



Energy security: Good practices to address pandemic risks

Energy Community – Oil Forum

15/09/2020

Why a list of good practices?

- While the **energy system has proven to be resilient** thanks to the good preparedness of the sector, it is important to remain vigilant.
- The document identified **a list of risks and challenges** in the short-term and long term, as well as **a series of 20 good practices** to address risks in the energy sector that are associated with a pandemic.
- It takes stock of the exchanges in the relevant coordination groups (ECG, GCG and OCG), as well as the Offshore Safety Authorities Group and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group.

RISKS AND CHALLENGES

Short-term

- ensuring energy supply;
- movement and availability of specialised energy workers;
- movement and access for Euratom safeguards inspectors;
- access to components and raw materials that are critical for energy;
- access to protective equipment and medical testing for energy workers;
- business continuity of critical energy infrastructure;
- preparedness to rebound of energy demand;
- cyber and hybrid threat preparedness.

Long-term

- uncertainty regarding the duration of the pandemic;
- specialised workforce unavailability or lower resilience;
- additional unexpected contingencies, including extreme weather events;
- reliability of critical supply chains;
- impact of delays of postponing maintenance;
- large project delays and investment reductions;
- non-realistic emergency stockholding for upcoming calendar years;
- loss of control of critical energy assets.

GOOD PRACTICES at a glance (1/2)

- preserving supply to vulnerable customers;
- declaring the energy sector as an essential service;
- preserving free movement for specialised energy workers;
- preserving essential transport flows moving to ensure energy supply chains;
- well-functioning of the internal energy market;
- strong risk preparedness plans;
- strong business continuity and contingency plans;
- solidarity and cross-border coordination, communication and information sharing;
- teleworking for non-shift activities and non-core activities;
- rescheduling non-essential maintenance works;

GOOD PRACTICES at a glance (2/2)

- hygiene and sanitary measures, as well as training on hygiene protocols;
- cross border assistance, cooperation and training for operators;
- redundancy of control rooms and implementation of remote control;
- establish base camps and reserves of volunteers for critical infrastructure;
- reduction of regular exchange of personal;
- pre-confinement of staff before accessing isolated locations;
- in key locations, early detection, evacuation measures and specific support to workers;
- reinforce cybersecurity measures and cooperation;
- pragmatic risk-based approach by national regulators, in particular the nuclear sector;
- attention to the economic impact on energy companies, subcontractors and investors.

Conclusions

- The current energy preparedness and security regulatory framework provides a strong structure to ensure energy security of supply.
- It is important to remain vigilant:
 - Consider extreme scenarios combined e.g, with extreme weather events.
 - Integrate redundancy of critical elements and secured digitalisation of activities in risk preparedness plans.
 - Importance of continuity/contingency plans in companies.
 - Prepare for the rebound.
 - Pay attention to the resilience of critical supply chains in the recovery.



https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/energy-security/energy-supply-and-pandemic_en

How do you know? ▾



risks will be updated and amended as needed over time, in order to serve as a guide for any future pandemic.

European Commission > Energy > Topics > Energy security

Energy

Home

Topics

Data and analysis

Documents

- [“Energy security: Good practices to address pandemic risks”](#) (SWD/2020/104) ([DE](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#))

Energy supply and pandemics

PAGE CONTENTS

Documents

Related links

Society and economy need a stable and secure supply of energy at all times. The coronavirus pandemic in 2020 demonstrates how vital reliable access to energy is for citizens and businesses, not to mention hospitals and other essential services, even if the European energy system has been resilient to shocks stemming from the pandemic.



Thank you



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