

Fellowship Profile

IAEA PROGRAMS
AT ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

Government & regulatory Infrastructure
for nuclear installation safety

TRAINING SUMMARY

My name is Pawel Karpowicz, and I am a Senior Specialist at the Radiation Emergency Centre within the National Atomic Energy Agency of Poland (PAA). Recently, I and some colleagues had the privilege of participating in a training program in the United States, visiting NRC Region III in Naperville, IL, the Palisades facility in Benton Harbor, MI, and NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD. The training centered on emergency preparedness and response, particularly the organization of public hearings and related activities. I observed every stage of preparation, from online planning weeks before the event to in-person coordination in the days leading up to the hearing. I also witnessed how NRC employees interacted with the media during press conferences, answering questions with professionalism and clarity. Observing a live public hearing was especially insightful, as I learned how NRC staff handle challenging questions and engage with the public, providing a framework to apply these best practices in our own upcoming initiatives. Additionally, the visits to the NRC Incident Response Centers and the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant deepened my understanding of the systems and processes required to maintain and enhance emergency operations facilities.



WHATS NEXT?

This training was invaluable for preparing PAA for the public hearing we are set to organize in 2025. As part of a team from three key PAA departments involved in the licensing process, I aim to contribute as a technical and substantive expert, ensuring the success of this critical event. Beyond public hearings, I plan to apply the knowledge gained to improve PAA's Incident Response Center (ICR) procedures and introduce new functionalities to strengthen our emergency response capabilities. This experience has not only equipped me with practical tools and strategies but also reinforced my commitment to enhancing nuclear safety and public engagement in Poland.



"This visit was for me, very valuable and significant. [The] First-hand experience from top class experts in such complex fields left me amazed and eager [to work]."

Pawel Karpowicz - Poland

November 18th to the 22nd

Hosted by: Nuclear Regulatory Commission