



# Nuclear Safety Charter

Axpo's Commitment

The Power of Energy





## Preamble

This Safety Charter is a voluntary commitment undertaken by Axpo. It sets down the ground rules for employees in the area of nuclear energy for the fulfilment of their daily tasks. We take our responsibility seriously at all times – from construction, to operation, and maintenance all the way to the dismantling of our nuclear installation and the storage of radioactive waste.

We take appropriate steps to maintain safety at the highest level and are constantly in search of improvements. This applies in particular to radiation protection for the population, employees and the environment. These efforts are in compliance with all statutory, regulatory requirements.

This Safety Charter defines our basic principles in this respect. Their operative and practical implementation takes place specifically in the various installations.

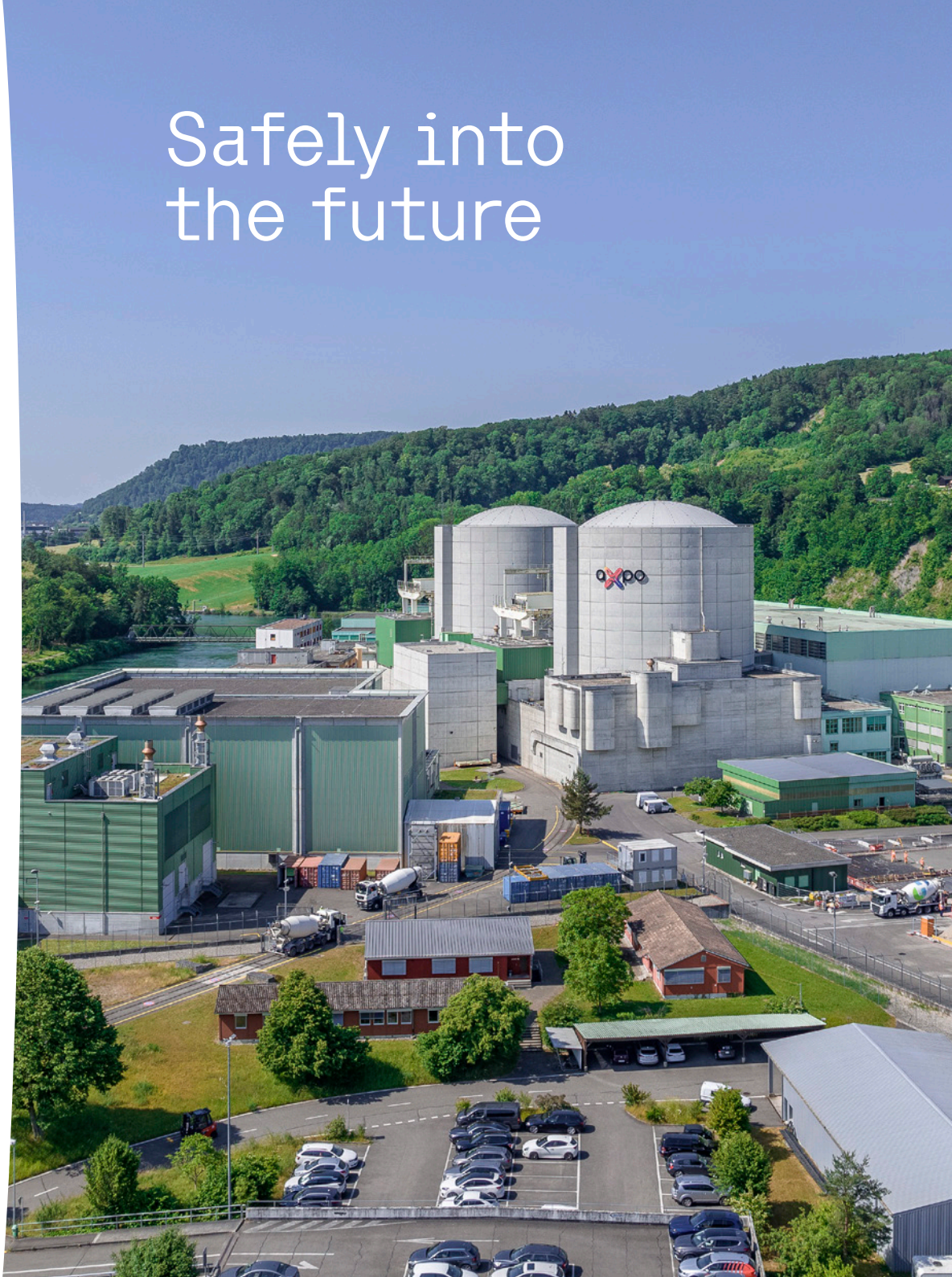


**Thomas Sieber**  
Chairman of the Board



**Christoph Brand**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Safely into the future





# Axpo's Nuclear Interests

100%



**Beznau nuclear power plant (KKB)**

52.7%



**Leibstadt nuclear power plant (KKL)**

Direct shares  
Axpo Power,  
Axpo Solutions  
and CKW

37.5%



**Gösgen nuclear power plant (KKG)**

Direct shares  
Axpo Power and CKW

24.3%



**Interim Storage Facility Würenlingen AG (Zwilag)**

Direct shares Axpo Power  
(excluding indirect shares  
through partner plants  
of KKL and KKG)

14.3%



**National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste (Nagra)**

Direct shares Axpo Power  
(excluding indirect shares  
through KKL, KKG and Zwilag)



Safety

# Safety first



**Axpo has a responsibility to the public and its staff for all its nuclear installations and interests. Protecting the population, employees and the environment against radiation takes absolute precedence; safety has the highest priority.**

**Safety is constantly evolving**

Not only do we invest in the latest technology, but also in our processes as well as comprehensive staff training and professional development.

