



Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)

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Foreword from the Nuclear Energy Agency



The nuclear sector needs to build and maintain trust if nuclear power is to be included in the energy mix of the future – and communicating risk on a daily basis is essential to gaining that trust. Risk communication is a multidisciplinary activity that is socially and technically complex and resource-intensive. Communicating risk is not a one-step task but a dynamic process that should evolve steadily as society and stakeholder expectations change. The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) has long been dedicated to making progress in creating and maintaining trust in the context of encouraging stakeholder engagement through meaningful dialogue on the various risks of radiation exposure and how these can be mitigated.

NEA member countries have recognised that by establishing high-level policies that deepen understanding of the relationship between the nuclear sector and society, appropriate mechanisms may be developed to foster communication, public engagement and trust building. These topics are the focus of the NEA High-Level Group on Stakeholder Engagement, Trust, Transparency and Social Science (HLG-SET), which is making use of international best practices and lessons learnt to develop high-level guidance on how to increase communication, engagement and trust building between the nuclear sector and the public. In addition, the NEA Green Booklet *Characteristics of a Trusted Nuclear Regulator*, published in 2024, provides practical guidance on organisational characteristics, attributes and ways of thinking that can help a nuclear regulator build and maintain trust with interested stakeholders, including the public.

Such initiatives built on earlier discussions during the [NEA Stakeholder Involvement Workshop](#), held in 2017, which highlighted the symbiotic relationship between communication and trust. In 2019, the [second NEA Stakeholder Involvement on Risk Communication](#) was held in Paris in collaboration with all NEA Standing Technical Committees. The primary goal of the workshop was to better understand risk communication and the application of available tools to foster dialogue that would lead to a shared understanding of radiological risks. Overall, the workshop discussions confirmed the general assumption that engaging in effective risk communication to address the concerns of stakeholders under a range of prevailing circumstances can be a complex undertaking. In response to this workshop, the Working Group on Public Communication of Nuclear Regulatory Organisations (WGPC) under the Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities (CNRA) set up a task group to create a [Risk Communication Training Course \(RCTC\)](#), which is a first of its kind for the nuclear industry.

In December 2022, the NEA hosted its inaugural Risk Communication Training Course in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, targeting communication and outreach officers, technical staff, as well as inspectors from regulatory bodies, technical support organisations and agencies involved in radioactive waste management. The course focused on enhancing daily risk communication, emphasising the importance of addressing uncertainty and striking the right balance between cultural sensitivity and messaging. The success of the course underscored the need for a regular training event that focuses on the vital role of effective risk communication in the evolving landscape of decision making.

The second Risk Communication Training Course, organised by the NEA and hosted by the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) of the United Arab Emirates, was held in Abu Dhabi in November 2023. The event brought together participants from more than 20 countries, including communication and technical experts from a variety of organisations.

This edition introduced new topics, such as communication through social media, managing uncertainty, stakeholder engagement, and current trends and issues related to artificial intelligence (AI), enhancing discussions and knowledge sharing.

Looking ahead, the NEA aims for this regularly held training course to significantly contribute to a better understanding of the complexities of risk communication in varying situations, with consideration of how context may affect the mechanisms of communication. This year's course, featuring diverse lecturers and participants, will address current communication challenges, such as mainstream use of social media and its impacts on information transfer, risk perception and trust, and the application of new technologies in the transmission of mis- or dis-information. The course material will be adaptable to evolving needs, ensuring alignment with the requirements of NEA member countries and participants in the domain of risk communication. The NEA is pleased to partner with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission in the delivery of this year's Risk Communication Training Course in Ottawa, Canada.

William D. Magwood, IV
Director-General, Nuclear Energy Agency

Foreword from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission



The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is delighted to host the third edition of the Nuclear Energy Agency's Risk Communication Training Course. It is our pleasure to welcome participants and lecturers from around the world to Ottawa for a program that will enhance risk communication skills in a way that is tailored to those of us in the nuclear sector.

With more than seven decades of experience as Canada's independent nuclear regulator, the CNSC maintains an unwavering commitment to regulatory excellence. We are well respected and have earned a global reputation for regulatory excellence, collaboration and sharing of best practices. Our priorities include strengthening this excellence through a focus on building trust and demonstrating that we are a modern and agile regulator.

