

Practical exercise:

Identification of gaps in national policies and strategies

Introduction

In this exercise, the national situation with regards to nuclear decommissioning is presented for the imaginary country C. The participants are asked to discuss the facts presented, identify how the national infrastructure can be improved, which elements that government and central regulatory bodies may be adding or improving in the legal framework with the goal of strengthening protection and safety in decommissioning.

Methodology

Working groups are built and a rapporteur selected. The group discusses the situation given in the practical exercise, develops a presentation to describe in plenum the contents of discussion topics.

National situation of imaginary country C

Existing nuclear facilities and sites:

- One Nuclear site is in operation with two reactors and a storage for spent fuel facility on site, one of the reactors is planned to shut down in 15 years. Decommissioning will start right after the shut down;
- One research reactor is located in the Capital City. This facility is being closed for 10 years and requires urgent decommissioning actions;
- Two operating cyclotron facilities with associated radiochemical laboratories exist in the medical sector;
 - One cyclotron facility with associated radiochemical laboratory has moved operations from the original site to the site where the other cyclotron is located. This original site needs urgent clean-up and release. It is localized close to the sea and the main University centre of the Country. The site is attractive to the municipality, who would like to take over the ownership of the land for construction of students' flats and a recreational area.
- One old storage facility for institutional radioactive waste;
- No disposal facilities for radioactive waste arising from decommissioning;

Regulatory Bodies, related organizations and human resources:

- A national Regulatory Body is in place, and it is responsible for all actions regarding establishing and maintaining a governmental, legal and regulatory framework;
- No radioactive waste management organization exists at the national level
- There is a fund designated to finance the decommissioning of NPPs and related SF storage facility, but not for funding the decommissioning of RR or closure of radioactive waste disposal facilities.

Policy and existing Legislative framework

- The national Policy on safety and radioactive waste management does not fully cover the decommissioning issues;
- The spent fuel is not considered as radioactive waste
- Basic regulations are developed
- Facilities have an emergency plan for the operational phase.

Topics for discussion

- Which are the main pillars for a sound national legal framework
- Discuss possible national policy formulation and its main principles including
 - Safety and security objectives;
 - Allocation of roles and responsibilities (licensees, regulator);
 - Radioactive waste management;
 - Conventional and radioactive waste minimization;
 - Endpoints for decommissioning;
 - Public information and participation.
- National arrangements for provision of human, technical, financial resources;
- Discuss possible funding mechanisms
- Considerations to the vulnerable safety areas in this example and why these areas may need to be strengthened

Expected results

Presentation of maximum 15 min, where the topics included in the discussions are substantiated and communicated.