

# Nuclear Energy and Civil Society

## RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

### Forum on Stakeholder Confidence

The RWMC Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) documented a "Link between Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) and Stakeholder Confidence: Use of Analogues for Confidence Building". At a topical session held in June, case studies were presented from Finland, Spain and Switzerland and from joint international endeavours (EC projects NANet and PAMINA). The presentations gave an overview of how natural analogues have been used by technologists, implementers and regulators in examining the safety case and in communicating with the public about safety. Both natural and anthropogenic (archaeological and contemporaneous) analogues were considered. Significant input was received from members of the RWMC Integration Group for the Safety Case (IGSC). The summary overview, available online in the proceedings [NEA/RWM/FSC(2008)3], offers definitions, recommendations and some novel perspectives in this area.

In another activity, the FSC addressed Tools and Processes for Involving Stakeholders: Law and Policy Issues in Stakeholder Involvement. Stakeholder involvement in environmental decision making is not a luxury, but law. The Aarhus Convention, for example, provides for stakeholder access to information, participation and justice, and there have been successful legal challenges in the nuclear domain on this basis. The FSC reviewed how its member organisations not only conduct formally required consultation, but also foster deeper involvement of stakeholder partners. Discussion focused notably on definitions of the "affected or concerned public", who must be involved in planning and decisions.

The FSC has long been sensitive to the social values that underlie differing stakeholder perceptions and positions. A new cross-cutting activity enhances the awareness of the symbolic weight of some of the key concepts for stakeholders that are dealt with in waste management, such as safety, landscape and community. The FSC addressed these issues with presentations outlining the concepts, proposing related methods for identifying and responding to the symbolic and value-laden aspect underlying decisions, and analysing case examples. Following an FSC session and small group discussion, the group began preparing a review paper which will present the messages heard plus the lessons to be learnt from both FSC

and non-FSC literature. It was agreed that new cases may be presented by FSC members in future.

## RADIOLOGICAL PROTECTION

The trend in radiological protection towards judgemental optimisation of protection brings with it an increasing importance of the participation of civil society in decision-making processes. The crucial role of stakeholder involvement in the NEA Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) programme of work over the years has kept the committee actively engaged in this work. In 2008, the CRPPH continued its focus on the exchange of specific, concrete experience in stakeholder engagement and in this context decided to hold a workshop in 2010 on stakeholder engagement in post-accident consequence management. This work will be supported by an assessment of the results of the INEX-3 international nuclear emergency exercise and a study of the CRPPH Expert Group on Stakeholder Involvement and Organisational Structures (EGSIOS). In addition, the EGSIOS will specifically survey emergency response organisations with regard to stakeholder involvement impacts on their processes and structures for input to the workshop. The INEX-4 exercise will also address the involvement of stakeholders in post-accident consequence management to follow up on issues identified during the INEX-3 exercise.

## NUCLEAR REGULATORS AND THE PUBLIC

Information officers from regulatory bodies meet once a year under the auspices of the Working Group on Public Communication of Nuclear Regulatory Organisations (WGPC) to exchange information and experience related to communication with the public and to carry out related studies. The main activity in 2008 consisted in issuing a report on the main outcomes of the three workshops held from 2000 to 2007 and in establishing a programme of work for the coming years. The report, entitled "Achievements and Challenges in Nuclear Regulatory Communication with the Public" is available on the NEA website under reference NEA/CNRA/R(2008)4. Future reports from the WGPC will address: transparency in regulatory activities, local public information, the use of public perception surveys and communication during emergency situations.



T. Foulon, CEA, France

Volcanic glass.



JNES, Japan

NEA workshop on public communication.