



International Atomic Energy Agency

***Application of Safety Assessment Methodologies for Near Surface
Waste Disposal Facilities (ASAM)***

Mining and Mineral Processing Waste Working Group Meeting

17-21 March 2003

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

AGENDA

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda (IAEA)

During the opening session the expected meeting scope, objectives, and outcomes will be clearly identified. This will allow the participants to focus their discussions and presentations on achieving the outcomes of activities and identifying the deliverables that will be presented at the June meeting. The proposed outcomes are:

- 1.1. The development of a high level guidance document on the definition of an “assessment context” for the post-closure safety assessment of mining and mineral processing waste disposal facilities;
- 1.2. A clear definition of the test case to be proposed for consideration by the working group, including its assessment context;
- 1.3. Review of the overall work plan and clearly identify upcoming activities and responsibilities.

It is anticipated that by the end of the meeting the above deliverables will be well advanced and that the practical steps and resources needed to complete them before the June meeting will be clearly identified. This will also help participants to assess how and where they can contribute to the short and long-term working group activities.

2. Activities

The session will be dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the status of activities that are currently being performed within the working group. These activities, which forms the basis of the deliverables defined in (1), are:

- 2.1. Available Reference Site (Palabora) information (Activity 2)
- 2.2. Waste streams and associated waste disposal options (Activity 3, Task 1)
- 2.3. Review of the elements of an assessment context (Activity 3, Task 2)
- 2.4. Top down approach (Activity 3, Task 3)

The presentations should be brief and focussed on the areas that are related to the expected meeting outcomes. At this stage, the purpose is just to present and have general discussions about the progress made with these tasks. The results will be discussed in more detail later when dealing with the other items on the agenda.

3. Applicability of ISAM Definition of an Assessment Context to Mining and Mineral Processing Waste

Based on ISAM definition of an assessment context and the results of the questionnaire, the main components and associated elements that should be considered in the definition of an assessment context for the post-closure safety assessment of mining and mineral processing waste disposal facilities will be discussed. If it is agreed that there is a need to improve the guidance provided in ISAM, a high level guidance document will be drafted. This document will form the framework that will be used for the definition of the test case and its assessment context. The practical steps to achieve this outcome are:

- 3.1. Review the ISAM definition of an assessment context based on the results of the questionnaire. Discuss issues, differences and any need for adapting/improving of the ISAM definition.
- 3.2. Develop a table of contents for the assessment context for the post-closure assessment of mining and mineral processing waste disposal facilities.
- 3.3. Discuss the development (if deemed necessary) of a high level guidance document for the definition of an assessment context for mining and milling and NORM waste facilities. This involves putting some text around the table of content developed in (3.2). Volunteers will be identified at the March meeting to complete this task before the June meeting.

The draft guidance document will be submitted at the June meeting for discussion and comments. This document will constitute a very useful contribution in the process of

evaluating the applicability of the ISAM methodology to mining and mineral processing waste disposal facilities.

4. Definition of the Test Case and its Associated Assessment Context

Based on ISAM, the results of the questionnaire and the outcomes from (2) and (3), a clear definition of the test case and its assessment context will be developed. These definitions, which will (to the extent possible) be based on the opinions and expectations of the participants gathered through the questionnaire, will be presented at the June meeting for comments and adoption by the mining and milling working group participants. The practical steps to achieve this outcome are:

- 4.1 Reach a consensus on the adequacy of the test case to address all concerns of the working group participants. This can be done in the form of a discussion on the various elements of an assessment context (e.g. purpose, time frames, system characteristics and components, assessment approach, waste stream, etc.)
- 4.2 Determine if the available information on the reference case is sufficient to cover all the elements of the assessment context identified in (3.2). Determine how gaps will be filled for the definition of the test case;
- 4.3 Definition of the assessment context for the test case according to the process defined in (3.2).

5. Overall Project Plan and Future Activities

The purpose of this session is to discuss the overall project plan in the light of what has been achieved so far. The remaining steps in the ISAM methodology will be reviewed in order to develop a tentative long-term work plan that will be presented at the June meeting. It is anticipated that the plan will constitute the main topic in June, as it will be used to move forward the project and prepare for the second RCM. Actions that will be discussed include:

- 5.1. Identify the main tasks that have to be performed for the remaining steps of the ISAM methodology and discuss how the different tasks fit together in terms of timelines and available resources;
- 5.2. Establish a tentative agenda for the June meeting and list of deliverables for the second RCM in February 2004;
- 5.3. Discuss the approach that will be used to gather the information on international experience (e.g. a consolidated questionnaire covering all steps in ISAM or paper review);

- 5.4. Identify tasks and participants to perform the tasks before June meeting and discuss means for encouraging active involvement from the working group participants;

Japie van Blerk and Don Lush will animate the session. They will present a tentative work plan based on Activity 1 and on the preparatory work they will do in March, prior to the meeting. They will also present some practical ideas on how to address some of the points raised above with regard to the test case and the need for increasing the membership and promoting active participation.

6. Closing

(IAEA)

Participants: J. van Blerk (South Africa), Chairman

Ben Belfadhel (Canada)

A. Dierckx (Belgium)

D. Lush (Canada)

F. Pelz (Germany)

P. Metcalf (WSS, IAEA)

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B. Batandjieva, Scientific Secretary (WSS, IAEA)