



Regional Workshop on Best Practices for Legacy Waste Management, including Retrievability and Remediation of Sites

Hosted by

The Government of Lithuania

through the

State Enterprise Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant

Vilnius, Lithuania

5 to 9 May 2025

Ref. No.: ME-RER9164-EVT2500957

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to gain experience and discuss challenges, and good international practice related to the safe, efficient and cost-effective planning and preparing for retrieval, characterisation, segregation and further processing for storage or disposal of different legacy waste streams, as well as implementing remedial actions to bring the site to a safe condition from the radiological point of view.

Working Language

The working language of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **20 March 2025** will not be considered.

Project Background

To strengthen competencies, raise awareness and support Member States' efforts in the management of their national radioactive waste inventory to support the continued sustainable use of nuclear technologies.

Expected Outputs

As a result of the workshop, participants will develop a clear understanding of the key components and activities involved in planning for the management of legacy waste and sites. This includes preparing work plans and associated documentation, establishing the necessary infrastructure, assessing waste inventories, and identifying, selecting, and implementing appropriate handling and processing technologies based on the planned interim or end point.

Through participation in roundtable discussions, participants will demonstrate their mastery of the information required for the safe, efficient, and cost-effective processing of legacy waste.

Scope and Nature

Legacy waste storage facilities, and in some cases disposal sites, present significant challenges for many Member States of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). These challenges affect both nations with well-established nuclear programs and those dealing solely with waste from nuclear applications. Feedback from Member State counterparts involved in technical cooperation projects on radioactive waste consistently identifies the management of legacy waste as one of their primary concerns.

Although the principles for characterizing and processing radioactive waste generally apply to legacy waste, these wastes and their associated sites often demand additional considerations, making management efforts more complex, time-intensive, and costly. These factors contribute to the challenges faced by waste managers in formulating and implementing safe and effective plans for managing legacy waste inventories.

This situation presents an opportunity for the IAEA to consolidate the experiences of Member States with legacy waste management. By sharing insights, Member States can highlight barriers to successful management, strategies for facilitating cleanup efforts, and actions needed to prevent current waste streams from becoming legacy waste in the future.

To support Member States in managing legacy radioactive waste and sites, the IAEA is organizing a dedicated workshop. This workshop will focus on planning for decommissioning, including retrieving and handling waste, bringing it into compliance with storage or disposal requirements, and remediating old storage or disposal sites. Emphasis will be placed on activities related to radioactive waste management.

While the IAEA does not have an official definition for legacy waste, it is commonly understood to refer to waste generated by past practices. This may include historical waste stored in aging facilities initially intended as temporary solutions or facilities that no longer meet modern safety standards. Legacy waste may also encompass contaminated structures, such as vault walls, pond surfaces, and obsolete tanks.

Participation

The workshop is open to Member States participating in the RER9164 project and candidates must be nominated by competent national authorities of Member States and, most specifically, by Member States' official counterparts of the project.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The event is intended for participants, who are directly responsible for owning or managing radioactive waste. This includes professionals and stakeholders engaged in the management of legacy radioactive waste, which may involve addressing issues related to waste generated by past practices or decommissioned facilities. The target audience encompasses individuals working at the facility level, managing site-specific waste, as well as those involved at the national level, overseeing broader policies, strategies, and frameworks for legacy radioactive waste management.

Structure

This comprehensive five-day workshop will be designed to include focused lectures and structured discussions, enriched by real-world case studies, on the planning and execution of decommissioning activities for legacy radioactive waste sites, along with associated radioactive waste management practices.

The workshop will cover a wide range of topics, carefully aligned to highlight the following key areas:

- Challenges Associated with Legacy Waste and Sites in Member States: An exploration of the specific issues and obstacles faced by Member States in managing legacy radioactive waste and contaminated sites.
- Key Components and Concepts for Legacy Waste Management Planning: A detailed overview of the critical elements and foundational concepts required to effectively plan for the management of legacy waste and sites.
- Strategic Planning for Legacy Waste Processing: Guidance on developing a comprehensive, robust strategic plan for processing legacy radioactive waste. This will include discussions on how such plans must integrate with broader, strategically important considerations to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Infrastructure for Complex Remediation Projects: An examination of the radioactive waste management infrastructure needed to support multifaceted remediation efforts. This will include aspects such as waste retrieval, transport, interim storage, characterization, sorting and segregation, and processing for further storage or disposal.

To provide participants with hands-on learning opportunities, the workshop will feature technical visits to the Maisiagala and Ignalina NPP sites. These visits will allow attendees to observe and gain practical knowledge about the predisposal activities in place, such as waste retrieval, preliminary characterization, and the management of legacy institutional radioactive waste.

In addition, the workshop will include presentations from selected participants. These presentations will showcase Member States' experiences and challenges, offering valuable insights that align with the key topics mentioned above.

By combining expert-led sessions, real-world case studies, and participant contributions, this workshop aims to enhance knowledge sharing, foster collaboration, and support the effective management of legacy radioactive waste across Member States.

Application Procedure

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

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (<https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx>) before proceeding with the event application process below.
2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:
 - a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;
 - b. Download and complete the [Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form](#), and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and
 - c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2500957) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help page](#). Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the meeting from the [IAEA website](#).

NOTE: A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

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 AX Travel Management, or a travel allowance, 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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