Report from the International Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

Item W 6.2

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General Information

International Conference on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management

- Cooperation NS – NE
- 21-25 November 2016
- IAEA Headquarter, Vienna, Austria
- Organised by IAEA
- In cooperation with: NEA/OECD, EC
- Last Conference on the same topic was held in Cordoba, Spain in 2000
Objectives & Scope

• Highlight the importance of long term approach towards the management of radioactive waste and spent fuel

• Promote further harmonization of safety in the fields of predisposal management and disposal of radioactive waste

• Discuss about all aspects of predisposal management and disposal of radioactive waste and spent fuel, including waste arising from accidental situations
Conference Contributions

• Involved Experts
  – 3 panellists (opening panel)
  – 5 invited speakers
  – 45 speakers
  – 73 poster presenters

• Audience
  – 274 participants
  – 63 Member States
  – 4 Organizations
Conference format & sessions

• Opening session with panel discussion

• 4 plenary sessions dealing with:
  – National policy, strategy and framework for radioactive waste management
  – Predisposal (W.Pr, Sto)
  – Disposal (Intro, DSRS, VLLW, LLW, ILW, HLW)
  – Post-accident waste management

• Closing session with panel discussion
Conference Topics

• Opening Session
  – Opening remarks by DDG-NS & Conference Chairman
  – Panellists: EC, OECD/NEA, JC, IAEA

  – Outcomes *(from summary report)*:
    • Promotion of the IAEA Safety Standards
    • Long-term safety
    • Regional / Multinational disposal facilities
    • Involvement of stakeholders
    • Approach to licensing
    • Reporting on radioactive waste
    • Collaboration amongst international organisations
    • Co-operation between international conventions and agreements

• Closure sessions
  • Panel including all session chairs ➔ *4 pages conclusions addressed*
  • Conference Chairman summary
  • Closing remarks by DDG-NE & NSRW director
Conference recommendations & conclusions

1. Progress in radioactive waste management since 2000

→ To better *convey* the positive message that the process of HLW/SF disposal is slow

2. National planning

→ Work on national plans for radioactive waste management including disposal continues, taking a *cradle-to-grave approach*

3. Balance between operational and long-term (post-closure) safety

→ To carefully analyse the *post-2000 experience* of the operational safety of radioactive waste management
Conference recommendations & conclusions

4. Optimization

➔ To continue work on the methodologies that may support the optimisation of strategies for waste management

5. Results of analyses, and communication, of long term protective capability of disposal solutions

➔ The outcome of such analyses facilitates communication end engagement with stakeholders on complex issues such as acceptability, optimisation...

6. Regulators’ involvement, mandate and independence

➔ Regulators develop processes to ensure mutual understanding between regulators and applicant, while rigorously maintaining their independence
Conference recommendations & conclusions

7. Involvement and empowerment of interested parties

→ Principles and methods for engagement can be further developed and implemented as they apply to national programmes

8. Post-accident waste management

→ The suitability of the safety standards to deal with post-accident radioactive waste management should be reviewed against the ample experience from dealing with post-accident radioactive waste management and plans for providing additional guidance on developing national strategies
Conference Proceedings

• The Proceedings will be published by the IAEA later… it will include:
  – Speeches (opening, closure)
  – Sessions summary
  – Conference conclusions and recommendations
  – Attached CD with all materials (presentations, papers, posters…)

• All material are available on the conference webpage

Thank you!