



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

Technical Meeting on Current Practices and Developments in Research Reactor Spent Fuel Dry Storage

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

3–6 March 2020

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Information Sheet

Introduction

The management of spent fuel is an important concern and spent fuel storage in either wet or dry conditions is currently undertaken worldwide. For most research reactors, spent fuel is stored in pools following removal from the reactors but for some fuel types, long term wet storage may not be a suitable option. The final disposition path for this spent fuel is still unknown, facilities for final disposal will not be available for many years and often research reactors are operating longer than initially intended increasing the amount of spent fuel produced. Thus, some Member States with research reactors are considering or have already moved their research reactor fuel into dry storage in order to gain additional storage capacity, either at the reactor site or in a central storage facility.

Over the past 20–30 years the role played by dry storage in filling the gap between at-reactor wet storage and other back end services has increased. The main attractions of dry storage are its passive cooling capability, reduced possibility of fuel cladding corrosion (compared to wet storage) and reduced life cycle costs through the ability to add incremental capacity, and lower maintenance costs than a spent fuel pool.

In connection with the above-mentioned issues, IAEA is organizing this Technical Meeting on Current Practices and Developments in Research Reactor Spent Fuel Dry Storage (hereinafter referred to as “event”) at its Headquarters in Vienna from 3 to 6 March 2020.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to share best practices among research reactor fuel specialists, owners, operators, designers, and regulators of research reactors, designers of spent fuel casks and spent fuel management organizations to exchange information, experiences, challenges and practical knowledge related to dry storage of research reactor fuel, and to identify gaps in collective knowledge or dissemination of knowledge pertaining to research reactor spent fuel dry storage and to determine the need for a coordinated research project, publication, or other IAEA assistance to support Member States. Participants will be asked to present information regarding their spent fuel dry storage experiences and plans for their research reactor spent fuel storage facilities.

Target Audience

Participation in the event is subject to designation by governmental or national organizations that are involved in, or have responsibility for, decisions regarding the management of spent fuel from research reactors. To ensure maximum effectiveness in the exchange of information, participants should be persons responsible for spent fuel management at research reactors or spent fuel dry storage facilities. Additionally, designers of dry storage facilities are welcome to share their experiences in terms of the container/structure design requirements and constraints of the fuel conditions that can be considered for dry storage. Specialists from regulatory bodies who are responsible for the regulatory supervision of research reactor fuel storage are also invited to participate in the event. Member States are strongly encouraged to identify suitable women participants.

Working Language

The event will be held in English.

Expected Outputs

The expected output of the event is a report, based on the input provided by the participants and subsequent discussions, to document the current status of research reactor spent fuel dry storage. Additionally, recommendations for international collaborations and new related initiatives that would support research reactor organizations will be sought.

Topics

The following topics will be addressed and discussed during the event:

- Current spent fuel management technologies available for research reactor spent fuel dry storage;
- Design of containers and structures used for research reactor spent fuel dry storage;
- Operational capabilities at research reactor facilities
- Safety aspects related to spent fuel dry storage;
- Monitoring of spent fuel dry storage facilities; and
- Economic comparison studies of wet and dry fuel storage.

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 **15 January 2020**. 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 the 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.

Papers and Presentations

The IAEA encourages participants to give presentations on the work of their respective institutions that falls under the topics listed above.

Participants who wish to give presentations are requested to submit an abstract of their work. The abstract will be reviewed as part of the selection process for presentations. The abstract should be in A4 page format, should extend to no more than one page (including figures and tables) and should not exceed 400 words. It should be sent electronically to Ms Frances Marshall, Ms Farhana Nasser, the Scientific Secretaries of the event (see contact details below), not later than **15 January 2020**. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed presentations by **31 January**.

In addition, participants have to submit the abstract together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** and the attached **Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or their organization for onward transmission to the IAEA not later than **15 January 2020**.

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 **15 January 2020**.

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.

IAEA Contacts

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