

Chapter 3

The Canadian Safeguards Support Program

History and Background

Maintaining the safeguards inspection system and purchasing the equipment and supplies with which to carry out inspections consumes a third of the regular budgetary contributions of IAEA members. To develop new equipment and techniques to enhance the effectiveness of the safeguards system, the IAEA depends almost entirely upon supplementary support from 12 member countries and organizations, including Canada. The total value of this extra support has been estimated to be approximately half of the regular safeguards budget.

In 1976, Canada decided to establish what became one of the first IAEA safeguards support programs. The primary aim of this program was to assist the IAEA in developing and supplying advanced safeguards systems and equipment to augment the, then, rudimentary safeguards applied to Canadian Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) power reactors and Canadian-designed research reactors, both in Canada and abroad.

Objectives

The overall objective of the Canadian Safeguards Support Program is to help the IAEA by providing technical assistance and other resources and by

developing equipment to improve the effectiveness of IAEA safeguards. The more specific objectives are:

- to enable Canada to participate effectively in measures for the international control of nuclear energy;
- to enable the IAEA to provide effective international safeguards for Canadian-supplied nuclear material and facilities; and
- to enhance the credibility of the IAEA international inspection function generally and through this, the credibility of Canadian nuclear export and non-proliferation policy.

Organization and Scope

When first established, the Safeguards Support Program was under the joint management of the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) — a Canadian Crown corporation. The AECB provided the expertise relating to IAEA safeguards. AECL provided half of the funding and much of the technical expertise as well as the facilities for the development tasks. In 1989, the Program was reorganized and the AECB became responsible for all project and financial management. Research and development are now carried out through contracts