

# **RECORD OF THE CEG WORKSHOP**

## ***Isolation and Disposal of Radioactive Waste***

**28-30 June 2006, Olkiluoto, Finland**

The workshop of the IAEA Contact Expert Group (CEG) was organised according to the decision of the 19<sup>th</sup> CEG meeting (October 2005, Ottawa, Canada). The workshop was prepared by STUK and TVO Nuclear Services Ltd., Finland and the CEG Secretariat in cooperation with Rosatom. Financial support for the workshop was provided by Finland.

The CEG workshop was attended by representatives from 9 countries: Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, and three international organisations: European Commission, IAEA, and EBRD.

The workshop discussed two major issues:

- Predisposal and long-term storage of radioactive waste, and
- Regulatory aspects and practical experience in the radioactive waste disposal.

On the first issue the Western side presented experience in technologies for radioactive waste conditioning and preparation for disposal, management of the legacy waste and different aspects of storage of the high level waste and spent nuclear fuel. The Russian Federation gave an overview of the main regulatory provisions for preparation of waste for long-term storage and disposal, waste acceptance criteria and achievements in developing technologies for immobilisation of high level waste. It was recognised that the Russian regulations in general correspond to the international requirements and contain the set of waste acceptance criteria for preparation of waste for interim storage and further disposal. However, further work is needed for introduction of a new category of waste – very low level waste, and formulation of a set of requirements for this category.

On the second issue the Western side presented available experience in development and operation of the RW disposal facilities. IAEA overviewed its main programmes and activities in the area of waste management and disposal and introduced safety standards and regulations that have been developed recently.

The workshop recognised the importance of the IAEA guidance and promotion of the best practice in the area of predisposal and disposal of waste.

The Russian side presented general concept of the RW management centre that will be established in the Andreeva Bay, perspectives of development of the low- and intermediate-level waste (LILW) repository in the North-West Region and current activities on site selection and plans for construction of the deep geological repository for high level waste in the Krasnoyarsk Region. Current procedures for design and licensing of the disposal facilities in Russia and available experience were given too. The workshop supported activities of the Russian side and Western donors on safe and secure isolation of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel accumulated in Andreeva Bay until the regional disposal facility is available.

The need to establish several regional repositories in Russia for low and intermediate level waste was recognised by the Russian side as of high priority. The Western side presented the outcomes and findings of the TACIS project aimed at preliminary selection of sites suitable

for construction of the underground disposal facility for LILW in the North-West Region of Russia. Several sites technically suitable for building the facility have been identified. The project was completed several years ago, but its results and recommendations are still valid and could be used as a basis for further investigations by the Russian side.

The workshop supported proposal of the Russian side to concentrate international cooperation on the following projects:

1. Construction of the regional repository to low- and intermediate-level waste in the North-Western Region of Russia, and
2. Construction of the deep underground repository for high-level waste in the Krasnoyarsk Region.

In general the workshop recognised that proven technologies and experience in development, construction and operation of LILW disposal facilities are available in many countries, and a good progress has been made in several countries in development of underground repositories for high-level waste. Sharing information, knowledge and experience in these areas is very beneficial for the Russian side as well as for the donors because resources available under the Global Partnership Programme and other international initiatives should be used in the most efficient way. In this respect the workshop was recognised as been timely and valuable considering the ongoing activities in the Russian Federation.

The CEG expressed its thanks to STUK, TVO Nuclear Services Ltd. and other Finnish organisations for excellent preparation and support of the CEG workshop.