

RECORD OF THE CEG WORKSHOP
on Methods and Techniques for Radioactive Waste Management
Applicable for Remediation of Isolated Nuclear Sites
16-28 May 2004, Petten, Netherlands

The workshop of the IAEA Contact Expert Group (CEG) was organised according to decision of the 17th CEG meeting (November 2003, Murmansk). The workshop was prepared by Institute for Energy of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (IE-JRC-EC) in cooperation with the CEG Secretariat.

The CEG workshop was attended by 65 participants from 11 countries: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom, Slovakia, European Commission and International Atomic Energy Agency.

During the workshop the Russian side presented information on radioactive waste (RW) accumulated at the former coastal nuclear bases in Andreeva Bay and in Gremikha, including the waste types, inventory, storage conditions, radiation situation, etc, and on Russian plans for development of RW management centre in Andreeva Bay. It was proposed to continue this project.

Western experts presented information on available experience in RW management and modern techniques of waste characterisation, treatment, decontamination, packaging, etc. Applicability of the presented methods and installations for remediation of isolated nuclear sites has been discussed.

The CEG workshop recognised that the long-term strategy for the Andreeva Bay remediation is important for clean up activities because some projects can start only when the others are completed. Activities on management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel at the site are closely related and they should be coordinated together.

Basic approaches and solutions applied at Andreeva Bay could be used for the Gremikha site remediation since the problems at these sites are similar. However, while international cooperation on SNF and RW management in Andreeva Bay and preparations for remediation of the site have been started, Western assistance for improvement of SNF and RW management in Gremikha is still on hold. In this situation further delays increase the risk of radioactive release to the environment and make the site remediation in the future more expensive and labour consuming.

It was recognised at the workshop also that no decision was made on establishment of regional RW repository or centre for RW long-term storage, and this complicates the whole cycle of the RW management and remediation of nuclear sites. The solution of this problem is urgently needed.