



# **Regional Workshop on Developing, Enhancing and Implementing National Policy, Strategy and Programmes for Managing Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste**

**Hosted by**

**International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

**Vienna, Austria**

**20 – 24 January 2025**

**Room: M4**

**Ref. No.: ME-RER9164-EVT2403397**

## **Information Sheet**

### **Working Language**

English

### **Deadline for Nominations**

31 October 2024

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this workshop is to enhance participants' understanding of developing, enhancing, and implementing national policies, strategies, and program frameworks for managing spent fuel and radioactive waste. By bringing together operators, regulators, and international experts, the workshop aims to share the status of national spent fuel and radioactive waste programs and exchange experiences on aligning with international conventions, safety standards, and good practices. The workshop will cover various aspects of spent fuel and radioactive waste management, from generation to disposal, helping participants improve their understanding of options, obligations, and responsibilities to ensure the sustainable, safe, and secure management of their national spent fuel and radioactive waste inventories.

## **Scope and Nature**

Effective waste management requires a national regulatory framework, including a policy, strategy, and programme, to meet the responsibilities outlined in international conventions, national regulations, and agreed safety standards.

Radioactive waste arises from the operation and decommissioning of all types of nuclear reactors including research reactors, nuclear fuel cycle facilities, and the use of radionuclides in research, healthcare, and industrial applications. The sustainability of these activities relies on the implementation of comprehensive policies, strategies, and programme frameworks for managing the back-end liability. Such plans need to encompass the entire lifecycle of spent fuel and radioactive waste, from generation through to disposal.

Furthermore, many member states must often also address legacy waste generated from past activities. The future decommissioning of existing facilities will also produce materials requiring plans for their removal from regulatory control or management as radioactive waste.

Many countries are also considering the adoption of nuclear power, either through conventional nuclear power plants or advanced reactors, such as small modular reactors. Ensuring that robust and comprehensive policies, strategies, and programmes are in place to effectively manage all radioactive waste and spent fuel throughout the entire life cycle of these facilities is crucial for protecting environmental and public health, complying with regulatory requirements, building public confidence in the sustainability of nuclear energy, and achieving more cost-effective waste management in the long term.

Typically, countries host multiple waste and spent fuel generators, processors, and management stakeholders. Coordinating and integrating waste and spent fuel management plans among these entities to ensure clear roles and responsibilities can enhance the development of safe, secure, and environmentally sound disposal pathways for all waste types.

The workshop will cover international good practices and trends in spent fuel and radioactive waste management, with references to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management, the European Waste Directive, and IAEA safety standards, highlighting their influence on national programmes and regulatory frameworks.

## **Expected Outputs**

Participants can expect to gain increased knowledge of developing and implementing national policies and frameworks for managing spent fuel and radioactive waste. The workshop will provide updated insights into the status of national programs and approaches. Attendees will exchange experiences and good practices, leading to actionable recommendations for enhancing national management programs. Networking opportunities with operators, regulators, and international experts will be available, and participants will receive workshop summaries and reference materials. Overall, the workshop aims to strengthen participant's' capacity to manage radioactive waste effectively.

## **Participation**

The workshop is open to radioactive waste management operators, regulators, and decision-makers from organizations directly involved in, or responsible for, national radioactive waste management.

## Participant Qualifications and Experience

The workshop is open to radioactive waste management operators, regulators, and decision-makers from organizations directly involved in or responsible for national radioactive waste management. Participants should have a solid working knowledge of their country's national policy and strategy or hold a position where they can influence its development or updates. A good basic understanding of radioactive waste management would also be beneficial.

Participants should anticipate being invited by the responsible Scientific Secretaries to prepare and present, at the workshop, an overview of their national policy, strategy, and program for managing radioactive waste, or to focus on a specific aspect of it.

## Structure

The workshop will feature presentations by invited subject matter experts, IAEA staff, and participants on topics related to the workshop's theme. There will also be dedicated time for discussions and interactive activities designed to deepen participants' understanding of the key elements involved in developing and implementing national policies, strategies, and programs for managing the back-end liabilities associated with the use of nuclear technologies.

## Application Procedure

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

1. Access the IAEA TALEO page (<https://iaea.taleo.net/>) 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](mailto:InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org) or [TC-AIPS-PL4.Contact-point@iaea.org](mailto: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.

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