PRELIMINARY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Jan-Marie POTIER

IAEA International Workshop on « Sustainable Management of Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources », Lisbon, Portugal, 11-15 Oct 2010

Objective of the workshop

“ To promote the safe and secure management of disused sealed radioactive sources, with special focus on sustainable long-term management ”

Workshop format

- Oral presentations

  followed by Q / A

- Roundtable discussion

- Working Group Sessions

Workshop Program

Six sessions w/ oral presentations + Q/A :

- **Role of International Instruments (Code of Conduct, Joint Convention)**
- **National experience with International Instruments**
- **International Initiatives and multinational cooperation in managing DSRS**
- **National strategies to manage DSRS**
- **IAEA recommendations to manage DSRS safely and securely**
- **Disposal of DSRS : the ultimate goal**

Workshop Program

Roundtable discussion and two Working Group Sessions :

- "Benefits from JC / CoC mechanisms"
- "Policy & Strategy Issues and Challenges faced by countries managing small quantities of RW (including DSRS)" (3 working groups on Policies, Strategies and Int. Cooperation);
- "Working towards improved & sustainable management of DSRS" (4 working groups on Orphan sources, Storage, National Plan for RWM and Disposal)

Workshop Attendance

- 69 participants

  from

- 40 countries

Findings & recommendations

Joint Convention and Code of Conduct

- Experiences with the use of int. Instruments positive in most countries

- Contribute to progress towards sustainable, safe and secure DSRS management

- Interaction between JC Parties and CoC Members should be encouraged and facilitated by IAEA

- Why not topical sessions at JC review meetings e.g. on DSRS management ?

Findings & recommendations

International Experiences and National Strategies (1/3)

- Long-term storage is not considered as sustainable and permanent disposal is essential
- Getting consensus for a national comprehensive "cradle-to-grave" strategy for RWM is a challenge in many countries
- Disposal of DSRS is an unresolved issue in most, if not all, countries
- Many countries with small inventories of DSRS expressed their interest in the borehole disposal technology

Findings & recommendations

International Experiences and National Strategies (2/3)

- Recycling of DSRS is a possible alternative and should be encouraged
- Dismantling of gauges requires specialized experts
- The lack of availability of type B-transport containers is a major problem, e.g. For source repatriation. How can the IAEA or the source suppliers' countries help addressing this issue?

Findings & recommendations

International Experiences and National Strategies (3/3)

- Regaining control of orphaned sources and preventing loss of disused sources should be considered as high priority in all countries
- A system of financial guarantees could possibly help minimizing the loss of DSRS

Findings & recommendations

IAEA recommendations for safe and secure management of DSRS

- **End point for DSRS should be taken into account through all DSRS management processes**
- **Recognition of need in integration of three aspects of DSRS management: safety, security and technology**
- **In each country, the regulator has a key role to play to ensure safe and secure management of DSRS**

Findings & recommendations

WG on "Policy & Strategy Issues and Challenges faced by countries managing small quantities of RW (including DSRS)" (1/3)

- Clear assignment of roles & responsibilities is needed
- Consider alternatives to DSRS disposal e.g. decay storage and recycling
- Centralized storage of DSRS should be encouraged
- Access to the Source Catalogue should be more open

Findings & recommendations

WG on "Policy & Strategy Issues and Challenges faced by countries managing small quantities of RW (including DSRS)" (2/3)

- IAEA to continue to provide its support through international forums, e.g. AFRA
- IAEA to provide clear and comprehensive guidance on source management integrating all aspects (safety, security, operations)
- Hands-on training and train-the-trainers programs should be encouraged
- Benefits from tools developed

Findings & recommendations

WG on "Policy & Strategy Issues and Challenges faced by countries managing small quantities of RW (including DSRS)" (3/3)

- **Countries clearly benefit from tools developed by the IAEA to strengthen the safe and secure management of DSRS, e.g. mobile hot cell, long-term storage, shield, standard designs for modular facilities such as storage, etc**
- **The IAEA should be encouraged to pursue the development of tools which can be shared by several countries and developed MSs should be encouraged to sponsor the future development work**

Findings & recommendations

DSRS disposal : ultimate goal

- Most DSRS can be safely disposed of in surface or near-surface disposal facilities depending on their half-lives
- The BOSS system (borehole disposal technology) appears to offer a sustainable safe and secure solution for long-term management of DSRS. It is particularly attractive for developing countries where the total DSRS inventory is small

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