Our diverse audiences require transparent communication and active engagement, which in turn improve our ability to manage risk and promote safety. Staff from across our organization engage with communities and stakeholders nationwide. They participate in community events, Commission proceedings, and provide educational presentations to raise awareness and to demonstrate our openness and commitment to transparency.

We also require major nuclear licensees to develop and maintain a public information and disclosure program as a condition for obtaining a licence, renewing it, and for continuing compliance verification purposes. Through requirements for information and disclosure, the CNSC ensures that licensed activities relevant to safety, health and the security of people and the environment, along with all other potential nuclear facility lifecycle issues, are effectively communicated to the public.

With the advent of small modular reactors and advanced reactor technologies, we need to further strengthen trust by reaching new audiences and demonstrating our commitment to the highest safety standards. To effectively communicate our dedication to safety, we prioritize thoughtful, effective and tailored engagement and communications approaches. This is intended to underscore our commitment to overseeing and ensuring the safe and responsible use of nuclear energy.

Safety is our top priority at the CNSC. Successful communications and engagement foster an environment where discussions on safety and risk will provide the public with the information it needs to act or to better understand the nuclear sector. As artificial intelligence technologies become more prevalent and misinformation spreads, there are competing dialogues in the public sphere. Now more than ever, the nuclear sector must prioritize accurate, clear and plain-language communications with the public and stakeholders. The Nuclear Energy Agency's recent report, *The Characteristics of a Trusted Nuclear Regulator*, is a practical guide for nuclear regulators and others in the sector to consider how they are building, strengthening and maintaining trust with different stakeholders and publics.

As you embark on this four-day risk communications journey, embrace this experience with an open mind, curiosity, and readiness to learn from each other. Make connections and keep them after you leave. The result will be an enhanced risk communication proficiency that will benefit your nations and all of us together, globally.

Pierre F. Tremblay
President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

General information

Objectives

The Risk Communication Training Course (RCTC) aims to help participants improve their risk communication on a daily basis to enhance public understanding. The course will provide communication and technical professionals working in a range of public organisations (e.g. regulatory bodies, technical support organisations, agencies for radioactive waste management, operators and others) with the fundamentals of risk communication.

The objectives of the RCTC are:

- to provide practical tools and techniques to help communicators and technical staff to better communicate with the public about nuclear and radiological risks;
- to present, analyse and discuss the history and nuances of risk communication in the nuclear sector, and to gather the key lessons learnt from past events in nuclear history;
- to transfer the knowledge and experience to those with roles in communications and/or engagement;
- to learn how to use plain language and terms that would help the public understand risks related to the nuclear sector;
- to ensure that participants are able to design a clear Risk Communication Plan for a specific issue in accordance with recommended best practices;
- to learn and understand how to identify target audiences to communicate risk proactively;
- to provide participants with a critical view of different national communication strategies, best practices, and their evolution, to reach a better understanding of their commonalities and differences, and to try and establish a common framework that considers the differences in how various countries communicate, taking into account different cultural norms;
- to develop and strengthen an international network of personnel involved in risk communication, including communication specialists and technical staff;
- to evaluate the participants' understanding of training course concepts through a quiz and a final group project.

To avoid duplicating existing training, this course will only cover risk communication.

Time/venue

Date: 28-31 October 2024

Duration: 4 days

Location: Impact Hub Ottawa: 123 Slater Street, Ottawa

Optional site tour: 1 November 2024

Format

Participants will receive a participation certificate (no academic credits) from the NEA following completion of the course, which consists of:

- Two virtual preparatory modules.
- Four days of in-person meetings, which will include lectures and interactive sessions (exercises, case studies).
- One day site tour (optional).

Target audience

The RCTC is intended for professionals working in nuclear regulatory organisations, technical support organisations, radioactive waste management agencies, nuclear operators and other related organisations. This includes early- or mid-career professionals who are responsible for communicating and/or engaging with the public, as well as decision makers and technical staff members who need to consider nuclear and radiological risks and associated topics.

Language

The RCTC will be held in English.

Contact

The RCTC Team can be contacted at rctc@oecd-nea.org.



