

probabilistic safety assessment that examined issues such as commercial policy and personnel issues.

But this project had many problems, such of them:

- Lack of adequate documentation from the Russians necessitating redrawing of designs.
- Safety goals not well defined. Too many suggestions and insufficient standards to assess degree of change necessary.
- Russian and American cables were incompatible, requiring total replacement.
- Russian and American safety codes differed.
- Russian and American assumptions about equipment capability differed.
- Westinghouse designs lacked level of detail familiar to Czech workers.
- Absence of plans for long-term storage of nuclear waste.
- State Office of Nuclear Safety inspections revealed some noncompliance with safety standards.
- Tritium will be released in the Vltava River, which supplies drinking water to Prague.

Solution of the problems listed above will result to better exploitation of nuclear power plants and ensure its safety.

THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENTS

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On December 11, 1997, 159 nations adopted the Kyoto Protocol. The protocol and its parent agreement, the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), were both adopted under the multilateral treaty-making auspices of the United Nations. Together with some important resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), they form the foundation of the United Nations climate change regime (UNCCR).

The principal objective of the FCCC is "to stabilize concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system."

Climate change represents an unprecedented policy problem for the international community for a number of important reasons. The FCCC and the Kyoto Protocol are examples of unique responses to a global problem of concern to the entire international community. These multilateral agreements signal a fundamental change in international relations and now characterize a world of increasing global interdependence.

In 1972, at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, governments adopted the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that there is a possibility of a climate change "accident" looming out in the future.

Climate change policy responses that lower emissions of greenhouse gases are a type of unique insurance policy that actually lower the probability of a future accident.

The greenhouse effect is one of the basic features of the Earth system that is absolutely critical to human life.

Of course, the fundamental question that remains is whether or not any particular extreme weather event is the result of human perturbations of the climate system or is strictly the product of natural variability. Although the IPCC reported in 1995 that it had found evidence to support the fact that human activities were modifying the climate system, this influential group has not yet taken the next step to suggest that increased variability in the climate system (extreme weather events) has been driven, in part, by human activity.

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) held five negotiating sessions between February 1991 and May 1992.

On May 9, 1992, at the final session of the INC, held at the United Nations in New York, the FCCC was adopted by the parties.

As of July 1998, 175 countries had become parties to the FCCC. The FCCC has as its primary objective the "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human) interference with the climate system." The Conference of Parties (COP) is the supreme body of the FCCC. All power to make amendments to the FCCC and to negotiate other agreements is held by the COP. Typically, the COP meets once a year to discuss all matters under the FCCC. The Secretariat, based in Bonn, is charged with all of the organizational support functions under the FCCC.

Finally, the FCCC creates a "Financial Mechanism" under Article 11 to assist developing countries in meeting their obligations to report on the climate change information required under Article 12. This requires all parties to produce national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol and general description of steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the Convention.

The Kyoto Protocol, much like the 1987 Montreal Protocol, is not a free-standing multilateral agreement. That is, only governments that are parties to the FCCC may join the protocol. The primary objective of the protocol, as authorized by the Berlin Mandate, is to create binding emissions reduction obligations for Annex I parties beginning in the year 2000.

The protocol represents much more than an important milestone in the ongoing United Nations climate change negotiations. An attempt to control the climate system of Earth is, in effect, the future cornerstone of the international community's effort to develop policy responses to global environmental change. The FCCC and the Kyoto Protocol are planetary management responses that support the recognition that humans are now a global force on Earth. In the words of a distinguished group of scientists: "Humanity's dominance of Earth means that we cannot escape responsibility for managing the planet."