



Atoms for Peace and Development

الوكالة الدولية للطاقة الذرية
国际原子能机构
International Atomic Energy Agency
Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique
Международное агентство по атомной энергии
Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100, 1400 Vienna, Austria
Phone: (+43 1) 2600 • Fax: (+43 1) 26007
Email: Official.Mail@iaea.org • Internet: <https://www.iaea.org>

In reply please refer to: **EVT1903934**
Dial directly to extension: (+43 1) 2600-22676

The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presents its compliments to the IAEA's Member States and has the honour to draw their attention to the **Annual Meeting of the Forum on the Safety of Near Surface Disposal** (hereinafter referred to as "event") to be held virtually via Cisco Webex, from **4 to 8 October 2021**.

The purpose of the event is to assist Member States in strengthening the safety of near surface disposal of radioactive waste through the development of guidance, methods, and tools as appropriate, as well as the exchange of information on good practices.

The event will be held in English.

Member States are invited to designate one or more participants to represent the Government at this event. Member States are strongly encouraged to identify suitable women participants.

Designations should be submitted to the IAEA through the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) not later than **10 September 2021** using the attached Participation Form (Form A). Completed and authorized Participation Forms should be sent either by email to: Official.Mail@iaea.org or by fax to: +43 1 26007 (no hard copies needed). Copies should be sent by email to the Scientific Secretary of the event, Mr David Bennett, Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security (Email: D.G.Bennett@iaea.org), and to the Administrative Secretary, Ms Dunja Kostadinovic (Email: D.Kostadinovic@iaea.org).

The IAEA takes no responsibility for, and the provider of the virtual meeting services has represented and warranted that the Services shall not contain, and that no end user shall receive from the software used to hold the virtual meeting, any virus, worm, trap door, back door, timer, clock, counter or other limiting routine, instruction or design, or other malicious, illicit or similar unrequested code, including surveillance software or routines which may, or is designed to, permit access by any person, or on its own, to erase, or otherwise harm or modify any data or any system, server, facility or other infrastructure of any end user (collectively, a "Disabling Code").

The Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IAEA's Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.



2021-07-16

Enclosures: Information Sheet
 Participation Form (Form A)
 Form for Submission of a Presentation (Form B)



Annual Meeting of the Forum on the Safety of Near Surface Disposal

Virtual Event

4 - 8 October 2021

Ref. No.: EVT1903934

Information Sheet

A. Introduction

Virtually all countries have radioactive waste that requires disposal. Some of the more developed countries have several decades of experience in the development, licensing and safe operation of near surface disposal facilities, particularly for low level radioactive waste (LLW). Many other countries, including those planning to embark on nuclear power programmes, need to include the development and implementation of near surface disposal facilities in their radioactive waste management strategies. In addition, the provision of disposal routes for large volumes of LLW is a key issue that can limit the progress of remediation and decommissioning activities.

As national programmes for radioactive waste disposal have developed, considerable effort has been put into developing systematic and internationally recognized approaches for demonstrating the safety of disposal facilities and for preparing safety cases for specific facilities.

Demonstrating the safety of a disposal facility involves the conduct of safety assessments and depends on the arguments in the safety case concerning the characteristics of the site and the facility engineering (e.g. the system of engineered barriers), the results of safety assessment, and the management arrangements for ensuring quality in all aspects of safety related work.

The IAEA has over a considerable period of time organised various international meetings on the safety of radioactive waste disposal, and it has also coordinated a series of multi-year projects specifically on near surface disposal (NSARS, ISAM, ASAM, PRISM and PRISMA). These projects included work (i) to benchmark safety assessment models, (ii) to develop improved safety assessment methods, (iii) to apply these improved methods to examples of proposed and existing disposal facilities and consider the regulatory review of their application, (iv) to enhance understanding of the safety case for near surface disposal facilities, and (v) to explore approaches for the practical use of the safety case in the living management of near surface disposal facilities. These activities have provided a valuable and productive international forum for discussions, exchange of experiences, development of methodologies and mutual learning on safety assessments for waste disposal facilities, on the development of safety cases for waste disposal facilities, and on the practical use of such safety cases in developing, operating and taking strategic decisions concerning near surface disposal facilities.

