Observations on concerns of stakeholders faced with decommissioning, environmental remediation and radioactive waste disposal

David Brazier

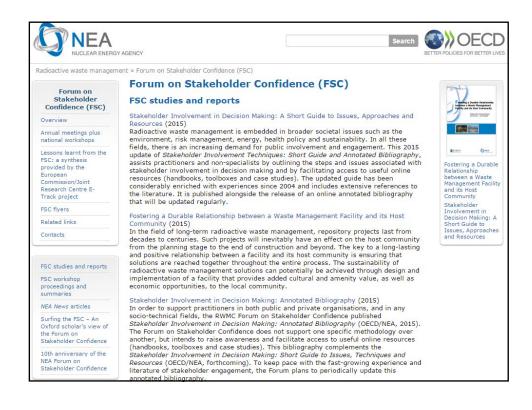
Environment Agency

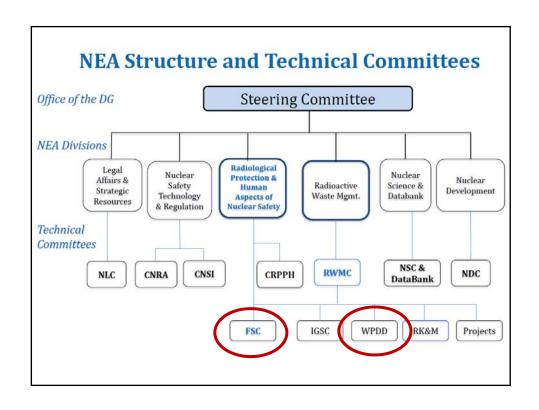
RICOMET Antwerp 14 June 2018

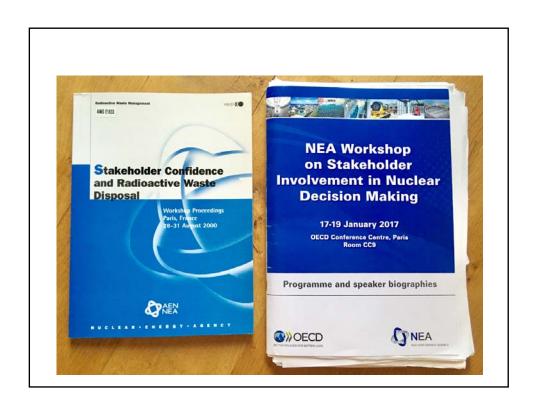
Outline of selected NEA work on SE (FSC WPDD, CDLM)

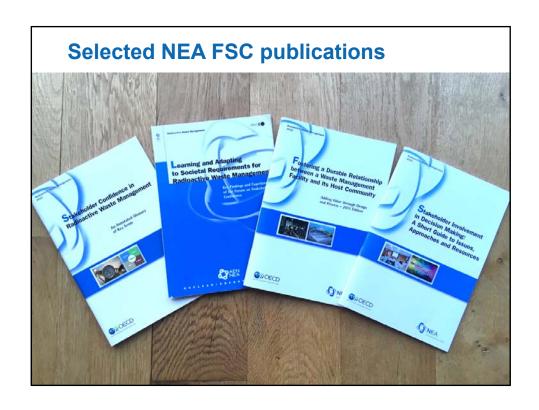
IAEA CIDER Project

Personal observations on SE between disposal, decom & clean-up





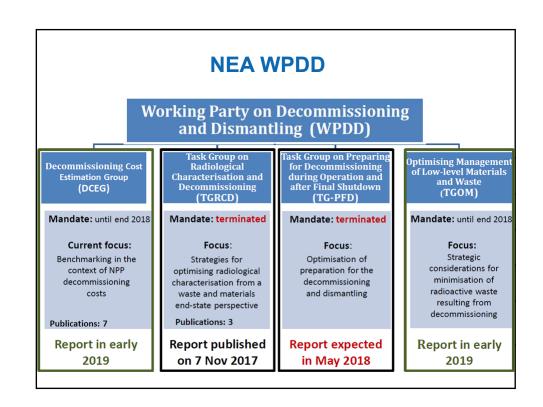




NEA FSC Future activities

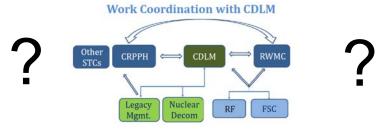
- Update 2010 report "Partnering for Long-term Management of Radioactive Waste"
- Identify host for next national workshop
- Exploring pre-disposal activities including confidence in 'transport'
- Further work on engagement of youth

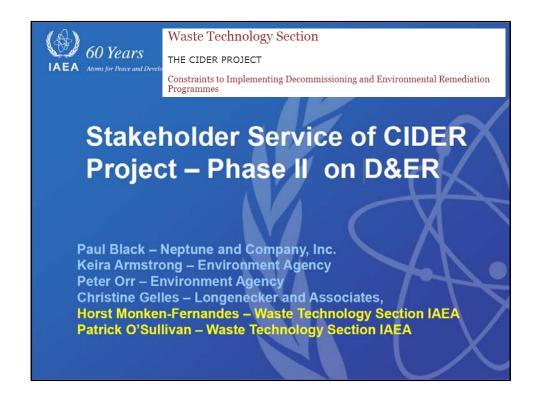




Future of NEA WPDD?

