



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace and Development

Technical Meeting on Local Stakeholder Engagement in Radioactive Waste Management

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria
: and virtual participation via Cisco Webex

16–20 October 2023

Ref. No.: EVT2204961

Information Sheet

Introduction

Effective stakeholder engagement, including public communication, is an important consideration for nuclear programmes in general and for radioactive waste management programmes specifically. Engaging stakeholders in an inclusive manner provides a basis for mutual understanding and collaboration between stakeholders and organizations responsible to establishing and operating a radioactive waste management facility.

Local stakeholders often have strong interests and possible concerns regarding such a radioactive waste management facility sited in their communities, and thus play an essential role in decision-making processes. To establish an effective stakeholder engagement, it is necessary to understand the perspectives, needs, expectations, and experiences of local stakeholders.

The IAEA, as the intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field, is well-positioned to capture information from local communities hosting radioactive waste management facilities as well as those considering becoming hosts and share this information with its Member States.

The previous IAEA Technical Meetings broadly focused on experiences related to hosting nuclear facilities in general. The IAEA Technical Meeting introduced here is more specifically focused on the experiences of Municipalities with Radioactive Waste Management Facilities.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to provide an opportunity for dialogue between and with representatives of municipalities with radioactive waste management facilities, and to enhance awareness of and share experiences related to topics of interest to stakeholders at the local level.

Furthermore, the event will encourage interaction between local communities and organizations already operating radioactive waste facilities, and those involved in the earlier initiation, siting, or construction phases.

Following the meeting, the IAEA intends to produce a report on local stakeholder engagement in radioactive waste programmes, offering a comprehensive overview of perspectives, needs, expectations and experience as shared by local stakeholders worldwide.

Target Audience

The event is open to representatives of communities, including municipal authorities (mayors and councillors), hosting radioactive waste management facilities. To facilitate and promote effective experience-sharing, the meeting is also open to representatives of facility operators, safety authorities, government officials, as well as experts from nuclear societies, educational organizations, or other institutions involved in stakeholder engagement activities.

Working Language(s)

The working language of the event will be English. All communications and papers must be submitted in this language.

Topics

The event will consist of a series of presentations and plenary discussions, directed panel discussions, role-play workshops and interactive breakout sessions, all aimed at eliciting the experiences of local stakeholders and promoting understanding how a collaborative approach can be established and sustained. The prospective themes for contributions and discussions will be structured under the following sequence of topics:

- Specificities of engagement with local actors regarding a RWM facility;
- Strategies and approaches to establish and sustain long-term collaboration between local stakeholders and the RWM facility owner/operator;
- Being inclusive throughout local stakeholder engagement to ensure all voices are heard;
- Stakeholder Engagement in the context of the very long time scales associated with RWM facilities; and

- Global partnership – supporting a "broadening of dialogue and understanding".

In addition to these topics, the event will also explore IAEA support for local stakeholder engagement, including existing and potential capacity building activities.

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 **31 August 2023**. 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.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate.

Papers and Presentations

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

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 **31 August 2023**.

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:

www.iaea.org/events.

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.

Event Web Page

Please visit the following IAEA web page regularly for new information regarding this event:

www.iaea.org/events/EVT2204961