



Industry leader joins COG

Carlos Lorencez brings long-time safety and regulatory experience to his new leadership role at COG during an important time in the industry's evolution

DEC. 8, 2020 — Carlos Lorencez believes the people working in the CANDU Owners Group (COG) are helping the nuclear industry to innovate toward a strong, sustainable clean energy future.

He's now one of them.

Lorencez joined COG's management team as the director of Nuclear Safety and Environmental Affairs from Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Oct. 26, after more than 20 years with the utility. He says COG's "smart, passionate and driven people," have created a place where members can come together, share ideas and address common challenges and opportunities.

"I was always impressed by the level of cooperation and collaboration shown by COG's members when working towards achieving a solution, and by COG's role in ensuring that an alignment of efforts was the final outcome," says Lorencez.

Lorencez was already a familiar face at COG before coming aboard. He most recently served as OPG's director of nuclear safety, working with a number of COG task teams under the Nuclear Safety Peer Group (NSPG). He chaired that peer group for several years as well as the Industry Standard Toolset Steering Committee and participated in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Peer Group.

After immigrating to Canada from Mexico, Lorencez graduated with a doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of Toronto in 1993 before joining Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. He is well-known across the Canadian and international nuclear safety and regulatory community. Over the course of his career, he has built working relationships with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA Group) and has represented COG members in nuclear safety standards development at the International Atomic Energy Agency.

His vision for COG's Nuclear Safety and Environmental Affairs (NSEA) portfolio is still evolving much like the industry itself. His focus will primarily be on "working closely with members to proactively seek innovative solutions."

NSEA works on behalf of COG members to adopt common strategies and solutions to issues in the areas of nuclear safety, emergency preparedness, regulatory affairs, human performance, nuclear waste and the environment. It facilitates several COG leadership forums, including the Chief Nuclear Officers' Forum (CNOF).

More recently, NSEA has used its well-established practices to serve as a collaborative mechanism for the next generation of nuclear reactors and for decommissioning and nuclear waste management.

The small modular reactor (SMR) program includes a CEO forum, technology forum and a 10-member SMR vendor participant program. COG also works with the Canadian Nuclear Association in managing the industry's SMR secretariat.

Decommissioning and nuclear waste management, essential to both existing CANDU and future advanced reactor development, including SMRs, is an important and growing area of work for COG. In NSEA, the waste management area includes a leadership forum and a waste management peer group. Earlier this year, the forum completed development of an integrated waste strategy (IWS), a live document that will be updated over the coming years to align with Canada's waste management strategy. In COG's decommissioning area, joint projects have already been initiated to support activities both within Canada and in South Korea.

"NSEA brings value to our members through our participation in organizing, facilitating and coordinating events and projects. These venues give our members and other industry organizations a safe place to develop ideas, exchange information and work out solutions to common challenges," says Lorencez.

"We never work in isolation. The industry needs the solutions that come from the active participation of our members and participants. When they bring ideas to the table and share them freely with each other, we all benefit."

Lorencez believes he's arrived at COG during an exciting time with many new opportunities for innovation to be explored.

"We're supporting innovation in new areas like SMRs, decommissioning and waste management and, as importantly, we're strengthening existing CANDU technology that will continue to serve us all in the years to come. There's a lot of work to be done but we have experienced people at COG, up to the challenge."



COG's Carlos Lorencez joined the organization in October from OPG, where he spent more than 20 years.