- NEA is proposing a new Standing Technical Committee on Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations and Legacy Management (CDLM)
- NEA Steering Committee approved initial mandate CDLM on April 19, 2018 http://www.oecd-nea.org/documents/2017/sen/ne2017-12-rev1.pdf
- Activities of WPDD DCEG, TGOM continue until end of 2018. Current mandate of WPDD is until end of 2019.







CIDER II - An IAEA Initiative

- Constraints to Implementing Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation Strategies – Phase II
- Addressing Member States with legacy nuclear/radioactive contamination issues
- Aim of CIDER Improve current levels of performance on D&ER across the Member States (MS)
- CIDER II goals action oriented to:
 - Improve stakeholder communication and engagement
 - Help MS establish and implement strategies for D&ER
 - Support capacity building in the MS

Technical Meeting on Stakeholder Involvement and Public Information

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Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Program (SEAP)

- 1. SE is critical for the success of MS D&ER projects
- 2. SE is an integral part of decision making
- 3. SE needs to be led by experts in SE (but with engineers/scientists)
- 4. SE should learn/adapt from past experiences in SE (good and bad)
- SE approach needs to provide maximum flexibility because of differences among countries/regions
- SE should be an integral part of any D&ER strategy
- 7. SE must have a connection to decision making
- SE capacity must be built with a top down strategy that leads to locally led SE efforts to the extent possible/reasonable
- 9. An effective SEAP requires training, and training of trainers
- 10. SEAP aims to create a lasting legacy of the importance or value of SE

Technical Meeting on Stakeholder Involvement and Public Information

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Comparative aspects for SE on disposal, decom & clean-up (1)

- In principle, SE approaches should be similar good practice is good practice
- In reality, public interest in decom/clean-up of <u>existing</u> facility ≠ public interest in a <u>new</u> facility (power station or repository). Not 'newsworthy' other than projected number of job-losses
- A new DGR/GDF commands a national approach. Decom/clean-up is a local matter, perhaps regional. Radioactive legacies that require funding from state/government budgets are a national matter, but are still not newsworthy
- An existing facility has a workforce, their families and the supply chain.
 Real jobs affected. Stakeholders (workers, unions and local authorities) want to ensure sustainability of jobs and economic wellbeing of affected areas.
- Employment and local economy implications are more significant for decommissioning than disposal

Comparative aspects for SE on disposal, decom & clean-up (2)

- 'Voluntarism and partnership' have defined the search for a radioactive waste disposal site in England and Wales since 2008 – but only for higher activity wastes. The siting of lower activity waste disposal facilities remains technocratic, with local engagement through planning law and regulatory processes
- Consultations and communications for <u>new</u> facilities are typically based on idealised, highly-simplified concepts of facilities with cartoon/virtual reality depictions of operations and a trouble-free future envisaged!
- "Good news" culture dominates. Industry communications on developments at ageing facilities should acknowledge historical successes and failures at the facility

Comparative aspects for SE on disposal, decom & clean-up (3) Disinterestedness?

- Who has the time to spare? White-haired, middle-aged, retired men?
- UK Example: In October 1983, UK Authorising Departments consulted on Principles for the Protection of Human Health for Land-based Disposal of Radioactive Waste.
- 117 written responses from diverse institutions such as Youth Hostels Association, South Wales Electricity Board; British Gas; Building Societies Association; British Railways Board; Church Commissioners; Confederation of British Industry
- Some of these institutions no longer exist but many still do.
- We (as an industry) have long-since lost the interest of these wider organisations and their representatives.
- We are awash in information and consultations. 'Nuclear' commands no special significance in peoples' lives today? Question!?

Looking forward...

- We need effective participation in decisions to ensure sustainable management of radioactive wastes
- Stakeholders need proxy independent experts (not regulators) that are funded (polluter pays)
- Participation must be continuous and focussed on the issues of stakeholders
- We need to improve the information on social and economic impacts of decisions
- We need to think more carefully about listening rather than information giving (consultations)
- Most challenges span multiple generations and impacts affect everyone – requires input that is representative of society

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