



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace and Development

Technical Meeting on Stakeholder Involvement and Communication for New and Expanding Nuclear Power Programmes

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

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Information Sheet

Introduction

A nuclear power programme is a major undertaking requiring careful planning, preparation and investment in time, institutions and human resources. While nuclear power is not alone in this respect, it is different because of the perception associated with using nuclear material, and the safety, security and safeguards requirements. The IAEA's Milestones Approach identifies 19 infrastructure issues that should be addressed in each of three phases of the development of nuclear infrastructure for a nuclear power programme. One of these 19 infrastructure issues is focused on stakeholder involvement.

Although stakeholder involvement is a specific infrastructure issue, communicating with and involving stakeholders is also an important element for the other 18 infrastructure issues. Indeed, stakeholder involvement and communication are an essential part of any complete nuclear power programme. Opinion of nuclear power depends on many factors, among them stakeholders' knowledge of the benefits and risks associated with nuclear power. Stakeholder involvement in nuclear policy formulation and investment decisions, especially where there are potential safety implications, is a central feature in the successful deployment or expansion of nuclear power programmes. It is indispensable for the development of a national position in newcomer countries, and for the siting of new nuclear power plant

projects and radioactive waste repositories. It also helps build and maintain trust in regulatory competence and efficiency. Timely communication and public involvement in new or expanding nuclear power plant projects contribute to better understanding and informed opinions. Transparent and participative processes at all stages of a nuclear power programme are crucial for fair and consistent decision-making, as well as for harnessing the full potential of the nuclear sector.

Appropriate stakeholder involvement and communication entail the establishment and fostering of mutually beneficial and constructive relationships at the local, national and international level. It includes sharing with stakeholders the expertise and knowledge of the organizations and entities behind the nuclear power programme and benefiting from stakeholders' own knowledge and expertise. Stakeholder involvement and communication are about more than promoting the benefits of nuclear power or explaining risks or complexities. They are about creating dialogue and taking into account the role and inputs of stakeholders in decision-making processes. Maximizing transparency builds credibility with stakeholders and contributes to minimizing risks related to stakeholders' perceptions and resulting opinions opposing nuclear power that can result from misunderstanding and lack of knowledge.

Objectives

The main purpose of the event is to provide practical guidance on and share experiences related to stakeholder involvement and communication for new and expanding nuclear power programmes, on infrastructure issues identified in *Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power* (IAEA Nuclear Energy Series No. NG-G-3.1 (Rev 1)).

Target Audience

The event is open to participants from Member States that are considering, planning, or implementing new or expanding nuclear power programmes, preferably from the main organizations involved in the programme (government, nuclear energy programme implementing organization, regulatory bodies, utilities). The event is aimed at managers and officials who develop policies, strategies and implementation plans for stakeholder involvement and communication, public or institutional relations, or media relations, and those who implement such strategies and plans. The meeting is also open to experts from nuclear societies, trade organizations, educational organizations or other institutions involved in information on nuclear power.

Prior to the event, participants are expected to complete the IAEA e-learning module on **Stakeholder Involvement** (a module in the IAEA "[E-learning for Nuclear Newcomers](#)" series). Participants are advised to also review the e-Learning module on Implementing a Nuclear Power Programme – Introduction and other e-Learning modules as appropriate.

Working Language(s)

The working language of the event will be English.

Topics

The event will consist of several sessions devoted to stakeholder involvement applied to a selection of the 19 infrastructure issues (for example national position, regulatory framework, site and supporting facilities, environmental protection, emergency planning, industrial involvement) in one or more of the three phases of the Milestones Approach, as well as to stakeholder involvement and communication considerations for expanding nuclear power programmes. The sessions will comprise presentations by key organizations in Member States on the stakeholder involvement experience, and question and answer / interactive discussions to highlight challenges, lessons learned and actual or potential solutions.

The event will also consider IAEA support on stakeholder involvement including capacity building activities offered by the Agency, guidance publications and other tools.

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State, participants are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) for onward transmission to the IAEA by **26 April 2019**. Participants who are members of an organization invited to attend are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** through their organization to the IAEA by above deadline.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Please note that the IAEA is in a transition phase to manage the entire registration process for all regular programme events electronically through the new InTouch+ (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) facility, which is the improved and expanded successor to the InTouch platform that has been used in recent years for the IAEA's technical cooperation events. Through InTouch+, prospective participants will be able to apply for events and submit all required documents online. National authorities will be able to use InTouch+ to review and approve these applications. Interested parties that would like to use this new facility should write to: InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made using the **Grant Application Form (Form C)**, which has to be stamped, signed and submitted by the competent national authority to the IAEA together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** by **26 April 2019**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/iaeaevents/GeneralInfo/Guide/VIC>.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.