to ensure the availability of secure and economic supplies with minimal environmental impact. The means of achieving security and competitiveness in the supply of electricity differ between countries. Many governments resort to competitive markets and some maintain ownership and apply strict economic regulation. Environmental goals are pursued by direct regulation and, sometimes, in the case of carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, by adapting market-based approaches.

The roles and responsibilities of governments in respect of energy and especially of nuclear energy are addressed in the context of these broad national policy goals and the tools available to achieve them. NEA has recently published a report that is intended to assist governments in assessing their role in energy and especially nuclear energy policy making. It will also serve interested members of the public, journalists and industry leaders

The Finnish case to build a new nuclear power unit will be presented as an example.