

CEG Newsletter

CEG Plenary meeting:

The CEG Chairman and Executive Secretary have started preparations for the CEG Plenary Meeting to be held on 24-26 September in Paris. The Commissariat de Energy Atomique (CEA) will host and financially support the meeting and arrange a technical tour of the CEA Research Centre Fontenay-Aux-Roses, whose nuclear facilities are under dismantlement.

The following issues are to be discussed at the Plenary Meeting:

- Main achievements of CEG Member-States over the last year
- Outcomes of the two CEG workshops held in 2008
- Discussion of specific issues: status and operation of the Mayak plant, Russian RW legislation, etc.
- Election of a new CEG Chairman and Deputy Chairman
- Extension of CEG activities for the period of 2010-2011
- The scope of CEG activities for the future
- CEG Secretariat reports on its activities in 2008 including a financial report
- The subjects of the next CEG workshops for 2009, their hosts and venues. One of the subjects might be the management of nuclear heritage SNF and RW at the Mayak plant.

Workshop on disposal of high-level RW

At the CEG workshop held earlier this year in Oxford a proposal was made by Sweden and the UK to arrange a workshop on disposal of high-level RW that would be of interest to all CEG members as well as Russia. The workshop would be held in Sweden in November 2008. This idea was supported by some CEG members. The CEG Chairman and Executive Secretary have discussed this proposal with representatives from Sweden, the UK, France, Canada, and the IAEA, and agreed that this workshop would be supported by the CEG. However, this would not be a completely CEG event, as the bulk of organisation and funding will be provided by Sweden and the UK. The CEG Executive Secretary will circulate invitation to the workshop with its TOR and the Agenda.

Centre for Nuclear and Radiation Safety of Rosatom

The Centre was established by Rosatom in 2007 to manage SNF (including the import of SNF from abroad) and RW, and also to decommission nuclear facilities. In March 2008 it was charged with implementation of international nuclear legacy projects in the North-West Region of Russia – the role earlier played by SevRao. This was done in line with the new Rosatom policy of separating customers from operators. This move is reportedly aimed at increasing efficiency and reducing the cost of work . This change coincided with the appointment of a new Director of the centre, Sergei Kazakov, who came from IBRAE. He took part in the CEG workshop in Oxford and also plans to participate in the next CEG Plenary Meeting to tell CEG members about the role of the Centre in more detail.

Rosatom reforms and new appointments

In May 2008 the Rosatom Corporation was completing the final stages of its formation. The majority of staff of the new corporation have been appointed (or reappointed from the Rosatom Agency, which is to be abrogated shortly). The new Rosatom will combine the functions of both the Agency and a

state corporation. One of the main reasons for its creation was the need to establish solid legal bounds between the central apparatus and numerous nuclear enterprises. Earlier these enterprises reported to the Agency, but were fairly independent economically. Now as part of one corporation they will be obliged to comply with the economic policy of the Rosatom Corporation.

Earlier this year, Evgeny Yevstratov was appointed as Deputy Director General of Rosatom responsible for SNF and RW and decommissioning. He has also become the Russian representative to MNEPR. The CEG will see new people from the Russian side. Anatoly Zakharchev has replaced Victor Kovalenko as Deputy Head of Department for SNF, RW and Decommissioning. Therefore, a new Russian member for CEG is yet to be appointed. Ludmila Petrova replaced Natalia Sherbina in the RTG field. Below is a chart depicting a part of Rosatom structure relevant to CEG activities. Please, feel free to write to Oleg Goroshko, if you want to correct it or add something.

CEG workshops

Here is a brief summary of the two workshops held by CEG in 2008:

The workshop on the System for Radioactive Waste Management in the North-West Region of Russia (5-7 March 2008, Oxfordshire, UK)

The workshop assembled experts from ten countries: Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union. The future system for RW management in the North-West region and its place in the Russian strategy of RW management was discussed in detail. Treatment of the legacy RW allied with the integrated approach, which has been elaborated under the SMP, represents a significant way forward to development and implementation of a comprehensive solution to the region's accumulated problems.

The key element of this regional system will be the centre for RW management at Saida Bay. Russian and German presentations assessed the role of the centre and its interactions with local centres. That includes technologies of RW treatment and transportation schemes. The Workshop recommended performing a feasibility study for a united transportation scheme for RW. The ability of Saida Bay to manage high-level RW was also duly addressed at the workshop to avoid the risk of creating a new nuclear legacy in the region.

Russian, British, Italian and French presentations were devoted to local centres for RW management that are to be created on the existing infrastructure of the former navy bases (Andreyeva Bay and Gremikha) and also shipyards dealing with dismantlement of nuclear submarines. RW will undergo limited treatment there before shipment to the regional centre. Appropriate waste acceptance criteria are to be established for relocating most wastes to the regional centre at Saida Bay. The issue of unification of RW containers was considered to be very important.

The workshop has also dealt with the Russian plans to introduce a new category of waste - Very Low Level Radioactive Waste (VLLW). This issue needs to be discussed further, in order to balance the economic and safety advantages of modification of the current radioactive waste management strategy.

Workshop on Problems of Decommissioning Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (23-25 April, Moscow, Russia)

The workshop was attended by experts from eight countries: Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. CEG members discussed the state of decommissioning, replacement, transportation and disposal of Russian RTGs, which can pose proliferation and environmental threat. International assistance

programmes of Norway, the USA, Canada and France, which constitute the core of RTG decommissioning in Russia, have been reviewed in detail. The Action Plan for RTG decommissioning in Russia has been discussed and now offered to the CEG members for their comments before its adoption.

The workshop drew the attention of CEG members, Baltic states, and the Russian side to the need of jointly solving the problems of RTG decommissioning in the Baltic Sea as this region is lagging behind other Russian areas in this respect.

Among specific issues discussed was the necessity to build the second hot cell at the Mayak Plant to carry out dismantling RTGs from the Far East and North of Russia. This hot cell might be funded by France.

CEG members agreed to create an RTG coordination group for exchange of information and steering activities on RTG decommissioning in the Russian Federation. This group should be headed by Rosatom and include Russian organizations involved in the process of RTGs decommissioning, as well as representatives of donor countries. The CEG executive secretary will assist in creation of the group. Its first meeting may take place in summer 2008.

Structure of the Rosatom Corporation relevant to CEG activates