Programme

E-learning

e-learning (preparatory work)	
30 mins	<p>E-1: Risk communication vs. crisis communication</p> <p>Holly Harrington (Senior Level Advisor, Office of Public Affairs, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission)</p>
40 mins	<p>E-2: Introduction to nuclear and radiological risks</p> <p>Yoshihito Takeda (Professor, Hokkaido University)</p>

Day 1: Monday 28 October 2024 – 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Opening: Welcome and introductory remarks		
08:15	Registration of participants	NEA and CNSC
09:00	Welcome address	<p>Moderators:</p> <p>Diane Screnci, Senior Public Affairs Officer, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Tamara Yankovich, Deputy Head of Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety, NEA</p>
09:05	Welcome remarks by the NEA	William D. Magwood, IV, NEA Director-General
09:10	Welcome remarks from the host organisation	Pierre F. Tremblay, CNSC President and CEO
09:20	Participants' introduction, recap of e-module video	Moderators/participants
09:50	NEA ongoing activities on public communication and stakeholder engagement	Taehee Kim, Nuclear Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Specialist, Division of Radiological Protection and Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety, NEA
10:00	Coffee break – group photo	

Session 1: Why is risk communication important for nuclear organisations?		
10:30	1-1 Introductory presentation and scene setting	William D. Magwood, IV, NEA Director-General
11:00	1-2 Overview of risk communication objectives and challenges, and definition of its components	Tanja Perko, Senior Researcher, Scientific Project Leader and Lecturer, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN)
11:30	1-3 Nuclear risk communication – Canada case Group discussion based on Canadian case study	Jason Cameron, Vice-President, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.
12:30	Lunch	
13:40	1-4 Stakeholder engagement	Holly Harrington, Senior Level Advisor, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Public Affairs
14:20	1-5 How to assess risk perceptions	Tanja Perko, Senior Researcher, Scientific Project Leader and Lecturer, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN)
15:00	1-6 How to build trust	Rhonda Walker-Sistie, Director General for Strategic Communications, CNSC
15:40	Coffee break	
16:10	Group discussion based on social media and its impacts on risk perception and trust	Salah Al Hashimi, Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR)
17:00	End of day 1	
17:30-19:30	Reception	

Day 2: Tuesday 29 October 2024 – 9:00 AM-4:50 PM

Session 2: The art of effective risk communication		
09:00	Overview of day 1	Moderators/participants
09:10	2-1 Countering rumours, conspiracy theories and fake news in the misinformation landscape	Miriam Vachová, Director of Chancellery, ÚJD, Slovak Republic
09:50	Coffee break	
10:20	2-2 Keynote lecture on misinformation from a Canadian perspective	Timothy Caufield, Professor at the Faculty of Law and the School of Public Health and Research Director of the Health Law Institute at the University of Alberta
11:20	2-3 Your audience – messaging: Get to the point	Christian Lindmeier, Spokesperson for the World Health Organization
12:00	Lunch	
13:20	2-4 Designing a risk communication strategy	Salah Al Hashimi, Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR)
14:00	2-5 Implementing a risk communication plan	Salah Al Hashimi, Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR)
14:40	Coffee break	
15:10	2-6 Evaluating your strategy and plan	Salah Al Hashimi, Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR)
15:50	2-7 Group discussion on nuclear topics How to communicate risk for new technology (SMR and other risks)	Holly Harrington, Senior Level Advisor, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Public Affairs
16:50	End of day 2	

Day 3: Wednesday 30 October 2024 – 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Session 3: The techniques, practical implementation and specific challenges		
9:00	Overview of day 2	Moderator/participants
09:10	3-1 Techniques, tools and channels in nuclear and radiological risk communication	Salah Al Hashimi, Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR)
09:50	3-2 Communication rules – not only for media engagement	Christian Lindmeier, Spokesperson for the World Health Organization
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	3-3 The importance of plain language	Adriana Scialdone García, Communications Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN)
11:40	3-4 Risk communication experiences in Fukushima and some lessons learnt	Masaharu Tsubokura, Professor, Department of Radiation Health Management, Fukushima Medical University School of Medicine and Director, Research Center for Community Health, Minamisoma Municipal General Hospital in Fukushima
12:20	Lunch	
13:40	3-5 Risk communication challenges in embarking countries – based on Kenyan case	Esther Musyoka, Senior Officer, Corporate Communications, Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA) of Kenya
14:20	Coffee break	
14:50	3-6 Group discussion on AI	Tanja Perko, Senior Researcher, Scientific Project Leader and Lecturer, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN)
15:50	3-7 Preparation for the final project	Miriam Vachová, Director of Chancellery, ÚJD, Slovak Republic
16:00	End of day 3	

