

Datum/Date
5 June 2007

Vår referens/Our reference

Ert datum/Your date

Er referens/Your reference

Mr. Y. A. Sokolov
Deputy Director General
Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency
Wagramer Strasse 5
P.O. Box 100
A-1400 Vienna
Austria

Report from WATEC meeting 29 May – 1 June 2007

Dear Mr. Sokolov,

Please find attached the report from the WATEC meeting held 29 May – 1 June 2007. In the report you will see that the Committee recognizes that the program for DSRS is very important and suggests that SAGNE address the sustainability of the program.

I also want to thank for excellent support from the Scientific Secretary and the staff at the Waste Technology Section.

Yours sincerely,

Magnus Westerlind
Chairman of WATEC

CC: Mr. J-M. Potier

Report from WATEC's annual meeting 2007

WATEC held its annual meeting 29 May – 1 June 2007, with the participation all 19 committee members and invited observers from NEA and WNA¹.

Prior to the meeting a questionnaire on topics within WATEC's mandate had been sent to WATEC members for collecting information on the status in Member States and current challenges and trends. Furthermore, the questionnaire addressed the Member States expectations on IAEA for guidance and assistance.

The meeting was focused on the following topical sessions:

- Technical Cooperation
- Cooperation with international organizations
- Pre-disposal
- Disposal
- Decommissioning of Installations
- Environmental remediation and NORM Management
- Management of Disused Sealed Sources
- NE publications and RWM Information Systems

WATEC was also up-dated on the Waste Technology Section's (WTS) organization, and Programme and Budget 2008-2009. In addition WATEC was briefly informed about the Waste Safety Section's activities.

This report contains a summary of each of the sessions mentioned above, including conclusions made by WATEC, some general observations and identification of issues proposed for SAGNE's consideration.

Technical Cooperation

Background

Under the technical cooperation program, the IAEA provides staff training through fellowships and scientific visits, expert services and equipment acquisition to recipient Member States. Training courses and topical workshops are also important component of technical assistance activities. For topics that are of interest to a specific region in accordance with its Regional Profile, the assistance is provided through regional (regional Agreement and regional non-Agreement) TC projects. National TC projects address specific needs of a given Member State as contained in its Country Program Framework (CPF).

WATEC members' contributions show that the IAEA constitutes a source of knowledge and experience for the development of national nuclear programs. Furthermore, IAEA is a neutral venue for knowledge-sharing on RWM through training, coordinated research, technical meetings and assessment of national programs. From the perspective on WATEC Member

¹ EC and ISO were also invited but could not participate on this occasion.

organizations involved in TC activities, the IAEA significantly contributes to establishing/enhancing national programs and infrastructures for RWM through TC. In particular, the training of staff comprises an important aspect of the TC support program.

In the area of RWM, the TC projects cover a wide spectrum of technical assistance activities ranging from capacity building and developing a legislative framework and safety culture in waste management to addressing technical issues and problems related waste management facilities including disposal.

WATEC's conclusions

WATEC members gave a positive judgment on the TC contribution to Member States. In this respect, WATEC encourages WTS to maintain its current level of efforts to provide technical support to developing Member States.

WATEC considers the CPF and the Regional Profiles important documents for enabling the IAEA to assess the specific needs of Member States. A comprehensive strategy for radioactive waste management should be addressed either on a regional or national level. Strategic planning tools should be diffused to Member States.

WATEC considers that issues common to a limited number of developing countries may be more effectively addressed through interregional projects, e.g. decommissioning of small facilities.

The adoption of policy for RWM by national authorities as well as the development of RWM and decommissioning strategies approved by the authorities and implemented by the operators is key to strengthening the RWM infrastructure in all Member States. This should be recognized as a top priority by the Member States and the IAEA when elaborating the next TC programme 2009-2011.

WATEC suggests that IAEA investigate the possibilities to reuse equipment redundant in one Member State in another, in particular equipment from decommissioning of nuclear installations.

WATEC strongly supports the peer review services provided by the Agency through and outside the TC programme. Peer reviews constitute an excellent means of sharing experience and transferring knowledge among Member States' organizations.

Cooperation with international organizations

NEA and WNA informed WATEC about their activities and interaction with the IAEA in the areas covered by WATEC.

WATEC appreciates that efforts are made to coordinate activities and to avoid unnecessary overlap between e.g. NEA and IAEA, which has been a concern in the past. WATEC encourages further cooperation and coordination.

During the discussions some participants stressed that operators and implementing organizations can provide valuable input to many of IAEA's activities, including the development of Safety Standards, and that their involvement could be strengthened. WATEC agrees that operators and implementing organizations have a role to play in many of IAEA's activities. WATEC noted that governments and regulators have a strong vested interest in ensuring the application of practical, cost-effective and best practice technologies and approaches. This can best be achieved through the effective engagement of operators in a wide range of IAEA activities ranging from standards development through to implementation and best practice development.