Following completion in 2016 of the PRISMA project, the IAEA began to facilitate an on-going forum on the Safety of Near Surface Disposal. The forum on the Safety of Near Surface Disposal is run by the Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Unit Management of the IAEA's Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety, and currently has four Working Groups:

- Working Group 1. Use of the Safety Case in Decision Making on Near Surface Disposal.
- Working Group 2. Regulatory Experiences and Processes.
- Working Group 3. Post-closure Safety Assessment.
- Working Group 4. Communication of the Safety Case.

The next Annual Meeting of the Forum on the Safety of Near Surface Disposal will be held as a Virtual Event during 4 - 8 October 2021.

B. Objectives

The general objectives of the Forum on the Safety of Near Surface Disposal are to:

- Provide an enduring forum that will assist Member States to ensure the safety of near-surface disposal.
- Help Member States to improve safety by:
 - Developing guidance, methods and tools as appropriate.
 - Enabling the exchange of information on good practices (e.g. on safety cases, safety assessment, technologies).
 - Providing opportunities for informal review of facilities and safety cases by peers.
- Facilitate education and training of staff.

The specific objectives of the event are to enable participants to discuss existing draft technical notes developed by the Forum's Working Groups, make presentations on topics relevant to the safety of near surface disposal facilities and to identify topics needing discussion and potentially further work.

C. Target Audience

Member States are invited to designate suitably qualified and experienced participants for the meeting. Participants should be drawn from organizations with responsibility for the management of radioactive waste, from regulatory bodies, or from technical support or other organizations involved in activities related to near surface disposal of radioactive waste and the development, use and review of safety cases and safety assessments for radioactive waste disposal. The IAEA would appreciate the designation of participants who have already been involved in the activities of the Forum on the Safety of Near Surface Disposal. Member States are strongly encouraged to identify suitable women participants.

D. Working Language(s)

English

E. 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 **10 September 2021**. 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.

F. 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 2 pages (including figures and tables) It should be sent electronically to David Bennet, the Scientific Secretary of the event (see contact details below), not later than **10 September 2021**.

In addition, participants have to submit the abstract together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** and the attached **Form for Submission of a Presentation (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 **10 September 2021**.

G. Organization

Scientific Secretary

Mr David Bennett

Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety
Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 1 2600 22676

Fax: +43 1 26007

Email: D.G.Bennett@iaea.org

Administrative Secretary

Ms Dunja Kostadinovic

Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety
Department of Nuclear Safety and Security
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 1 2600 24800

Fax: +43 1 26007

Email: D.Kostadinovic@iaea.org

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.

Participation Form

Annual Meeting of the Forum on the Safety of Near Surface Disposal

Virtual Event

4 to 8 October 2021

To be completed by the participant and sent to the competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA, or National Atomic Energy Authority) of his/her country for subsequent transmission to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) either by email to: OfficialMail@iaea.org or by fax to: +43 1 26007 (no hard copies needed). Please also send a copy by email to the Scientific Secretary, Mr David Bennett, Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security (Email: D.G.Bennett@iaea.org) and to the Administrative Secretary, Ms Dunja Kostadinovic, (Email: D.Kostadinovic@iaea.org).

Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels: 10 September 2021

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------|
| Family name(s): (same as in passport) | First name(s): (same as in passport) | Mr/Ms |
| Institution: | | |
| Full address: | | |
| Tel. (Fax): | | |
| Email: | | |
| Nationality: | Representing following Member State/non-Member State/entity or invited organization: | |
| If/as applicable: | | |
| Do you wish to make a presentation? | Yes | No |
| Title: | | |



Form for Submission of a Presentation

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Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels: 10 September 2021

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| Title of the presentation: | | |
| If applicable: Abstract ID in IAEA-INDICO: | | |
| Family name(s) and first name(s) of all author(s): e.g. Smith, John | Scientific establishment(s) in which the work has been carried out | City/Country |
| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| Family name and first name(s) of author presenting the presentation: e.g. Smith, John | Mr/Ms: | |
| Mailing address: | | |
| Tel. (Fax): | | |
| Email: | | |

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Date:

Signature of main author: