

International Atomic Energy Agency

WORKSHOP

on

Strengthening National Competencies in the Area of Stakeholder Dialogue for Radioactive Waste Disposal

PROSPECTUS

Project Number & Title: RER9103: Training in Radioactive Waste Disposal Technologies in Underground Research Facilities

Place (City, Country): Las Vegas, USA

Dates: 6-10 December 2010

Deadline for Nominations: 30 September 2010

Organizers: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in collaboration with the Government of the United States of America through Sandia National Laboratories

Host Country Organizer: Mr. Orrell, Stanley Andrew
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Language: English

Purpose: The purpose of the workshop is to support senior decision-makers involved in radioactive waste management to: (i) understand why stakeholder dialogue is important; (ii) identify what the key challenges are when involving stakeholders in disposal programmes; and (iii) to be aware of how stakeholder interactions can constructively impact on national decision-making around Policy & Strategy and also support the successful implementation of repository programmes through all phases of development.

The workshop has the following objectives:

- To illustrate successes and failures in countries that have already implemented stakeholder involvement programmes, and the reasons for

these

- To identify key stakeholders and stakeholder groups and their motivations
- To investigate the common elements of stakeholder interactions that are applicable globally
- To investigate what elements of stakeholder interactions are culture, or nation, or region specific and how they might be addressed locally
- To identify the objectives of a communication plan and how one could be designed to address national and local issues around radioactive waste management, including an introduction to communication tools and their applications.

Expected Output(s):

The primary product of the workshop will be a common understanding of the main issues involved in radioactive waste management, as they affect stakeholder groups or as they are affected by them. This will help senior decision-makers prioritise resource allocations for stakeholder involvement when evaluated against other needs (at Policy, Strategic and Operational levels).

Understanding the key concerns of the main stakeholder groups and the various methods that have been used to address them, together with an assessment of their value, will be a further outcome. This will allow decision-makers to develop strategies for involving stakeholders at appropriate points in programme planning (mainly for Strategic and Operational levels, but this will also support Policy development).

Finally, an appreciation of the methods that can be used to strategically develop communication plans will result from the workshop. This will allow decision-makers to design operational plans that involve stakeholder interactions (principally at Strategic and Operational levels).

Scope and Nature:

The training event concerns the topic of Stakeholder Dialogue, specifically in the context of radioactive waste disposal. It is designed to enhance the human resource capabilities of Member States and their capacity to manage repository development programmes by providing an understanding of stakeholder concerns around radioactive waste disposal and how these concerns might be addressed, both at the level of national Policy and Strategy and also in terms of operational planning for stakeholder involvement.

Stakeholder dialogue can take many forms, from government mandated involvement of stakeholders in decision-making through to simple programmes that are designed to generate awareness. No single approach will be suitable for all Member States and an appreciation of regional, national and local diversity, including cultural diversity within a single Member State, means that there will always be local specifics to be considered. The workshop will examine the key issues that need to be considered when involving stakeholders, both through the use of case studies and also by taking a more theoretical approach. Despite local specifics, the workshop will seek to illustrate that there are commonalities around stakeholder involvement and that it is a key socio-political issue that can impact on the success or otherwise of waste disposal programmes.

Background Information:

The scientific and engineering community generally agree that the technology exists to site, design, operate and close facilities for the disposal of radioactive wastes, and to evaluate the risks associated with these activities such that safety can be demonstrated to regulators with confidence. This applies to disposal facilities located both on the surface and below ground. Many countries already successfully operate surface and near-surface facilities for the disposal of low activity and relatively short-lived wastes. With regards to the disposal of high-level radioactive waste, long-lived waste and spent fuel declared as waste, it is internationally accepted that disposal underground in an appropriate geological environment is the best solution for most countries. However, the only deep geological facilities that currently deal with waste are WIPP (Waste Isolation Pilot Plant) in the USA, which accepts defence related transuranic waste, and Morsleben in Germany, used up until recently for the disposal of low and intermediate level waste. Aside from these two examples, and after more than 50 years of research, deep geological disposal programmes suffer from a distinct lack of forward momentum. The reason for the lack of success in siting and operating deep geological repositories generally relates to issues of public acceptance and/or political decision-making, rather than technological concerns. Therefore, to advance the implementation of waste disposal it is clear that more emphasis needs to be placed on appreciating socio-political issues and addressing them in a comprehensive manner that will be acceptable to all stakeholders. A key socio-political issue concerns stakeholder dialogue and societal decision-making in general.

Participation:

The workshop is open to representatives from eligible Member States and IAEA support will be limited to 15 persons.

Participants' Qualifications:

The participants should be senior professionals and/or decision-makers with responsibility for developing, advising on and/or implementing national Policy and Strategy relating to radioactive waste management. Participants will also include those faced with the task of involving stakeholders in the planning and implementation of radioactive waste disposal programmes.

Nomination Procedure:

Nominations should be submitted on the standard IAEA Application Form for Meeting/Workshop and National Consultants (available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/>). Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and returned to the Agency through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA Matters.

Applications must be received by the International Atomic Energy Agency, P.O. Box 100, A-1400, Vienna, not later than 30th September 2010. Nominations received after this date or which have not been routed through the established official channels cannot be considered.

Advance nominations through facsimile (+43-1-26007), or e-mail (M.Hubinka@iaea.org) are welcome. The facsimile/e-mail should contain the following basic information about the candidate: name, date of birth, academic qualifications, and current position including the exact nature of the duties carried out, proficiency in English and full contact address including telephone/ email/ facsimile numbers.

**Administrative
and Financial
Arrangements:**

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

Selected participants from countries eligible to receive technical assistance will be provided with a round trip economy class air ticket from their home countries to Las Vegas, USA and a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) sufficient to cover the cost of their accommodation, food, and minor incidentals. Shipment of accumulated workshop materials to the participants' home countries is not the responsibility of the IAEA.

The organizers of the workshop 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 workshop, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in nominating participants, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.