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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

26-Feb-2013

English - Or. English

**NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**MANDATES OF THE RWMC REGULATORS' FORUM AND THE RWMC WORKING PARTIES
FSC, IGSC AND WPDD**

This document supports Item 9 of the RWMC-46 provisional agenda. Meeting is to be held 13-14 March 2013 at the OECD Conference Centre.

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JT03335271

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By document NEA/RWM(2011)1, the RWMC extended the mandates of its Working Parties and the RWMC-RF, in written procedure, on 17 January 2011, as follows:

1. RWMC Regulators' Forum (RWMC-RF): until 31 December 2013.
2. Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC): until 31 December 2013;
3. Integration Group for the Safety Case (IGSC): until 31 December 2013;
4. Working Party on Decommissioning and Dismantling (WPDD): until 31 December 2013;

For the reader's convenience, the current mandate of the RWMC is reproduced in the annex of this document.

It is proposed to extend until 31 December 2016 the mandates of the RWMC-RF, the FSC, the IGSC and the WPDD.

Pending approval at the 46th session of the RWMC on 13-14 March 2013, this document NEA/RWM(2013)2/PROV now defines the current mandates of these bodies.

RWMC REGULATORS' FORUM (RWMC-RF)

Duration: Proposed extension to 31 December 2016

MANDATE

The Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) of the NEA is a forum of senior representatives from waste management agencies, regulatory authorities, policy-making bodies, research and development institutions with responsibilities in waste management, and other government-nominated specialists. The wide range of expertise it musters amongst the NEA Members countries makes the RWMC a uniquely placed international forum to address issues in radioactive waste management.

Regulatory aspects have been a customary item in the working programme of the RWMC and its advisory groups, but the need has arisen for increased attention on regulatory aspects at a strategic level. The recognition of this need led to the decision to more formally establish an independent forum of RWMC regulators with the aim (i) to enhance collaboration amongst regulators in the area of radioactive waste management (RWM), (ii) to enhance the visibility of regulatory and licensing issues in RWM, (iii) to enhance working contacts between regulators in the field of RWM with regulators in other areas and, in particular, with other NEA committees pursuant to the NEA restructuring document (NEA/NE(2000)11/REV1) and, ultimately, (iv) to enhance the effectiveness of the RWMC and the NEA in addressing issues at the interface of regulatory, technical, and policy aspects in RWM.

The mandate of the RWMC Regulators' Forum is thus as follows.

The RWMC Regulators' Forum:

- Facilitates multilateral communication and information exchange among RWMC regulators and promotes a frank interchange in open dialogue among peers;
- Defines and addresses future regulatory challenges and issues in the area of waste management and disposal; decommissioning and dismantling are also relevant issues;
- Promotes discussion and exchange with other groups involved with regulations both within the NEA, i.e., the CNRA and the CRPPH committees, and outside the NEA, such as the IAEA, the EC, and the ICRP. Emphasis is on two-way exchange to benefit from related experience;
- Takes initiative within the RWMC in the area of regulation and licensing. This includes promoting discussions within the RWMC, proposing specific products to be developed, recommending relevant initiatives by other RWMC groups, and preparing concerted initiatives by the RWMC and other NEA committees.

Participation in the RWMC Regulators' Forum:

- Membership is reserved to RWMC members belonging to regulatory bodies.

The mode of operation is as follows:

- Communication takes place through:

- i) a one-day meeting just prior to RWMC plenary sessions
 - ii) an electronic bulletin board or web site reserved to the Forum
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- Members work in small groups to complete a programme of work that is determined in co-ordination with the RWMC Bureau;
 - The regulators' group organises regular discussions at the plenary meetings of the RWMC;
 - Reciprocal exchange of information regularly takes place with other regulators' groups, particularly the CNRA.

By the current document, and pending its approval at the 46th session of the RWMC on 13-14 March 2013, this mandate is further extended until 31 December 2016.

**RWMC WORKING PARTY:
FORUM ON STAKEHOLDER CONFIDENCE (FSC)**

Duration: Proposed extension to 31 December 2016

MANDATE

Preamble

Because of changes in society's decision-making environment and heightened public sensitivity to all matters connected with environmental protection, nuclear power, radioactivity, and especially radioactive waste, any decision regarding whether, when and how to implement waste management solutions will typically require thorough public examination and the involvement of many relevant stakeholders. The latter include waste management agencies, safety authorities, local communities, elected representatives, and technical intermediaries between the general public and decision makers. The involvement of stakeholders will become increasingly important as countries develop their strategic choices for long-term radioactive waste management, and/or move towards siting and developing final repositories. Since the decision-making process and avenues for stakeholders' involvement differ from country to country, it is important to identify similarities and differences, understand the key concerns of various stakeholders, and develop means to interact effectively with the different audiences.

