48th Meeting of the Waste Safety Standards Committee (WASSC)

Agenda W5.2
Annual Meeting of the Regulatory Forum for Safety of Uranium Production and Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (REGSUN)

For information

Z. Fan
Waste and Environmental Safety Section
Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety
Outline

• Background
• Objectives
• Scope
• Organization/Structure
• Topical Working Groups
• Key activities
Background

• The production of uranium and the management of NORM have important safety and environmental protection considerations.
• Challenges are posed by new applications for uranium production, as well as increasing expectations for protection of health and the environment.
• Challenges with the regulation of NORM activities and the application of safety requirements from GSR Part 3 to management of NORM residues and the new IAEA safety guide for management of NORM residues (DS459).
Objectives

• To help build capacity in all Member States undertaking or considering uranium production or the management of NORM residues.

• To promote good regulation and safe and environmentally responsible practices, through the application of IAEA Safety Standards.

• To promote and increase the exchange of information and expertise among its participants, including regular updates on best practice approaches, targeted assistance in review and provision of expertise, and identification of gaps in guidance and support.

• To support the utilization of IAEA tools and training materials. And

• To provide strategic input for future IAEA work in areas related to safety of uranium production and NORM residues management.
Scope

• The Forum addresses primarily safety and regulatory aspects of uranium production and management of NORM activities.

• The Forum is meant for regulatory bodies in Member States, who are undertaking or considering uranium production or the management of NORM residues.

• REGSUN was launched in June 2018.

https://gnssn.iaea.org/main/REGSUN/SitePages/Home.aspx
Organization/Structure

REGSUN Forum

IAEA Scientific Secretary

Steering Committee

Regulation WG

Uranium production WG

NORM WG
Topical Working Group
- Regulation and Cross-Cutting Issues

• Legislation and regulatory framework, especially for new facility applications
• Funding and resources including staffing and training
• Technical capability
• Communication and involvement of interested parties
• Safety, security, and transport
• Financial assurance and institutional control
• Accidents and emergency planning and response
Topical Working Group
- Uranium Production

• General requirements for uranium production
• Life-cycle planning of activities
• Site characterization and environmental assessments
• Construction and operation
• Management of tailings
• Groundwater protection- prevention, monitoring and remediation
• Termination of operations including end state criteria
Topical Working Group
- NORM

• General requirements for the management of NORM
• Identification of NORM activities
• Application of the graded approach
• Legacy site hazards
• Management of residues including reuse and disposal options
• Remediation
REGSUN 2018 - Recommendations

• Need for DS459 to be published as soon as possible;
• Develop a REGSUN information and discussion sharing platform, starting with a review of available platforms through the IAEA;
• Assemble IAEA publications relevant to NORM and uranium production regulatory development, and provide coordination with other relevant IAEA projects;
• Develop the REGSUN contact network by identifying relevant projects in Member States and representatives that have been involved in IAEA projects;
• Continue and prioritize uranium and NORM IAEA guidance and technical publications;
• Provide additional guidance and assistance through appropriate workshops, technical meetings, training, and e-learning.
REGSUN 2019 - Recommendations

• That the IAEA addresses the training needs identified by the Member States and prioritise the following:
  – Dose assessment approach and methodology
  – The development of a graded approach to NORM regulation
  – A ‘train the trainer’ training course for DS459 within the next 12 months
  – The IAEA to create a more general Webinar based on the realistic dose assessment in industrial activities involving NORM
Recommendations to REGSUN 2020

• That development of the REGSUN 2020 meeting considers the following proposals:
  – Dose-assessment and characterization
  – Stakeholders engagement
  – Inspection
  – How to deal with activities outside regulation (e.g. illegal mining) ?
  – How to bring a non-regulated activity into a regulated activity ?
  – Further work on implementation of graded-approach
  – Regulatory frameworks to meet DS459

• REGSUN 2020 is planned to be held in Vienna from 8 to 12 June 2020
1. Introduction
2. Process for developing a regulatory framework for management of NORM
3. Key components of regulatory framework

References
Annex 1. Example of application of graded approach
Annex 2. Example of management of NORM residues
Annex 3. Questionnaire for NORM residues management
Status on Development of IAEA Publication on Application of Graded Approach for Management of NORM Residues

- Consultancy in support of an intended technical report on application of the graded approach to the safety of NORM residues, February 27 to March 03, 2017 Vienna
- TM on Application of the Graded Approach to Safety for Management of NORM Residues, 19-23 June 2017
- Consultancy Meetings to develop draft document on application of graded approach for NORM Management
  - 20-24 November 2017
  - 12-16 March 2018
  - 22-25 November 2018
  - 11-14 March 2019
- The draft was reviewed at the REGSUN 2019
Way forward

• Regulatory Forum for Safety of Uranium Production and Management of NORM
• Development of IAEA TECDOC on Application of Graded Approach for Management of NORM
• Implement a train the trainer program for application of DS459
• Workshops, training and documents preparation on:
  – Identification, characterization of NORM residues
  – Safety assessment supporting application of graded approach
  – Decommissioning of facilities involving NORM
  – Challenges in reuse/recycle
  – Practice in disposal
  – Issues related to cross border movement of NORM residues
Thank you very much!