



International Atomic Energy Agency

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

Regulatory Review Working Group Meeting

17-21 March 2003

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

AGENDA

1. Opening

(IAEA)

The opening session will introduce the objective of the meeting and expected outcomes. The main focus of the work during the meeting will be presented and agreed, i.e. development of guidance and procedure for regulatory review; definition of the structure and content of safety cases for near surface disposal facilities and where safety assessments and their outcomes should be incorporated; and confidence building related to the regulator. It will also address recent ASAM and IAEA waste safety related activities.

2. Review of approaches for regulatory review of safety assessment (Activity 1, Task 1)

2.1. Presentation of status report (e.g. UK, Spain, US)

2.2. Main outcomes and recommendations to be taken into account in the review procedure

The draft report summarising the review of approaches for regulatory review will be presented with a view to considering how conclusions and recommendations should be taken up in ASAM.

3. Development of guidance/procedure for regulatory review (Activity 1, Task 2)

3.1. Objective, scope and content

3.2. Review approach (vertical, horizontal)

3.3. Definition of technical criteria and their use in decision making on compliance with safety requirements

3.4. Use of the procedure (preliminary, detail review)

Development of the regulatory review procedure is expected to form the main part of the work to be carried out at the meeting. The overall approach for regulatory review of safety assessment will be discussed and the role and application of the review procedure will be agreed. The proposed content of a review procedure that has been discussed at the 1st RCM will be further developed considering the issues identified as part of the national and

international review (see point 3), as well as experience from national and international projects. It is expected that a draft procedure will be finalised for consideration at the June meeting. Consideration will be given to how this procedure could be applied to a volunteer test/safety assessment.

4. Safety case (Activity 2)

4.1. Definition of the main components of a safety case (Task 1)

4.2. Approaches for integration of safety assessment in safety case (Task 2)

A discussion paper outlining the components of a safety case for near surface disposal facility will be presented and discussed at the meeting with a view to developing consensus. The role of safety assessment and approaches for incorporation of the assessment and its outcome in the safety case will be addressed. A work plan for testing the application of the regulatory review procedure for review of safety case will be discussed. The need for modification of the review procedure developed under the Activity 1 for the purpose of the review of safety case will be also considered in the work plan. The draft discussion paper and the proposed work plan will be presented and discussed at the June 2003 meeting.

5. Confidence building (Activity 3)

5.1. Overview of international and national experience (ISAM, NEA, SKI, UK, USA, etc.) (Task 1)

5.2. Overall approach for confidence building and demonstration of compliance (using ISAM methodology):

- a. compliance with radiological requirements
- b. compliance with technical requirements (defence in depth, multiple safety functions, containment, isolation, etc.)

5.3. Quality Assurance

5.4. Communication and involvement of different stakeholders

Approaches and tools for confidence building in safety assessment and safety case for near surface disposal facilities will be discussed based on an overview of the work undertaken in this area by now by both national and international projects such as ISAM, NEA, etc. On the basis of the overview discussion will take place which will enable aspects of confidence building relevant to the regulatory process to be identified for further consideration on the project.

6. Joint ASAM working group meeting

6.1. Main topics

6.2. Tentative agenda

6.3. Work plan

Main ideas and suggestions for topics to be included in the agenda of the next meeting in June will be discussed. A tentative agenda and short-term work plan will be proposed for broader discussion at that meeting.

7. Closing

(IAEA)

Participants

Mr. B. Belfadhel (Canada), Chairman

Ms. A. Gozales (Spain)

Mr. V. Nys (Belgium)

Mr. G. Simeonov (Bulgaria)

P. Metcalf (WSS, IAEA)

B. Batandjieva, Scientific Secretary (WSS, IAEA)