Description and membership

The Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) is the RWMC main support group to keep under review the world-wide experience of its participating organizations in outreach programmes and to identify and examine stakeholder confidence issues.

The FSC is a discipline-oriented working party of the RWMC and is composed of representatives of national organizations with responsibility, overview and experience in the field of building stakeholders' confidence. Participation of RWMC members in the FSC is considered a good means to enhance the co-ordination of the work of the FSC with that of the RWMC and other working parties.

Remit

1. To define, oversee and carry out work programme activities in the strategic area of public perception and stakeholders' confidence as assigned by the RWMC.
2. To advise the RWMC on major and emerging issues in the area of public perception and stakeholder confidence related to waste management.
3. To act as a forum to share experience in achieving stakeholder confidence and, in particular, in how to obtain the trust of local communities, and their representatives and intermediaries with the technical decision makers. Public input to decision making, while maintaining a workable decision-making

process, needs to be more fully explored, especially in relation to the role of the regulator.

4. To analyse today's processes for embedding waste management programmes into a socio-political decision-making context.
5. To identify opportunities for harmonised views of Member countries, regarding:
 - Successful and unsuccessful experiences in interacting with stakeholders (e.g., compiling and reviewing factual information and experiences related both to outreach programs and to public inquiries, drawing out and examining generic elements that are required to ensure and maintain credibility of waste management).
 - Technical concerns of stakeholders.
 - Effective means of communicating with technical and non-technical audiences.

Mode of operation

The FSC shall establish: (i) a highly task-oriented working programme to identify resources and schedules for the issues at hand; (ii) expert groups and/or task groups and workshops can be envisaged, as appropriate; (iii) means to review the working programme and the effectiveness of the FSC.

Communication within the group takes place through at least a yearly plenary meeting. The plenary meeting will be devoted to:

- Exchange of information on recent development in the Member countries;
- In-depth discussions of current developments and of topical issues, where specialists from outside the FSC can also be invited;
- The identification of main lessons to be reported to the RWMC, including organising topical sessions at the RWMC plenary meetings; and
- The discussion and co-ordination of working programme.

Duration of the mandate

The FSC was set into force at the 33rd RWMC on 9-10 March 2000. Its mandate was extended in March 2003 until the first session of RWMC in 2005. Extension was then accorded for an additional three years extendible to five; this option was put into effect until 31 December 2010. Further extension was accorded until 31 December 2013 by [NEA/RWM\(2011\)1](#).

By the current document, and pending its approval at the 46th session of the RWMC on 13-14 March 2013, this mandate is further extended until 31 December 2016.

**RWMC WORKING PARTY:
THE INTEGRATION GROUP FOR THE SAFETY CASE (IGSC)**

Duration: Proposed extension to 31 December 2016

MANDATE

Preamble

The area of repository development for long-lived waste is a strategic area in the work programme of the NEA Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC). The RWMC provides an important forum to share information and experience on repository development and implementation; RWMC and its working groups collectively address many facets of repository development, including strategic and political aspects, legislative frameworks, regulatory approaches, societal acceptance and stakeholder involvement, and the scientific and technical basis for understanding and supporting safety of deep repositories. The exploration and substantiation of the scientific and technical aspects of repository development, and of safety cases to build and demonstrate confidence in repository safety, is led by the Integration Group for the Safety Case (IGSC), a working party of the RWMC.

Membership

The Integration Group for the Safety Case (IGSC) is a discipline-oriented working party of the RWMC. The IGSC is composed of senior technical specialists knowledgeable in the development or review of safety case for deep geological disposal projects within waste management agencies, regulatory authorities, and research and development institutions. The level of seniority of the IGSC members is such that they can mobilise all relevant specialists in their own organization and, in principle, can make resources available to the IGSC initiatives.

The participation of RWMC members in the IGSC is considered a good means to enhance the co-ordination of the work of the IGSC with that of the RWMC and its other working parties.

Mission

The IGSC provides advice to the RWMC on major and emerging issues in order to facilitate the elaboration of waste management strategies at national and international levels and to enable the management of radioactive waste and materials to benefit from progress of scientific and technical knowledge.