**We learn from errors**

We examine potential error sources in advance. The safety and protection of our plants must be ensured at all times, even in the event of technical shortcomings, human error or technical failure. We investigate the causes and institute measures as best possible to prevent errors from reoccurring. In doing so, we improve safety standards continuously.

**Our communication is transparent**

Axpo provides open, reliable, timely, pertinent information, both internally and to the public.

The safety-related condition of installations, operation and radiation protection are continuously assessed and outlined in periodic reports.

# We have clearly defined responsibilities

Our organisational structure for the operation of nuclear installations fulfils the following principles:

**1. The manager of a nuclear installation has the responsibility of maintaining its safety and technical condition.**

To this end, he leads an organisation that fulfils the respective statutory and regulatory requirements. He ensures that the respective staff has

- the technical expertise and qualifications
- the social and leadership skills

- the personnel, technical and financial resources to fulfil their duties and to assume the responsibilities entrusted to them.

**2. Axpo management ensures that the manager of the nuclear plant has the necessary personnel, technical and financial resources at his disposal.**



**Verification and assessment by the Safety Controlling**

Safety Controlling reports safety developments to the power plant manager and the division manager on a semi-annual basis. In addition, independent support on safety issues is available to all staff members. If the unit responsible fails to respond appropriately to the concerns expressed, Safety Controlling can take the matter to the next higher level.

**Supervision from the highest level**

The Board of Directors, as well as the Executive Board, the business area and division managers at Axpo, regularly obtain an independent impression on the safety of the nuclear power plants and their safety culture. The Nuclear Safety Council ensures an in-depth feedback on safety issues and the involvement of external expertise. Both the power plant manager and the Safety Controller report to these committees.





Optimisation

# We measure ourselves against the highest safety standards

**Axpo is committed to complying with the international nuclear safety standards specified by the IAEA Safety Convention (International Atomic Energy Agency) and ratified by Switzerland.**

Periodic safety audits have a high priority. They serve as the basis for measures aimed at maintaining and improving the safe, reliable operation of the plants. Furthermore, nuclear safety is regularly analysed and assessed by WANO (World Association of Nuclear Operators). WANO is a worldwide association of nuclear power plant operators devoted to mutual exchange of information and experience.

Axpo's goal is for its nuclear installations to be classified among the safest and best in the international comparison.

## **We continuously optimise our crisis management**

Staff at our nuclear plants are prepared for any malfunctions or emergencies.

This preparation includes the comprehensive, thorough training of all emergency organisations.

They possess the required analytical and decision-making authority when intervention is required.





Analysis

# We strive for continuous improvement

**We analyse the nuclear safety assessments carried out by internal and external controllers and derive initiatives for continuous improvement.**

Learning from our own mistakes and operations is of vital importance. Even slight deviations are included in analyses.

We actively monitor developments in science and technology, and analyse data from international operating experience.

We use this information to continuously upgrade our installations, thereby further improving nuclear safety.

With regard to radiation protection we consistently follow the ALARA principle (as low as reasonably achiev-

able). This means that even below the threshold values, exposure to ionising radiation for humans and the environment is kept as low as possible with a reasonable investment of resources.

Systematic comprehensive maintenance and upgrading ensure the excellent condition of plants even after many years of operation.



**Axpo has set itself the task of establishing and continuously improving a culture of safety which reflects the highest standards by means of appropriate measures.**

Axpo's entire leadership team and its partner plants are committed to exemplifying the values of a high culture of safety in their daily work activities. This includes in particular open communication, mutual support, a systematic approach to work, and the application of error prevention methods, as well as the acceptance of and strict compliance to regulations.

**An additional important requirement for successful**

**Teamwork** is the ability to critically examine one's own actions and behaviour. We expect the same high standards from our suppliers Axpo and its partner plants expect their suppliers and subcontractors to accept these safety principles and adopt the necessary measures for their implementation.

This includes in particular open communication with regard to uncertainties or errors in the planning and execution of contracts, and honest feedback on our products and services.

Operating principles

**We actively promote our culture of safety**

Appropriate training and continuing education, as well as special courses on the plant simulators, achieve a high level of expertise among the staff for normal safe operation, as well as for the management of malfunctions.



## Glossary

**Nuclear installation** refers to a technical facility for the utilisation of nuclear energy, for extraction, production, use, processing or storage of nuclear material, as well as the disposal of radioactive waste.

**Nuclear safety** refers to all the organizational measures and technical provisions comprised in the design, construction, operation, decommissioning or dismantling of nuclear installations, or the transport and storage of radioactive materials intended to prevent and mitigate the effects of accidents.

**Security** ensures the protection of a nuclear facility from unauthorised impacts such as sabotage or terrorism. Under the agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, Switzerland is also committed to applying security measures to prevent the diversion of nuclear materials intended for peaceful purposes so that they are not used for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

**Radiation protection** refers to all regulations, procedures, prevention and monitoring techniques intended to prevent or reduce adverse effects of direct or indirect ionising radiation to humans and the environment.

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