IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

Regional Workshop on Concepts and Designs for Very Low Level and Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal

Hosted by

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Vienna, Austria

Room CR-4

26 – 30 January 2026

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Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to strengthen the capacities of participating Member States in identifying viable disposal concept options and in establishing an iterative design process of fit-for-purpose radioactive waste (RW) disposal systems for very low level waste (VLLW) and/or low-level waste (LLW). The initial selection of viable disposal options and the iterative design process to adapt a disposal concept to specific national circumstances – in particular those prescribed by the regulatory framework, the radioactive waste inventory and the site selection process – are important elements of safe, effective and sustainable implementation of national radioactive waste management programmes.

By way of context, note that this workshop on waste disposal is preceded by a one-week workshop on waste inventory and characterization, scheduled for the week of January 19, 2026.

The workshop will bring together technical experts, regulators, and facility operators to exchange experiences and good practices on disposal concept selection and design processes, including the clear reference to safety requirements. These will be illustrated by national case studies and aligned with the corresponding requirements from the IAEA safety standards.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **5 October 2025** will not be considered.

Working Language

The working language of the event will be English.

Scope and Nature

The main objective of radioactive waste management, as stated in the IAEA Safety Standards Series No. GSR Part 5, is to *"deal with radioactive waste in a manner that protects human health and the environment now and in the future without imposing undue burdens on future generations"*. Radioactive waste management includes the collection, characterization, treatment, conditioning, storage and disposal of waste and all steps must be undertaken in a manner that ensures safety and protection throughout the waste management lifecycle.

The endpoint of radioactive waste management is disposal. The scope of this workshop is to inform and discuss with participants the range of disposal options that could be used to manage their national VLLW and LLW inventory in the context of the national waste management strategy, regulations, and site characteristics. Safety considerations - on the one hand informed by the potential radiological hazard associated with the waste inventory, and on the other hand on the containment and isolation that needs to be provided by the disposal facility – are central to informing concept selection as well as the iterative design process.

A timely selection of viable disposal options is a step fundamental to designing an effective overall national programme. All steps in radioactive waste management are interdependent – and while this workshop is focused on disposal, it is important to recognize such interdependencies as fundamental to safe waste management from cradle to grave by maintaining a systematic and optimized approach. A good understanding of waste inventory and an integrated approach to waste processing, storage and disposal supports efficient use of resources and contributes to the long-term safety and sustainability of the national waste management programme.

The workshop will be held in person, at the IAEA in Vienna, for a period of 5 days and will include presentations and a working exercise delivered by international experts and the Secretariat.

Expected Outputs

The workshop is expected to enhance participants' understanding of how to select viable options and launch first iterations of the design process for VLLW and LLW disposal facilities, as an element central to the national radioactive waste management programme. Through expert presentations, facilitated discussions, and the sharing of national experiences, participants will identify common challenges and practical solutions related to the concept selection and early stages design process to provide for safe disposal of their national VLLW and LLW inventory.

The workshop will also support the development of preliminary national action plans or roadmaps aimed at enhancing the selection and early-stage design iterations for said disposal concepts in line with international good practices and IAEA guidance.

Structure

This five-day workshop will include following components:

- Lectures presenting the main disposal requirements – to provide for safe disposal of a given inventory in an efficient manner - and options for VLLW or LLW disposal concepts that meet those requirements, as well as the first stages of an iterative design process.
- Practical exercises and facilitated discussions focused on understanding general disposal requirements and how these may inform the selection of disposal concepts and drive initial design developments.

- Presentations from participating Member States highlighting national experiences, infrastructure, and challenges related to disposal concept selection and programme planning.
- Interactive Q&A and panel sessions to encourage peer-to-peer learning, technical exchange, and the identification of practical needs for choosing disposal concepts and starting the design process

Project Background

Radioactive waste management is essential wherever nuclear techniques or installations are used. Most European countries have or plan to use nuclear technology in agriculture, medicine, industry, and resource development. Several operate research reactors and nuclear power plants, with many considering nuclear power. These activities generate radioactive waste that must be managed efficiently to ensure the sustainability of all uses of nuclear technology. The objective of the project (RER9164) is to advance the national radioactive waste management program implementation by improving competences.

Participation

The workshop is open to Member States participating in the RER9164 project. Participants must be officially nominated by the competent Member State national authority and specifically, by the Member States' official designated counterpart for the RER9164 project.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

The workshop is intended for individuals directly involved in radioactive waste management, with a focus on those involved with the planning and development of disposal facilities, regulators overseeing said activities and national decision-makers or planners responsible for waste management strategies.

Participants may be invited by the Scientific Secretaries to prepare and deliver a presentation during the workshop. Presentations may include an overview of national capabilities and experiences in selecting and designing radioactive waste disposal facilities, or a focused presentation on a specific technical or strategic aspect of these efforts.

Application Procedure

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

1. Access the IAEA TALEO page (https://iaea.taleo.net/) and complete the Candidate Profile.

2. Be registered on the Nucleus page of the IAEA (https://nucleus.iaea.org/).

3. Through Nucleus, access the InTouch+ platform where the Profile is completed (My Profile tab) (https://nucleus.iaea.org/Pages/InTouchPlus.aspx). **NOTE:** The email used for TALEO and Nucleus must be the same. If not, the candidate's profile will not appear complete.

4. On the InTouch + platform, under the 'My InTouch +' tab, the candidate needs to:

    a. select the institute / organization that he/she works at / represents ('My Institute' section);

    b. click on the link called **'Refresh Personal History Form'** to update the system, ***otherwise the nominations submitted will have these fields empty and it will not be possible to evaluate them during the selection of candidates*** ('IAEA Recruitment Platform' section).

    NOTE: Once the above steps are finalized, the candidate's profile will appear as completed and he/she can apply for Technical Cooperation events.

5. In the InTouch+ platform (https://intouchplus.iaea.org), in the 'Applications' tab, search by the event number **EVT2504681**.

   The help for each step is located at the top of the page. For additional help on how to register, create a profile and apply for an event, please refer to the online guide and training videos available under the following links: how-to guide and training videos. Any issues or queries related to the new system can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org or TC-AIPS-PL4.Contact-point@iaea.org.

Should this not be possible, applicants may download the Nomination Form for the ME from the IAEA website https://www.iaea.org/services/technical-cooperation-programme/how-to-participate.

Applications should contain sufficient information to establish that the nominees have the required qualifications. Please note that the information regarding LANGUAGE SKILLS, EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE is exported from TALEO. If an applicant's profile in TALEO is not updated, the information in INTOUCH+ for these sections appears as empty and the candidates cannot be evaluated. Completed applications need to be endorsed by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office and submitted through the established official channels.

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 American Express, or a travel grant, 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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