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International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique

Международное агентство по атомной энергии

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National Liaison Officers /
National Coordinators

2019-05-07

Subject: TC Workshop on the Role of Waste Acceptance Criteria and Predisposal Operations, Tbilisi, Georgia, from 7 October 2019 to 11 October 2019

Dear National Liaison Officer / National Coordinator,

I am pleased to inform you that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is organizing the above event under the IAEA technical cooperation project RER9143, "Enhancing Radioactive Waste Management Capabilities".

The purpose of the event is to share information and to provide a forum for discussions on the practices and challenges associated with the development, implementation and application of waste acceptance criteria that specify the requirements for handling, processing, storage, transportation, and disposal of radioactive waste.

The attached Information Sheet provides further details, including technical and administrative aspects of the event. Selection of participants will be in accordance with IAEA procedures.

The IAEA will provide non-local participants with a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest the participant's residence and Tbilisi. Travel details will be agreed with the participants upon receipt of their official nomination. Participants will also receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses for the duration of the event in line with IAEA rules and procedures.

We would appreciate receiving your country's nominations by **15 July 2019** through the IAEA's InTouch+ platform (<https://Intouchplus.iaea.org>). Should this not be possible, applicants may download the Nomination Form for the course from the [IAEA's webpage](#). Completed forms must be endorsed by the relevant government authority and may be sent to the IAEA, by email to Official Mail - IAEA Mail address Official.Mail@iaea.org, with copy to Ms Katherina Deufrains K.L.Deufrains@iaea.org. Please be advised that late nominations or replacements of participants after the closing date for nominations will not be accepted.

We look forward to receiving your early response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'K. Deufrains' written in a cursive style.

Katherina Deufrains
Programme Management Officer
Division for Europe
Department of Technical Cooperation

Enclosure: Information Sheet



TC Workshop on Waste Acceptance Criteria and Predisposal Operations

Hosted by

The Government of Georgia

through the

LEPL Agency of Nuclear and Radiation Safety

Tbilisi, Georgia

7 to 11 October 2019

Ref. No.: ME-RER9143-1900888

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to discuss the practices and challenges associated with the development, implementation and application of waste acceptance criteria that specify the requirements for handling, processing, storage, transportation, and disposal of radioactive waste.

Working Language(s)

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after 15 July 2019 will not be considered.

Project Background

The objective of radioactive waste management is to deal with radioactive waste in a manner that protects human health and the environment, now and in the future, and without imposing undue burdens on future generations. Radioactive waste management covers all administrative and operational activities involved in the generation of the various kinds of waste and in its handling, treatment, conditioning, transportation, storage, and disposal. The management of waste – from “cradle to grave” – is a step-wise process involving various activities, facilities and organizational arrangements.

In the management of radioactive waste, a waste package (waste form plus container) is often utilized by design as one of the engineered components for providing safety functions, not least, containment. It also represents a principal unit of waste and is used as a reference for controlling information, record keeping, and making decisions with due consideration of the interdependencies, impacts and information needs at all the various management stages.

Often, the various steps are performed by different organizations and this means that, as the waste passes from one organization to the next, so too does the responsibility for safety and the associated liability and risk. Such multi-party arrangements demand careful attention to interfaces and in the case of radioactive waste management, to the development and documentation of Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) as the principal means of ensuring clear interfaces. WAC aim to ensure that activities performed in one waste management step (e.g. waste conditioning) do not preclude any anticipated and necessary activities in subsequent waste management steps, such as waste storage or disposal. Waste management facilities (e.g. for processing, storage and disposal) operate under distinct and strictly controlled licence conditions. It is essential that when waste is transferred from one facility to the other, it meets the licence conditions of the receiving facility.

Given that disposal is considered the final step (or endpoint) of safe waste management, developing and implementing requirements for the safe disposal of waste packages is an unavoidable prerequisite for the entire radioactive waste management process. Thus, Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) are most commonly defined as quantitative and qualitative technical and administrative requirements that are to be met by waste packages before they can be accepted at a storage or a disposal facility. However, it should be noted that WAC are typically used for all waste management steps. These criteria thus serve as a benchmark for repository operators who accept radioactive waste for disposal, or storage operators who accept waste for storage, or for processors who accept waste for processing (i.e. pre-treatment, treatment or conditioning). Using WAC, the acceptability of waste can be assessed in relation to the specific conditions of a given waste management step and the licence conditions of the involved facility. Through the lifecycle of radioactive waste there is a need for a careful and methodical development of well defined, clear, practicable and verifiable waste acceptance criteria (WAC) via full dialogue and consultation with all relevant stakeholders, and with an understanding of the implications the specification of acceptance criteria may have on waste processing and waste form development to meet the criteria. It is essential that waste processing and waste storage facilities develop their WAC's as far as practicable taking into account the requirement for waste disposability.

Expected Outputs

The expected outputs are from presentations aiming to share the international experiences and best practices achieved on usage of WAC through radioactive waste lifecycle, with special focus on the pre-disposal activities and facilities. The Workshop will contribute to strengthening of knowledge of Member State representatives in Radioactive Waste Management practices, and to an enhanced understanding of the process of WAC development, implementation and application.

Scope and Nature

This five-day Workshop will include overview lectures on practices and trends in development, implementation and application of waste acceptance criteria, covering three major topics:

1. Role of waste acceptance criteria in radioactive waste management (RWM). The focus is on the correlation of WAC with the overall waste management system, pointing out the requirements to develop generic/final WAC.
2. Relationship between disposal WAC and other waste management facilities. Considerations from preliminary to final waste acceptance criteria, in both cases: waste acceptance criteria for the repository exist/are drafted, and waste acceptance criteria have not yet been defined.
3. WAC development and application in pre-disposal management of radioactive waste, covering stakeholder's responsibility issues, content and structure of WAC, waste qualification process, methods for conformity checking, departures and non-conformities, examples of acceptance requirements for predisposal facilities or activities, others.

The Workshop will also include participant's presentations outlining Member State experience and issues aligned to emphasise the above-mentioned topics.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The event is targeted at waste generators, operators of radioactive waste processing and storage facilities in Member States who are responsible for the management of low and intermediate level waste, waste packages, and sealed radioactive sources, and who are directly involved in WAC development, implementation, application and checking compliance against the acceptance requirements for predisposal facilities or activities.

The participants should prepare presentations outlining their experience and issues related to development and use of WAC.

Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the IAEA TALEO page (<https://iaea.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobsearch.fnl>) and complete the Candidate Profile.
2. Be registered on the Nucleus page of the IAEA (<https://nucleus.iaea.org/>).
3. Through Nucleus, access the InTouch+ platform where the Profile is completed (My Profile tab) (<https://nucleus.iaea.org/Pages/InTouchPlus.aspx>).
NOTE: The email used for TALEO and Nucleus must be the same. If not, the candidate's profile will not appear complete.
4. On the InTouch + platform, under the 'My InTouch +' tab, the candidate needs to:
 - a. select the institute / organization that he/she works at / represents ('My Institute' section);
 - b. click on the link called '**Refresh Personal History Form**' to update the system, *otherwise the nominations submitted will have these fields empty and it will not be possible to evaluate them during the selection of candidates* ('IAEA Recruitment Platform' section).

NOTE: Once the above steps are finalized, the candidate's profile will appear as completed and he/she can apply for Technical Cooperation events.

5. In the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>), in the 'Applications' tab, search by the event number provided in the invitation.

The help for each step is located at the top of the page. For additional help on how to register, create a profile and apply for an event, please refer to the online guide and training videos available under the following links: [how-to guide](#) and [training videos](#). Any issues or queries related to the new system can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org or TC-AIPS-PL4.Contact-point@iaea.org.

Should this not be possible, applicants may download the Nomination Form for the ME from the IAEA website <https://www.iaea.org/services/technical-cooperation-programme/how-to-participate>.

Applications should contain sufficient information to establish that the nominees have the required qualifications. Please note that the information regarding LANGUAGE SKILLS, EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE is exported from TALEO. If an applicant's profile in TALEO is not updated, the information in INTOUCH+ for these sections appears as empty and the candidates cannot be evaluated. Completed applications need to be endorsed by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office and submitted through the established official channels.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency American Express, or a travel grant, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

Note for female participants

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

IAEA Contacts

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