

International Atomic Energy Agency
Terms of Reference for a Technical Meeting (“Decommissioning Forum”)
comprised of the annual meeting of the
“International Decommissioning Network” and a review of
“Outcomes and Lessons Learned from a Peer Review of MAGNOX
Decommissioning”

Nov 3-7, VIC, Vienna Austria.

Purpose of the Meeting

The Meeting will consist of two parts. **Part 1** will consist of the annual meeting of the “International Decommissioning Network” (IDN) and **Part 2** will consist of a review of “Outcomes and Lessons Learned from a Peer Review of MAGNOX Decommissioning”. These two parts constitute what is intended to become a regular, annual “Decommissioning Forum”, where topics of interest to a broad range of participants from the decommissioning community (both operators and regulators) will be discussed.

In Part 1, the objective will be to inform and seek input from senior representatives of organizations from Member States concerning the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives and carrying out the initial planned activities of the IDN. In Part 2, the main outcomes of the peer review exercise will be reviewed, lessons learned summarized, and opportunities to build on this experience explored with the MS organizations in attendance.

Background

Launched at the General Conference in 2007, the objectives of the IDN are to improve the flow of knowledge and experience amongst those engaged in decommissioning, and specifically to enhance the “user-oriented” focus for all IAEA decommissioning activities. It provides a “bridge” between those with specialized knowledge and those that need to apply it, and encourages an exchange of practical knowledge and skills. A Technical Meeting was held in Oct. 2007 to define the program for the IDN. At this meeting, significant offers of assistance were made by organizations in the developed MS to the activities of those in MS requiring decommissioning assistance, and shows promise in enhancing the benefit of TC activities through integration and improved measurability of results.

Initially, the IDN has focussed on smaller facilities e.g. research reactors and fuel cycle laboratories and will expand its membership and activities on an “as-needed” basis to medical, industrial, and research facilities. Discussions with organizations with similar goals and interests, e.g. OECD/NEA have been undertaken.

The IAEA has, over the years, promoted the concept of peer reviews to strengthen regulatory and technical approaches in Member States. Most recently, the management of Magnox Electric Ltd of the UK approached the IAEA with the suggestion that the Agency organize and execute an independent peer-review of decommissioning activities at one of its facilities.

Following detailed discussions with the Company, the Terms of Reference for a peer review service mission addressing activities associated with the planning and implementation of decommissioning of Magnox Electric's Bradwell nuclear power plant facility in the United Kingdom was developed. This peer-review mission aims to assist the Host Organization – the operator (Magnox Electric Ltd. (and its successor Magnox South) - to identify opportunities for improvement to their decommissioning project planning and execution based on international safety standards, good international practice and other relevant recommendations in this field. The mission is to take place in early July 2008. In Part 2 of the Forum, as noted above, the main outcomes of the peer review exercise will be reviewed, lessons learned summarized, and opportunities to build on this experience explored with the MS organizations in attendance

Scope of the Meeting

In common to both Part 1 and Part 2 will be an overview of current Agency activities in the field of Decommissioning, identification of events planned for 2009-2011, and their relation to the Agency's Decommissioning Action Plan .

In Part 1, which concerns the IDN, the emphasis will involve presentations and discussions on:

1. objectives of the IDN, progress achieved in its first year, opportunities and challenges for its future. Confirmation of proposed priorities and activities from the previous-year's meetings, subject to review of,
2. the challenge of decommissioning faced by developing MS who will be asked to outline the nature of their challenge, ongoing work, and suggestions for specific assistance that could be provided through the Network, and
3. MS willingness to host events related to the development of practical knowledge, or provide specialized knowledge, expertise, techniques or equipment which could benefit other participants in the network,.

In Part 2, which concerns Peer Reviews, focus will be on:

1. results achieved and lessons learned from the experience of the Magnox peer-review exercise, and.
2. opportunities/needs/priorities to build on this experience through improvements to the process and future application (peer reviews)
3. specific MS interest in hosting future peer reviews and/or contributing expertise to planned reviews.

Outcomes of the Meeting

Outcomes expected of the overall meeting include:

- i. strengthening of the co-operation between/among Member States and the Agency on decommissioning,
- ii. demonstration of progress made in key areas pertaining to the Decommissioning Action Plan,
- iii. increased awareness in MS organizations concerning the services offered by the Agency, and

- iv. feedback necessary to increase effectiveness of these services.

The primary product of the meeting will be to provide a formal record of the discussions and decisions from the meeting. “Lessons Learned” from the first year of the IDN and the first decommissioning Peer Review of an NPP will be documented. Expressions of interest in sharing expertise and resources, hosting specific activities, and taking part in future peer-reviews will be encouraged and noted. A prioritized list of related actions proposed, involving the participating organizations and the Agency for the next 12 months, will be developed in each area (IDN and Peer Reviews).

Materials to be made available

In advance of the meeting, participants will receive:

- a draft report on the 2008 activities of the IDN and a list of potential subjects and activities proposed for future co-operation, with supporting rationale.
- TOR for the July Peer Review mission and a report on the results of this mission

Date of Meeting: Nov 3 to Nov 7 2008

Place of Meeting: VIC C02 I

IAEA Scientific Secretaries:

- Mr Mark Hannan-WES
- Mr Paul J.C. Dinner - WTS