




IAEA 60 Years
Atoms for Peace and Development

Similarities and differences in stakeholder engagement approaches in waste disposal, decommissioning and environmental remediation – Is a common approach possible?

Horst Monken-Fernandes
NEFW-IAEA

RICOMET 2018

Social Sciences and Humanities in Ionising Radiation Research



IAEA 60 Years
Atoms for Peace and Development

Some Basic Definitions – a starting point for mutual understanding

- **Remediation** - Any measures that may be carried out to **reduce** the *radiation exposure* due to existing *contamination* of land areas through actions applied to the *contamination* itself (the *source*) or to the *exposure pathways* to people.
 - **Complete removal of the *contamination* is not implied.**
 - The use of the terms *clean-up*, *rehabilitation* and *restoration* is discouraged.
 - Such terms may be taken to imply that the conditions that prevailed before the *contamination* can be achieved again and unconditional use of the land areas can be restored, **which is not usually the case**
 - Often *remediation* is used to restore land areas to conditions suitable for limited use under *institutional control*.

2

Some Basic Definitions – a starting point for mutual understanding



- **Decommissioning** - **Administrative and technical actions** taken to allow the removal of some or all of the regulatory controls from a facility.
 - Facility means buildings, and their associated land and equipment, in which radioactive material was or still is produced, processed, used, handled or stored... 'Land' includes the surface, subsurface soil horizons and any surface or subsurface water or aquifers potentially affected by the radioactive material;
 - Decommissioning actions are considered completed when the approved **end state** of the facility has been reached. ... this end state is a result of conducting decontamination and/or dismantling, management of waste and clean-up, leading to the release of the facility from regulatory control **with or without restrictions** on its future use
 - A facility could be decommissioned without dismantling and the existing structures subsequently put to another use (eventually after decontamination).

3

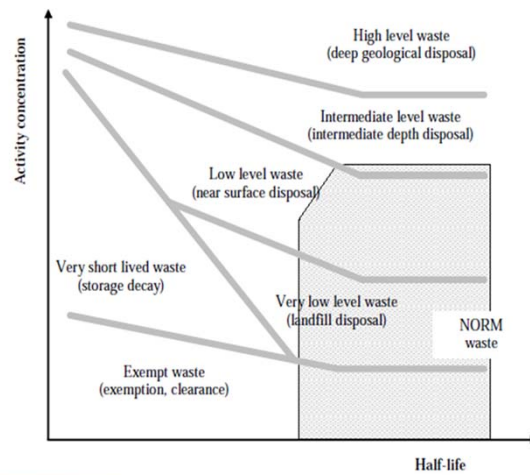
Some Basic Definitions – a starting point for mutual understanding



- **Waste Disposal** - Emplacement of waste in an appropriate facility **without the intention of retrieval**
- Disposal (with no intent to retrieve) and Storage (with intent to retrieve)
- The term disposal implies that retrieval is not intended and would require deliberate action to regain access to the waste; it does not mean that retrieval is not possible

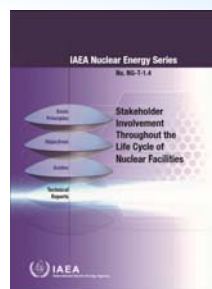
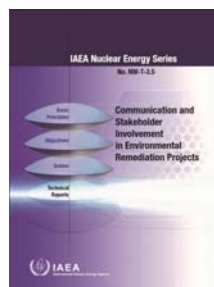
4

Waste Classification x Disposal Option



5

Some IAEA Publications

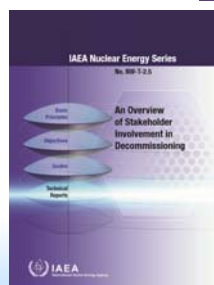


IAEA Safety Standards

for protecting people and the environment

Communication and Consultation with Interested Parties by the Regulatory Body

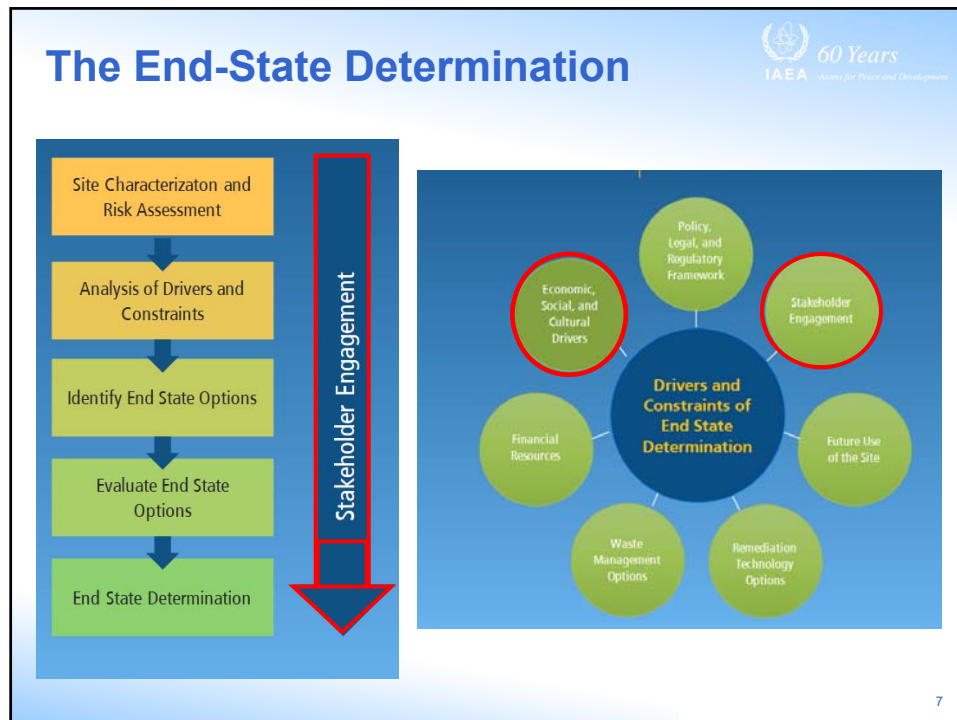
General Safety Guide
No. GSG-6



Communication and Stakeholder Involvement in RW disposal

Under development

6



Points to Consider

IAEA 60 Years
Agency for Peace and Development

- Public participation in environmental related decisions has spread to many countries and international forums e.g. UN; World Bank
- Controversies over a wide variety of environmental issues
- Decisions that involve consideration of complex technical issues made/driven by laypeople
- Is it the case that a common approach to Stakeholder Engagement and Communication is possible in the three areas (ER, Deco and WD)?

8

And...

1. Is the communication/engagement process the same in the 3 situations?
2. If not, in which sense are they different?
3. In some situations one might be faced with the three activities in



Upcoming activity



- Consultants Meeting in Mol/Belgium (SCK-CEN) to further discuss the issue (August 2018)
- Preparation of a IAEA NE-Series Report to capture the relevant aspects and provide guidance
- Open to the participation of a wide range of professionals (e.g. Social Scientists, NGO's representatives, Policy Makers, etc.)
- **Your inputs/views will be very valuable**