Day 4: Thursday 31 October 2024 – 9:00 AM-2:35 PM

09:00	Overview of Day 3	Moderator/participants
09:10	Final project preparation	Group work
10:15	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:15	Final project presentation and discussion 15 minutes presentation + QA + discussion for each of the seven groups	
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Wrap-up session	All lecturers
14:15	Closing	<p>Tamara Yankovich, Deputy Head of Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety, NEA</p> <p>Rhonda Walker-Sistie, Director General for Strategic Communications, CNSC</p> <p>Jason Cameron, Vice-President, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.</p>
14:35	End of RCTC 2024	



Day 5: Optional site tours

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Laboratory



Date: Friday, 1 November 2024

Time: 8:30 AM – returning 12:00 PM

Gathering point: 280 Slater Street, Ottawa ON

Contact name: Rhonda Walker-Sistie

Contact phone number: Rhonda Walker-Sistie: 613-325-6614
Andréanne Campbell: 613-889-8483

Note: *Transportation will be provided to pick up students at 280 Slater St. (CNSC headquarters). Transportation to and from lab. Lunch not included. Maximum of 15 participants.*

- [Laboratory Safety Guidelines \(ENG\)](#)
- [Laboratory Safety Guidelines \(FR\)](#)

During this 2-hour tour, leaving from CNSC's headquarters at 8:30 AM, participants will travel to the CNSC laboratory, where they will have the opportunity to view the three sections of the laboratory: the inorganic chemistry, the radiochemistry and the radiation physics sections. Once the tours are completed, the provided shuttles will return all participants back to 280 Slater St. at approximately 12:00 PM.

Day 5: Optional site tours

Chalk River Laboratories



Date: Friday, 1 November 2024

Time: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM with transportation (10:00 AM to 3:00 PM for tour itself)

Gathering point: Ottawa (location TBD)

Contact name: *Philip Kompass/Jeremy Latta*

Contact phone number: TBC

Note: *Transportation will be available to and from the lab from Ottawa. Pick up will be at 8:00 AM from 280 Slater Street. For those wishing to self-drive, the time on the campus is 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Additionally, a meal is offered for those joining this tour.*

Join your colleagues for an engaging visit to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's Chalk River Laboratories, Canada's national nuclear science and technology organisation. The Chalk River campus served as the birthplace of nuclear technology in Canada, houses over 110 unique science facilities, and is the cornerstone of nuclear research domestically. The tour will cover the campus and the laboratories dedicated to CNL's clean energy research, including programmes in hydrogen, tritium and fusion, advanced reactors, and waste and environmental remediation projects. Specific laboratory tours are still in development.

Speaker biographies



William D. Magwood, IV

Mr Magwood took up his duties as Director-General of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) on 1 September 2014. He has extensive experience in both the regulatory and developmental aspects of nuclear energy, including at the international level.

From 2010 to 2014, he served as one of the five Commissioners appointed by the US President and confirmed by the US Senate to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). While a commissioner, he advocated the importance of nuclear regulatory independence and the necessity of maintaining strong, credible and technically sound nuclear regulation in the United States and all countries that use nuclear power.

Prior to his appointment at the NRC, from 2005 to 2010 he provided independent strategic and policy advice to US and international clients on energy, environment, education, and technology policy issues. From 1998 to 2005, Mr Magwood was Director of the US Government's civilian nuclear energy programme at the US Department of Energy (DOE). During his tenure, he established the Idaho National Laboratory; created activities that reversed the decline of US nuclear technology education; and launched important initiatives such as the Generation IV International Forum (GIF) and US "Nuclear Power 2010," which helped restart nuclear plant construction in the United States.

He was also actively involved in the work of the NEA, serving as a Steering Committee Bureau member from 1999 to 2003, and as Chairman of the Steering Committee from 2004 to 2005.

Prior to his experience at the DOE, Mr Magwood managed electric utility research and nuclear policy programmes at the Edison Electric Institute in Washington, DC, and was a scientist at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr Magwood, a US national, holds Bachelor degrees in physics and English from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pittsburgh.



Pierre Tremblay

Mr Tremblay began his term as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on 12 August 2024. He is an accomplished leader with over 40 years of experience in nuclear engineering, security, operations, maintenance and management, including most recently as President of AECOM Canada Nuclear Services Inc.