The IGSC is the main technical advisory body to the RWMC regarding methodologies and strategies for characterising and evaluating disposal sites and for repository design as well as for developing and documenting safety assessment and safety cases for geological repositories to accommodate various waste types. In principle, the scope of its activities is the whole range of elements to be addressed in a safety case.¹ In particular, the IGSC:

1. IGSC Foundation and Planning Document, [NEA/RWM/IGSC\(2003\)8](#).

- Advises the RWMC on major and emerging issues in the strategic areas of the process of repository development and of their related system analyses and technological advances;
- Promotes the exchange of information on such issues;
- Strives to achieve shared approaches and tools, where appropriate.

The IGSC was established in recognition of the need to foster full integration of all aspects of the safety case.

The IGSC and its predecessor groups (on site evaluation and performance assessment) have been instrumental in developing the modern concept of a safety case and in outlining its main elements and the factors on which confidence can be built. Projects of the IGSC provide important fora to co-ordinate international research and development (R&D) programmes; to share experience and to develop consensus on the state of the art; and to develop specific technical tools. Based on its pool of technical experts, the IGSC substantially supports the RWMC in conducting timely and authoritative peer reviews of programmes in the area of assessment of long-term safety.

The IGSC mandate covers not only site characterisation, design development and safety assessment, but also addresses other elements of the safety case. The activities and priorities of IGSC fall into the following main themes regarding safety cases::

- **What do we know?** (the scientific basis for engineering design, process understanding and site understanding)
- **How do we use what we know to demonstrate safety?** (assessment strategy and tools)
- **How do we achieve safety in practice?** (design, implementation, technology and feasibility)
- **How do we synthesise information and build confidence in safety?** (integration, organisational issues and management)

Continued progress is needed in the strategic area of repository development, and especially in the area of developing technical safety cases that command an adequate level of confidence and can usefully support decision making in the step-wise process leading, eventually, to repository licensing, construction, operation and closure. Key to this progress will be the continued interaction in IGSC among the representatives of safety authorities, waste management agencies, and R&D institutions.

Activities of the IGSC have traditionally focused on long-term safety. However, as some national programmes approach licensing, a higher degree of integration is required, not only for all elements related to long-term safety, but also of engineering and operational considerations. That is, operational constraints may affect decisions on, for example, repository layout or design of engineered components—which then must be incorporated in a safety case. It is, therefore, recognised that to achieve confidence in (and acceptance of) a repository, it must be shown not only that the system will be safe over the long term, but also that it can be built and operated safely.

In undertaking its mission the IGSC will:

1. Define, oversee and carry out a work programme of technical activities related to the development, evaluation, and communication of safety cases as a basis for confidence and decision-making within the development of repositories for long-lived radioactive waste. Emphasis is on the identification and pursuit of issues and on the development of technical tools for which there is pan-national interest, and on publishing the group's findings where this is found appropriate.
2. Facilitate multilateral communication and information exchange among IGSC members, and promote a frank interchange in an open dialogue among peers. In particular, the IGSC provides a

neutral forum for dialogue with a view to identify emerging issues and trends, review the state of the art, and promote further understanding and common views, including the development of tools.

3. Promote the exchange of information and strive for common understanding, shared approaches and methods for the development and documentation of repository technical safety cases. Emphasis is on strategic and methodological issues.

Mode of Operation

The working programme and modus operandi of IGSC shall emphasise the pooling of resources, the sharing and synthesis of understanding and experience, and the communication of findings to varied audiences.

Communication within the group takes place through at least a yearly plenary meeting supported by status reports on IGSC activities and key issues (normally twice a year). Extended use of electronic technologies *e.g.* a dedicated IGSC working area of the NEA web site, further facilitates communication between plenary meetings. The plenary meeting will be mainly devoted to:

- exchange of information on recent development in the Member countries and other international organisations (*e.g.* EC, IAEA, ICRP)
- in-depth discussions of current safety cases and of topical issues, where specialists from outside the IGSC can also be invited;
- discussion of the reports of IGSC expert groups and projects;
- the identification and review of relevant topics of work within the general objectives of the group, taking into account guidance given from the RWMC;
- the presentation by outside groups on topics of interest for discussion with a view to future collaboration (*e.g.* FSC or other NEA committees);
- the discussion and co-ordination of the working programme, and
- overall decision-making regarding on-going and future activities by the group.

