



सचिव, पऊनिप

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निदेशक, सूचना एवं तकनीकी सेवाएं प्रभाग

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निदेशक, औद्योगिक संयंत्र संरक्षा प्रभाग

SECRETARY, AERB

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Director, Information & Technical Services Division

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Director, Industrial Plants Safety Division

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PRESS RELEASE

**AERB grants Clearance for Initial Fuel Loading and First Approach to Criticality of Unit-1 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project**

Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) granted clearance for 'Initial Fuel Loading' (IFL) and 'First Approach to Criticality' (FAC) of Unit-1 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KK NPP) on August 10, 2012. The application submitted by NPCIL and reports of related safety committees were reviewed in its 107<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting held on August 9, 2012, which recommended the Clearance. The activities of IFL and FAC will be carried out under the supervision of AERB officials, who will ensure all safety measures to be in place and also verify the compliance to AERB approved procedures.

KK NPP Units-1&2 located at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu are Russian design Light Water Reactors (VVER) of 1000 MWe each.

The *Clearance* issued to KK NPP will enable the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) to load fresh fuel assemblies into the reactor core and conduct first approach to criticality i.e commencement of the controlled nuclear fission process for the first time in Unit-1 of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KK NPP).

The *Clearance* issued for IFL and FAC is the culmination of detailed review of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Reports (PSARs), Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR), which constitute the primary basis for review and analysis, along with supporting documents submitted by NPCIL and other submissions regarding fulfillment of various pre-requisites including commissioning procedures and their results, inspection procedures and their results, availability of minimum qualified and licensed manpower, etc. Safety provisions of the KK NPP and procedures

for various commissioning activities were assessed against the AERB regulatory requirements.

KK NPP design has several advanced safety features including those for ensuring safety against external events of natural origin and for management of design basis as well as beyond design basis accidents. In the wake of the Fukushima accident, AERB had carried out safety reassessment of KK NPP's capability to withstand extreme external events and non-availability of power supply for an extended period.

The next stage for obtaining clearance from AERB is phase-wise increase of reactor power level, and this will be granted after multi-tier safety review process involving checking compliance to various pre-requisites, review of the various commissioning procedures, results, inspection reports, as applicable.



(R. Bhattacharya)