He served as Chair of the CNSC's Departmental Audit Committee from 2017 to 2023, providing advice and recommendations on internal audit functions, frameworks and processes for risk management, control and governance. This role underscored his commitment to regulatory excellence and his support of the CNSC's mandate to regulate the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect health, safety, security and the environment.

Mr Tremblay began his career as a trainee engineer with Ontario Hydro (now Ontario Power Generation), where he rose through the ranks to become Chief Nuclear Operating Officer, responsible for the operation and maintenance of the nuclear fleet, achieving significant safety improvements. He subsequently served as President of Canadian Nuclear Partners (now Laurentis Energy Partners Inc.), where he led trade missions to China, South Korea and India to create new opportunities for Canadian nuclear companies and their supply chains.

His international experience as a nuclear advisor, instructor and peer evaluator demonstrates his commitment to sharing knowledge and fostering global collaboration.

Mr Tremblay is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering and was an active member of the Canadian Nuclear Society, the Canadian Nuclear Association, and the American Nuclear Society, where he held the position of Chair of the Education and Training Division. He was also the former Governor of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (now Ontario Tech University), Chairman of the Board of Governors of Durham College, and President of the Canadian Red Cross, North York Branch.

He holds a Master of Business Administration from the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Chemical Engineering from Queen's University.

Rhonda Walker-Sisttie



Rhonda Walker-Sisttie has been the Director General for Strategic Communications at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) since September 2017. Under her leadership, the Directorate is responsible for communication strategy, advice and services in support of the CNSC's nuclear safety mandate, including effective emergency communications, regulatory and digital communications, as well as media relations.

Prior to this, she was the A/Director General of Communications for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), including the Canadian Coast Guard, from 2015 to 2017. During this time, she successfully led the Department's crisis communications team through a number of serious incidents.

Ms Walker-Sisttie has worked in the field of government communications since 2010. Before her career in the public service, she held a number of positions on Parliament Hill, culminating her time there as Chief of Staff to the Minister of State (Sport, responsible for the 2010 Olympics).

Ms Walker-Sisttie holds a Doctorate in communication from Carleton University's School of Journalism and Communication.

Salah Al Hashimi



Salah Al Hashimi is the Director of Government Communication at the UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) with more than 20 years of experience in marketing and communications. He is responsible for leading the corporate communication function and FANR's international co-operation. Mr Al Hashimi was also the former Chief Happiness and Wellbeing Officer at FANR, responsible for developing and implementing the UAE National Happiness and Positivity Program at the entity.

Prior to joining FANR, Mr Al Hashimi held multiple leading roles across different industries, ranging from banking to investment, property development and government. He was a senior corporate communications manager at Majid Al Futtaim Holding and a director of Government Communication at the Community Development Authority in Dubai and AVP Head of Corporate Communication at Dubai Islamic Bank. Mr Al Hashimi holds a Masters degree in marketing communications from Middlesex University and a higher diploma in communication and mass media from Glasgow Caledonian University in the United Kingdom.

Mr Al Hashimi is a certified trainer from the UAE Government Leaders Program under the Prime Minister's Office and a member of the "Strategic Partnership and Government Development" initiative, which aims to transfer the knowledge and the UAE Government's best practices to international partners such as Egypt, Jordan and other countries. In 2020, Mr Al Hashimi became a member of the Nuclear Energy Agency Working Group for Public Communication, working on multiple initiatives to develop international communication standards across the nuclear energy sector.

He is a graduate of the first edition of the Chief Happiness and Wellbeing Government Program in 2017 and also the founder of the "Happiness Without Borders" volunteering initiative, which provides free consultancy services and training to organisations that are seeking to create a happy and strong working environment and culture.



Jason Cameron

In his role as Vice-President, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations, Jason leads on all of AECL's communications and public affairs functions and works to strengthen the organisation's approach to reconciliation with Indigenous communities and Nations. Jason is also responsible for government and international relations.

For 25 years, Jason has worked across many areas of nuclear regulation at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), including nuclear material accountancy, international safeguards, import and export controls, and nuclear security. Most recently, Jason was the Vice-President, Regulatory Affairs and Chief Communications Officer for the CNSC. In this position, he led strategic and regulatory policy functions, including the CNSC's approach to reconciliation, as well as their internal and external communications programmes.

Jason is a founding member of the Advisory Board on the Risk Communications Training Course for the Nuclear Energy Agency.



Timothy Caulfield

Professor Timothy Caulfield is a communicator who debunks myths and assumptions about innovation in the health sector – from research on stem cells to diets and alternative medicine – for the benefit of the public and decision makers. For 20 years, he was the Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy and is currently a professor in the Faculty of Law and the School of Public Health and the Research Director of the Health Law Institute at the University of Alberta.

Caulfield has been involved in a variety of interdisciplinary research endeavours that have led him to publish more than 400 academic articles. His research focuses on topics like stem cells, genetics, research ethics, the public representations of science, and health policy issues. He has won numerous academic, science communication, and writing awards, and is a Member of the Order of Canada and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry.

Caulfield also writes frequently for the popular press and is the author of three bestselling books: *The Cure for Everything: Untangling the Twisted Messages about Health, Fitness, and Happiness*; *Is Gwyneth Paltrow Wrong About Everything?: When Celebrity Culture and Science Clash*; and, most recently, *Relax, Dammit!: A User's Guide to the Age of Anxiety*.

In addition, Caulfield is the co-founder of the science engagement initiative, #ScienceUpFirst. He has also hosted and co-produced several documentaries, including the award-winning television show, *A User's Guide to Cheating Death*, which has aired in over 60 countries and is currently streaming on Netflix in North America.



Holly Harrington

Holly Harrington is a Senior Level Advisor in the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Public Affairs, in Rockville, Maryland. She provides strategic advice to agency leadership, especially related to crisis response and social media.

Ms Harrington joined the NRC in 2004 and has also served as speechwriter to the Chairman, as a Public Affairs Officer and as Special Assistant to the Office Director. In 2012, she received the NRC's Meritorious Service Award, in part for her response efforts during the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident.

Previously, Ms Harrington was a public affairs officer at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and held public affairs positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs' Central Office and two medical centres. She was an adjunct professor at Trinity College (Washington, DC) for 15 years, teaching a variety of communication courses, including media ethics, public speaking, speech writing and digital communications. She began her career as a print journalist in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Ms Harrington holds a Bachelors degree in journalism (reporting and editing) and a Master's degree in mass communications, both from San Jose State University.



Taehee Kim

Taehee Kim is a Nuclear Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Specialist in the NEA Division of Radiological Protection and Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety. She is Secretary for the Forum on Stakeholder Confidence and the Expert Group on Public Communication of Nuclear Regulatory Organisations.

She started her career at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy in Korea in 2006 and has worked on climate change negotiations, free trade investment policies and technology markets. In 2014, she joined the Nuclear Safety and Security Commission, Korea's nuclear regulatory body. She worked on nuclear regulatory policies and her last position at the NSSC was as director of international co-operations.

She joined the NEA in 2021, working at the Division of Nuclear Safety Technology and Regulation for three years before taking her current position.



Christian Lindmeier

Christian Lindmeier has had a longstanding, multifaceted communication career with different UN bodies and the European Union. He is currently a Spokesperson for the World Health Organization at their headquarters in Geneva.

Mr Lindmeier started his international career at the turn of the millennium in Kosovo, where he soon joined the UN Mission, UNMIK. After his second UN Mission in Haiti, from 2004 to 2008, he joined the WHO for the first time in 2008 and was, among other things, deployed to the Horn of Africa to support the relief efforts around the drought in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Uganda.

He then joined the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, UNRWA, from 2013 to 2014 to lead their communication efforts in the Gaza strip.

The Western Pacific Regional Office of WHO was the next step, where he served as Regional Information Officer & Spokesperson for several months before rejoining WHO in Geneva as WHO Spokesperson in August 2014.

In addition to his daily interactions with international media representatives, Mr Lindmeier advises and trains WHO colleagues and senior management as well as other UN staff in media communication, risk and crisis communication, and he moderates press conferences, meetings and events.



Sky Mary Jane Mallari

Sky Mallari is a Junior Specialist at the Nuclear Energy Agency. She is part of the organising committee for the NEA's International Radiological Protection School and the Risk Communication Training Course. She also supports the NEA High-Level Group on Stakeholder Engagement, Trust, Transparency, and Social Sciences (HLG-SET).

Before joining the NEA, she worked extensively in academia in Japan, focusing on research and policy development in diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education, as well as developing learning design technology and capacity-building initiatives for several Japanese corporations. She has a PhD in international culture and communication, specialising in ethnography and gender studies. She holds a dual MA degree in education, language, and literature, and a BA in communication arts. Coming from the fields of social science and humanities, she intends to explore the interdisciplinary nexus within the nuclear sector and see how her background can contribute to its development, particularly in areas of stakeholder engagement and policy development.



Esther Musyoka

Esther Musyoka is a Senior Officer, Corporate Communications, at the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA) of Kenya.

She has 13 years' experience in stakeholder engagement and public communication for the country's nuclear power programme. Consequently, she has been actively involved in stakeholder sensitisation and addressing their concerns regarding nuclear power development in Kenya. She is a contributor to Fission Magazine, the agency's corporate publication in addition to managing its digital media platforms.

Esther holds a Master of Arts and a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Moi University, Kenya. She is a registered member of the Public Relations Society of Kenya (PRSK). She is currently pursuing a Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) diploma course to become a member of the Institute.



Tanja Perko

Dr Tanja Perko is a senior researcher, scientific project leader and lecturer at the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN) and at the University of Antwerp in Belgium. She holds a PhD in social sciences, which she obtained with a thesis entitled "Modelling Risk Perception and Risk Communication in Nuclear Emergency Management: An Interdisciplinary Approach" (University of Antwerp, Belgium). She also holds a Masters degree in political studies and a Bachelor's in journalism from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

She was a journalist at a daily news programme and for evening news at the National TV station in Slovenia and was head of the public relations department at the Ministry of Defence. Since obtaining her PhD in risk communication in 2012 in Belgium, she has published more than 50 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 6 peer-reviewed book chapters. She works in inter, multi- and trans-disciplinary teams. She applies quantitative research methods (public opinion surveys, media content analysis), qualitative methods (interviews, non-participatory observational studies, focus groups, consensus workshops, media framing analysis and discourse analysis) and mixed methods.

She combines social science and humanities (SSH) research with R&D of ionising radiation (IR) technologies and makes the societal aspects more visible to the technical and policy stakeholders related to IR technologies in Europe by boosting European SSH research, stimulating multidisciplinary approaches and supporting the integration of research, innovation and society in the field of IR. She is one of the founders and the vice-president of SHARE (European platform for social sciences and humanities in ionising radiation research) and a management board member of the Belgian radiation protection society. She is also a project or task leader for different EU projects in the field of risk and health communication related to ionising radiation.



Adriana Scialdone García

Adriana Scialdone García is a Communications Advisor for the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council in Madrid. She is part of the Chairman's Cabinet and her main responsibilities include all forms of incoming and outgoing communications on nuclear and radiological matters. She heads the Council's social media efforts and oversees its website and updates both with press releases, graphic content and event planning. She is responsible for drafting press releases and overseeing relationships with stakeholders and journalists. Ms Scialdone forms part of the Regulator's emergency network and helps streamline communications from the emergency press room throughout real or simulated nuclear emergencies. Previously, Ms Scialdone worked as both writer and television reporter for Spanish national television (RTVE), as well as Cuatro TV and CNN+.

She is a member of the NEA's CNRA Expert Group on Public Communications, where she co-leads the Risk Communication Training Course together with Diane Screnci. She was also a member for six years of the ENSREG working group to improve transparency in regulatory organisations.



Diane Screnci

Diane Screnci is a Senior Public Affairs Officer in the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Region I office in Pennsylvania. She serves as an agency spokesperson on NRC's oversight of the commercial power reactors in the region, as well for research and test reactors and licensed materials users. She joined the NRC as a regional Public Affairs Officer in 1990 and assumed her current position in 1994.

Previously, Ms Screnci was a writer/reporter/editor at KYW Newsradio in Philadelphia. Screnci also worked as an editor/news anchor at WILM-AM in Wilmington, Delaware. She began her broadcasting career as a production assistant at WCAU-FM in Philadelphia, following an internship at WCAU-TV.

