

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION  
AND COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR SAFETY MATTERS  
BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
AND  
THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY

WHEREAS, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Republic of Colombia Ministry of Mines and Energy (MinMinas), hereinafter "the Parties," have a mutual interest in improving the safety and security of nuclear and radiological facilities and materials and of preventing harm to the public, the environment, and national security;

WHEREAS, on January 8, 1981, the United States of America and the Republic of Colombia concluded an "Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Colombia concerning Civil Uses of Nuclear Energy," which was approved by the Congress of the Republic of Colombia by Law no. 7 of February 10, 1983;

WHEREAS, both countries have undertaken international commitments with the intent to ensure that radiation sources are managed safely;

HAVING a mutual interest in safety, security, and safeguards for the peaceful use of nuclear and radiological materials and in the desire to share experience on such matters through the exchange of information;

DESIRING to establish such a Memorandum pertaining to cooperation between the two countries for the purpose of safe management and inventory control of radiation sources;

The NRC, through its Radiation Sources Regulatory Partnership (RSRP), offers to provide assistance to the MinMinas related to its responsibilities as the Colombian Nuclear Regulatory Authority regarding the regulatory control of radioactive sources with a view to strengthening the Colombian Nuclear Regulatory Authority and implementing the activities inherent in the functions thereof;

To the extent they are permitted to do so under the laws, regulations, and policy directives of their respective countries, the NRC and the MinMinas intend to cooperate and share information in the areas of nuclear and radiological safety and security.

**Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding.** The NRC and the MinMinas hereby declare their intention to further the activities needed to improve and to strengthen the capabilities of the Colombian Nuclear Regulatory Authority so that it can carry out the functions assigned to it under the law. To that end, the Parties intend to cooperate as follows:

## Section I. Understanding Between Parties

1. The NRC intends to complete an assessment of the radiation source inventory control program in use by the Colombian Nuclear Regulatory Authority and make recommendations appropriate for strengthening this program, covering all aspects of the program including software, technical support, and training;
2. The NRC intends to support efforts to improve the Columbian Nuclear Regulatory Authority's existing information system through scientific visits of personnel designated by the Authority, for the purpose of sharing experiences with information system developers working on web connectivity.
3. The NRC intends to provide the services of experts to support the development of a new regulatory framework governing the authorization and inspection of radioactive facilities, using a graduated control approach, and including specific physical safety requirements for each source category;
4. The NRC intends to offer training courses, on-site instruction, and information technology solutions with the objective of enhancing skills for technical evaluations of the applications and conducting inspections;
5. The MinMinas intends to appoint an authorized contact person to the NRC who would be responsible for coordinating in Colombia the program established by the Parties;
6. The MinMinas intends to designate the personnel responsible for implementing the activities required to achieve the objectives of this cooperation;
7. The MinMinas intends to provide all information relating to the purpose of this cooperation and necessary for the implementation of the proposed activities.

## Section II. Information Exchange

8. The term "information" means unclassified nuclear or radiological-related regulatory, safety, waste management, scientific or technical data, including information on results or methods of assessment, research, and any other knowledge provided, created, or exchanged under this Memorandum.
9. The Parties intend to protect information furnished by either Party in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Parties, and the information must be used exclusively for purposes of implementing the activities of this Memorandum. Information furnished to experts or to third parties in the implementation of these activities should also be protected in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Parties upon termination of the Memorandum. To that end, each Party may require the expert or third party to make a specific declaration regarding protection of information.

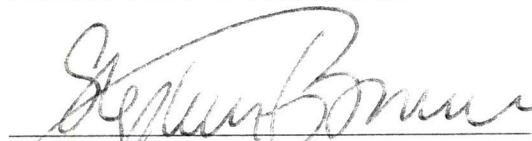
### Section III. Administrative Matters

10. Parties intend to cooperate under the Memorandum in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Parties. Any dispute or questions between the Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Memorandum shall be settled by mutual agreement of the Parties.
11. This Memorandum may be modified by the mutual written consent of both Parties.
12. Unless otherwise agreed, all costs resulting from cooperation pursuant to this Memorandum are the responsibility of the Party that incurs them. The ability of the Parties to carry out their obligations is subject to the appropriation of funds by the appropriate governmental authority and to the laws, regulations, and policies applicable to the Parties.
13. This Memorandum becomes effective upon signature by both Parties and remains effective until either Party provides the appropriate written notice to the other Party of its intent to cease cooperation.
14. Either Party may withdraw from this Memorandum after providing the other Party with written notice 180 days prior to its intended date of withdrawal.

### Section IV. Dates and Signatures

DONE in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages.


FOR THE UNITED STATES NUCLEAR  
REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Stephen G. Burns  
Chairman

20 October 2015  
Date

Location: Rockville, Maryland  
United States of America

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY

  
Tomás González Estrada  
Minister of Mines and Energy

23 Nov 2015  
Date

Location: Bogotá  
Republic of Colombia