

Chapter 2

Canada and IAEA Safeguards

In Canada, control over nuclear energy is a federal responsibility. The Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) administers Canada's domestic and international safeguards commitments under the authority of the *Atomic Energy Control Act*. Under this Act, the AECB:

- establishes regulations for possession, transfer (both domestic and international) and use of nuclear materials; and
- institutes an accounting and control system which has two objectives:
 - (1) A national objective to account for and control nuclear material in Canada, thereby detecting possible losses and unauthorized use or removal of nuclear material.
 - (2) An international objective to provide the necessary basis for the application of IAEA safeguards.

In conjunction with the IAEA and facility operators, the AECB establishes and monitors Material Balance Areas within individual Canadian nuclear facilities. All nuclear material transfers — incoming and outgoing — can be accounted for as they pass through these areas. As well, a physical in-

ventory can be taken to establish a nuclear material balance.

Additionally, the AECB:

- acts as Canada's point of contact with the IAEA on safeguards matters;
- evaluates the information provided by the facilities and prepares reports for the IAEA; and
- ensures that the objectives for nuclear material accounting and control are met.

Domestic Safeguards

The Safeguards and Security Division of the AECB provides both support for and information to the IAEA to fulfil Canada's obligations under the NPT. Safeguards procedures required by the Treaty are set out in an agreement between the Government of Canada and the IAEA. The Division co-ordinates arrangements between the IAEA and Canadian nuclear facilities for Agency inspections and accompanies IAEA inspectors on all physical inventory verifications. During 1988, for example, the IAEA conducted 149 safeguards inspections at 28 Canadian facilities requiring 744 IAEA inspector-days. At the end of 1988, 36 IAEA inspectors were designated for Canada.