To ensure an efficient conduct of the work programme, the IGSC will:

- install highly task-oriented expert groups to further define key issues, identify necessary resources², and propose work mechanisms, products, and schedules;
- organise workshops, desk studies, or other products and fora for information gathering and exchange;
- establish means to review the working programme, the effectiveness of the IGSC and ensure the high quality of product delivered.
- make the results and conclusions achieved by itself or by its expert groups publicly available using printed and/or electronic publications.
- establish a core group that conducts interim work between plenary meetings to prepare information, options, and recommendations to support discussions, reviews, and decisions by the full IGSC; the core group generally comprise 5-8 IGSC members who are experienced and

2. External funding might be necessary, *e.g.* to engage expert consultants.

committed in IGSC activities and who represent a range of programmes and organisations in terms of development phases, geological setting, geographic areas, etc. in order that a breadth of interests are considered.

Knowledge management and knowledge transfer are a major objective of IGSC operations. This implies information exchange among IGSC members as well as an effort to increase the visibility of IGSC activities and results to a larger audience of specialists. This objective is addressed by planning, from the beginning stages of projects, the final products to be developed and the associated modes for agreeing and disseminating the important outcomes and key messages. The IGSC also emphasises coordination with RWMC and its other working parties.

Decision making in national programmes towards developing and implementing waste disposal systems must take account of myriad aspects---technical, legal, regulatory, societal, etc.---in order to identify sustainable solutions, build confidence in their safety, and achieve societal consensus on their implementation. In order to best serve its members, the IGSC must therefore stay aware of how these aspects converge in safety cases and in decision-making; to do so, IGSC shares information with RWMC and its other working parties in order to identify issues of mutual interest and to plan and coordinate joint or complementary activities, as appropriate.

The mode of operation of the IGSC is discussed and refined at the plenary meetings of the group.

Duration of the mandate

The mandate was approved at the October 2010 meeting of the IGSC. It updates the previous mandate, [NEA/RWM/IGSC\(2008\)5](#), taking into account recent IGSC activities and trends in safety case development.

By the current document, and pending its approval at the 46th session of the RWMC on 13-14 March 2013, this mandate is further extended until 31 December 2016.

RWMC WORKING PARTY ON DECOMMISSIONING AND DISMANTLING (WPDD)

Duration: Proposed extension to 31 December 2016

MANDATE

Preamble

Once a facility ceases its useful life, decommissioning begins with a view to release from the nuclear regulatory regime both the facility and the sites on which it rests. OECD Member countries will be increasingly faced with the need for decommissioning of phased-out nuclear facilities and appropriate provisions will have to be made in terms of policy, financing, and management of all aspects of the decommissioning project. Depending on the strategy chosen, decommissioning may take a few years or several decades, which entails specific problems in decision making and also has an impact on such broad issues as the sustainability of nuclear power and preserving the well-being of local communities.

The NEA Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) has long recognized the importance of decommissioning in its work programme. Nowadays, as decommissioning technology has become mature, and decommissioning is getting increased visibility, the broader societal implications have come to the fore, which requires a dialogue amongst all institutional and non-institutional actors. The RWMC has traditionally provided a neutral ground for such broader debates.

Description and membership

The RWMC has installed the Working Party on the Management of Decommissioning (WPDD) as its main support for keeping under review the policy, strategic, and regulatory aspects of decommissioning of phased-out nuclear installations in view of the ultimate release of both the relevant facilities and the site from the regulatory regime.

The WPDD is constituted of senior representatives of national organisations who, in their capacity as regulators, implementers, R&D experts or policy makers, have responsibility, broad overview and experience in the field of decommissioning.

The decommissioning experience of the NEA Co-operative Programme on Decommissioning (“Agreement for the Exchange of Scientific and Technical Information on Nuclear Installation Decommissioning Projects”, CPD) is represented by the membership of CPD member countries in the WPDD.

Cross-representation with the other NEA Standing Technical Committees is sought. Participation from civil society organisations and others at specific meetings shall be considered on a case by case basis.

Remit

The remit of the WPDD is as follows:

1. To define, oversee and carry out work programme activities as assigned by the RWMC, in order to increase the outreach and efficiency of both the RWMC and NEA in the field of Decommissioning as described in the NEA Strategic Plan 2011-2016.
2. To identify and analyse main issues regarding policies and strategies for the Decommissioning of phased-out nuclear facilities, including funding related issues, and the attending issues of recycling, reuse and/or disposal of materials and the release of buildings and sites.
3. To observe, on a world-wide level, the development of the state of the art of management and technique of decommissioning projects, and make it better available to other NEA bodies engaged in this crosscutting field, in particular building on the experience from the technical information exchange performed within the CPD.
4. To facilitate multilateral communication and information exchange among the WPDD members, and to promote an open dialogue among peers, in particular the regulatory authorities, R&D institutions and the decommissioning industry both private and public.
5. To keep the WPDD members and the RWMC aware of progress and activities in other international fora and their implications, and help the RWMC participate in international initiatives. Co-ordination with EC and IAEA initiatives is important.
6. In close co-operation with the FSC examine and further develop the link between decommissioning, decision-making and public confidence and acceptance, keeping in mind the long time scales for planning and carrying out decommissioning projects.
7. To set up, manage, and make broadly available a database of information on decommissioning in NEA Member countries.
8. To be of service to the other NEA committees with the goal to strengthen overall visibility of decommissioning as a NEA crosscutting activity.