WATEC was briefly informed by WTS on the interaction with ISO and WATEC and appreciates the interest of the ISO to incorporate in its documents methods in radioactive waste management, e.g., clearance levels, release of sites from regulatory control, measurements of radioisotopes, standards for softwares.

Pre-disposal

Background

From the synthesis of the WATEC members responses it is apparent that a wide spectrum of countries have benefited by the activities of IAEA in the area of radioactive waste management pre-disposal. IAEA has a vital role in addressing issues concerning the successful implementation of waste management programs. However, in many countries, the implementation of these programs is hampered due to public concern.

The synthesis of responses can be grouped into the following important areas in pre-disposal of radioactive waste:

1. Management of bulk radioactive waste
2. Minimization of generation at source
3. Programme on recycling and reuse
4. Management of spent resins and organic wastes
5. Conditioning of spent radiation and neutron sources
6. Methodologies of treatment of decommissioning wastes
7. Treatment of historic wastes
8. Management of HLW
9. Public perception on radioactive waste management

WATEC's conclusions

WATEC concludes that on-going activities (being implemented in 2006-2007), and planned activities for the next budget cycle (planned for implementation in 2008-2009) are aligned to adequately address issues that are identified by members of the WATEC.

WATEC suggests to WTS to put a high priority on the initiatives, planned for 2008-2009, to "Evaluate and assess the current needs and future value of projects for predisposal management of radioactive wastes (TC projects, TC workshops, and TMs, CMs, CRPs,

Publications, etc.)”, so that the results can be used for better definition of activities in the pre-disposal area for the next budget cycles.

WATEC encourages on-going initiatives by WTS for addressing waste minimization at nuclear power plants. WATEC supports the international benchmarking exercise for VVER reactors.

WATEC supports the planned initiative of WTS to provide more information to Member States on “Guidance on Radioactive Waste Management Strategy Development” and on “Methodologies for Economical Assessments of Radioactive Waste Management”

WATEC supports initiatives for the next budget cycles (beyond 2009) to focus more than in the past on the HLW management and on the development of the standardized training modules for RWM addressing the need from the level of an operating manager to the level of an operator, designer or maintainer of waste management facilities. WATEC would appreciate if WTS provide more elaboration on these initiatives for the next WATEC meeting.

WATEC advises WTS to elaborate the justification for the proposed CRP on “New advanced technological solutions for treatment and conditioning of HLW” for the next WATEC meeting. In addition, WATEC suggests WTS to consider the alternative possibility of a CRP on “Waste categorization and classification”, since that is still contentious issue in many Member States.

Disposal

Background

While most of the advanced countries have developed disposal facilities for low level and short lived radioactive waste, work is still ongoing for high level waste and spent fuel disposal². Another major concern is the availability of very low level radioactive waste disposal, requested by the Members States in the perspective of disposing of waste generated during decommissioning.

Low and intermediate level short-lived waste disposal

Most advanced countries have implemented and operate disposal facilities. In several cases, upgrading and/or extensions are needed. In many other cases disposal facilities do not exist. For countries generating large amounts of LILW, the main challenge remains the definition of a policy and a strategy for its implementation. In the case of countries with limited amounts of LILW regional facilities or small units based on borehole disposal are considered.

Very low level waste disposal

Due to e.g. the increasing number of decommissioning projects some countries have established VLLW disposal facilities.

² In this report WATEC uses IAEA’s waste classification system but recognizes that many Member States have their own system.

High level long-lived waste disposal

Depending on the national policy, spent fuel is either considered as waste or not. In some countries high level radioactive waste (mainly vitrification) are generated by processing of spent fuel. Research on geological disposal is going on in several countries, especially through underground research facilities. The first geological repositories for HLW are expected to be operational 2015-2020, based on licence applications to be submitted before 2010.

In countries which have not reached the siting phase, work is progressing mainly in a generic way.

The major issues expressed by WATEC members in response to the questionnaire can be summarized as follows:

- All countries are faced to waste acceptance criteria (WAC); the major challenge is to define at the right level reliable WAC when a disposal site has not been selected;
- The public acceptance of disposal facilities is also raised by most of the members, thus rendering difficult any siting process. One of the main requests to the IAEA is assistance in developing a set of insights as input to support any further decision in the repository development process.

WATEC's conclusions

WATEC acknowledges also the technical support provided by IAEA; members are recommending IAEA to clarify the methodology for project selection in case of competition and resource limitation.

WATEC considers the present balance between both types of activities (regular programme and budget and technical cooperation) as appropriate. In this regard, WATEC supports the priority requested and put on low level short-lived disposal facilities.

WATEC supports the initiative for networking for low and intermediate level waste management centres and fully support its development. The principle for funding has still to be agreed upon at IAEA level. Members of WATEC are willing to be directly involved in defining further the terms of reference. Representativity of network participants with regard to the countries may require clarification.