Ms Screnci holds a Bachelor's degree in English and communication arts from LaSalle University. She received the NRC's Meritorious Service Award in 2005. She is the NRC's delegate to the Nuclear Energy Agency's Expert Group on Public Communication



Yoshihito Takeda

Yoshihito Takeda is a visiting professor at the Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University. His specialty is risk assessment and risk communication on chemical substances. He conducts research, education and practice in risk communication and community dialogue with residents and businesses.

After graduating from the Faculty of Integrated Arts and Sciences, Hiroshima University, he attended the Graduate School of Science and Engineering at the University of Tsukuba and received a doctorate at the Graduate School of Urban Sciences, Tokyo Metropolitan University.

Mr Takeda acquired work experience in the Defence Agency Maritime Self-Defense Force, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and at the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE). Since 2013 he has also served as a visiting associate professor at the Graduate School of Environment and Information Studies, Yokohama National University. He has been working at the Hokkaido University Graduate School of Engineering since 2019.



Masaharu Tsubokura

Dr Masaharu Tsubokura is a Professor at the Department of Radiation Health Management in the Fukushima Medical University School of Medicine and Director of the Research Center for Community Health in the Minamisoma Municipal General Hospital in Fukushima (<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6533/978>). Originally a physician specialising in hematology, he was involved in treatments using radiation such as bone marrow

transplantation. Since 2020, he has held his current position at Fukushima Medical University, where he conducts research on the medium- to long-term health effects related to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident and corresponding countermeasures. He also studies nuclear disaster preparedness based on the experiences of the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

After the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident in 2011, he worked with local municipalities in Fukushima and played an important role in the establishment of internal radiation exposure screening programmes for the local residents. In response to public concerns about radiation exposure, he conducted hundreds of community meetings immediately after the accident, provided lectures on radiation at schools, and has been actively involved in addressing radiation exposure issues in the community. He is also a member of the committee on radiation protection and public health in Minamisoma and Soma cities, where he continues to provide radiation seminars to the public.

Miriam Vachová



After completing a Master's degree at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovak Republic (teacher's training with specialisation in physics and technical education), she worked almost continuously in various positions at the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic (ÚJD SR). She started in 1997 as a safety analyst in the Division of Safety Analysis and Technical Support. Since 2009 she has worked in the Division of International Relations and European Affairs as the senior state adviser for the Authority's bilateral relations agenda and the Slovak Republic's co-operation with the NEA. Since 2018 she has been appointed as the Director of Chancellery. In this position, she is in addition to other competencies responsible for the internal and external communications of ÚJD SR. Moreover, she is an active member of the CNRA Expert Group on Public Communication of Nuclear Regulatory Organisations of NEA as well as the ENSREG Working Group on Improving Transparency Arrangements.

Tamara Yankovich



Dr Tamara Yankovich took up the role of Deputy Head of Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety at the NEA in June 2024. In this capacity, she manages key programmes and initiatives that focus on stakeholder engagement, transparency and building of trust in the social sciences, as well as on human and organisational factors, safety culture, gender balance initiatives, and safety culture.

Dr Yankovich is a Canadian with more than 30 years of practical experience working on complex sites, including nuclear power, research reactor, and uranium mine and mill sites. She is a recognised expert in environmental impact assessment and risk assessment, with significant experience in engagement of diverse stakeholders in support of decision making relating to planned nuclear facilities, as well as the clean up of historically contaminated ecosystems. She has served as a Canadian representative on various international working groups over many years, addressing issues related to monitoring, modeling and assessment of environmental impacts in the environment from a compliance perspective in consultation with local communities and decision makers.

Dr Yankovich worked at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna for 9 years, supporting member states in establishing, strengthening and implementing their legal and regulatory frameworks to ensure and demonstrate protection of the public and the environment within the nuclear sector in accordance with international standards and good practice. She has been awarded two IAEA recognition awards for exceptional performance and is the recipient of a G. William Morgan Lecturer Award from the American Health Physics Society.

Dr Yankovich holds an Honours BSc in biology (with a minor in chemistry), an MSc in biogeochemistry and watershed ecosystems, and a PhD in radioecology and watershed ecosystems. She also has two diplomas in the social sciences from the Centre for Executive Education at the University for Peace in Costa Rica, and is certified by the United Nations Executive Management Programme in Turin, Italy. Dr Yankovich has been awarded two Paul Harris Medals by Rotary International for her humanitarian work to build capacity, create access and enable sustainability in less fortunate communities internationally.

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