Mode of operation

Communication within the group takes place through at least a yearly plenary meeting. The plenary meeting will be devoted to:

- Exchange of information on recent developments in the Member countries.
- In-depth discussions of current developments and of topical issues, where specialists from outside the WPDD can also be invited. The presentation of case studies will be used as a vehicle to focus discussions.
- The discussion and co-ordination of the working programme, which will include the update of the decommissioning information database.
- The identification of main lessons to be reported to the RWMC and to the NEA annual coordination meeting of the standing technical committees' chairmen.
- The preparation of initiatives involving also other NEA committees and regarding topical issues in decommissioning, e.g., international symposia.

The working programme and modus operandi should promote:

- the pooling of resources;

- the sharing and synthesis of understanding and experience; and
- the communication of findings to varied audiences.

In order to take full benefit of the experience matured in NEA Member countries, and in order to bring the expertise of the WPDD members directly to individual countries, meetings may be held in specific national contexts, hosted by either a Member country or member organisation.

The NEA Secretariat will assist the working party in carrying out its activities and liaise with other international bodies and activities.

Duration of the mandate

The WPDD was set into force in May 2001. Its mandate was reviewed at the first session of RWMC 2003, taking into account development and progress in this specific field, as well as organisational developments in the NEA regarding the administration of crosscutting issues, and was extended until October 2005. It was reviewed again in March 2005 ([NEA/RWM(2005)16] Para. 7(e)) at which time it was decided to approve the extension of the mandate for three years with a possible extension to five, i.e. up until October 2010. The WPDD extended its mandate until 31 December 2010 thus bringing it into line with the NEA strategic plan for 2005-2009. By document NEA/RWM(2011)1, this mandate was further extended until 31 December 2013.

By the current document, and pending its approval at the 46th session of the RWMC on 13-14 March 2013, this mandate is further extended until 31 December 2016.

ANNEX

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (RWMC)

Date of creation: 23 June 1975

Duration: 31 December 2016

MANDATE

“The NEA has an acknowledged role in developing a global strategy for considering aspects of sustainability concerning the use of nuclear power and nuclear materials. According to the NEA Strategic Plan for 2011-2016, the Agency’s general objective in the field of radioactive waste management is to assist member countries in the development of safe, sustainable and broadly acceptable strategies for the long-term management of all types of radioactive waste, particularly long-lived waste, and spent fuel considered as waste. In this context, the mandate of the Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) shall be:

- To provide a forum of senior representatives from national agencies, regulatory authorities, policy-making bodies, research and development institutions with responsibilities in the management of radioactive waste and materials, as well as other government-nominated specialists, for the exchange of information and experience on radioactive waste management policies and practices in NEA member countries, and for advancing the state of the art on technical and societal aspects in this area.
- To contribute to the dissemination of information in this field through the organisation of specialist meetings and the publication of reports and consensus statements summarising the results of joint activities for the benefit of the international scientific community, competent authorities at national level and other audiences generally interested in the subject.
- To develop a common understanding of the basic issues involved, and to promote the adoption of common philosophies of approach based on the discussion of the various possible strategies, by keeping under review the state of the art in managing radioactive waste and material at the technical, scientific, regulatory and societal levels, and in public acceptance matters.
- To offer, upon request, a framework for the conduct of international peer reviews of national activities in the field, such as R&D programmes, safety assessments and specific regulations.
- To promote co-operative efforts such as the setting-up of joint R&D projects or the development of databases, and to promote initiatives to maintain relevant competencies and knowledge.

For developing its work programme, and in its *modus operandi*, the RWMC will rely on discipline-oriented working parties in the areas of disposal, decommissioning and associated societal issues. RWMC members delegated from regulatory authorities will also meet in the RWMC Regulators' Forum (RWMC-RF) to exchange specific information on issues of specific regulatory significance. The RWMC-RF will maintain appropriate links with the CNRA.

In the fulfilment of its responsibilities, the RWMC will interact with relevant NEA committees, OECD directorates, scientific bodies and international organisations.”