WATEC suggests that WTS considers monitoring/surveillance for short-lived waste disposal to complement on-going activities with a view to building confidence.

WATEC recommends that IAEA continues supporting implementation of bore hole disposal of disused sealed radioactive sources and encourages the cooperation with Member State organizations.

Decommissioning of Installations

Background

The IAEA program on Decommissioning of Installations was presented to the WATEC meeting to identify proposed changes and additions, and to receive feedback from WATEC members aimed at strengthening the program.

The WATEC respondent's reports were analyzed in terms of country-specific decommissioning projects, activities, challenges and potential IAEA assistance required. The outcome of this analysis is summarized below.

Decommissioning projects range from nuclear power plants and research reactors to laboratories and waste management facilities. Activities range from conceptual planning through actual execution of the work to waste management. Challenges and IAEA needs consequently vary considerably, and also depend on the general state of industrial development, the size of the nuclear industry, strategic nuclear imperatives, etc.

Country responses with regard to potential IAEA assistance have been analyzed and classified into the following main categories: Decommissioning deferral; clearance/exemption & release from regulatory control; recycling of materials, facilities and land; decommissioning waste management; decommissioning technology and decommissioning management/organization.

The issue of deferral of decommissioning was not addressed in the respondents' reports. Several countries indicated the need for assistance with regard to the clearance/exemption of decommissioning materials/waste and/or buildings/facilities from regulatory control. Such assistance pertains mainly to training or expert advice in this field and includes the adoption of release criteria and the establishment of measurement methods.

Recycling involves the re-use of buildings/facilities/equipment for nuclear purposes after decommissioning. Some countries indicated that they plan to re-use buildings of this nature, but particular assistance was not requested.

The management of decommissioning waste includes issues that differentiate it from general radioactive waste management. A few countries indicated the need for assistance (expert advice) with regard to the management of their decommissioning waste. One of these instances involves challenges experienced with large volumes of waste.

The responses indicated that IAEA support is mainly required with regard to decommissioning management and organization related issues, which includes policy, strategy, regulation, planning and control. Needs for training and expert advice in these areas as well as with regard to D&D technologies can be clearly identified. The continued support of the IAEA is appreciated.

WATEC's conclusions

WATEC recognized the International Decommissioning Network (IDN) as an excellent opportunity to streamline and co-ordinate assistance in the field of decommissioning to Member States with limited resources. Existing training tools/mechanisms should be integrated into the IDN ("Network of Networks").

Although specific reference to decommissioning costs estimates and funding provisions was missing in the filled-in WATEC questionnaires, the discussions disclosed that these subjects were of great importance to all members. WATEC acknowledges that the IAEA intends to focus activities on robust, preliminary estimates of decommissioning costs for operational research reactors and other small nuclear facilities. Further scoping of this work is still under discussion. The overall work in this field should be coordinated with other international organizations.

There is a growing interest in the re-use of decommissioning sites and materials/waste, which should not be limited to unconditional clearance. For example, there are typical ways to re-use decommissioned sites for new nuclear facilities (this is going to support the “nuclear renaissance”), other industrial facilities, museums (e.g. the “B” reactor at Hanford, USA) or recreational activities. However, it is recognized that a case-by-case approach will be inevitable in such approach. For decommissioning materials, intermediate options such as conditional clearance, recycling or disposal as VLLW seem options worth consideration. WATEC encourages the IAEA to do exploratory work in this field based on international experience.

Member States often request the IAEA to assist in planning for decommissioning (typically of research reactors). This is often due to scarce decommissioning experience in countries having only one or two reactors. This assistance should also be integrated with financial assessment as delineated above, and it is felt by WATEC that IDN will play a role in these efforts.

WATEC wishes that WTS presents how pre-disposal and disposal of decommissioning materials are integrated in the Section’s programme for decommissioning.

Environmental remediation and NORM Management

Background

In the WATEC Report 2006 it was stressed that adequate decommissioning and remedial action technology exists and that many Member States have experience and are decommissioning and remediating nuclear facilities and sites. It has been also demonstrated wide interest in remedial action information. Assistance from the IAEA was mentioned in the areas of guidance development on NORM and on the availability of lessons learned on remediation strategies and technologies including commercial services offered by other Member States.

When examining the answers to the questionnaire sent to the WATEC members it was observed that the results collected in the previous meeting are to some extent still valid.

As a general trend, it could be concluded that existence of legacy and contaminated sites will tend to be a more important issue in those countries that conducted more intensive nuclear programmes in the past, as for military purposes or for energy generation or uranium exportation. Some of these countries may have now more experience in the area of environmental remediation and would be more likely in the position of donors than of

recipients. Nevertheless, experience sharing and information dissemination (with critical analysis on remediation strategies) will benefit both developed and developing countries.

NORM is still an issue of concern and WTS will need to address this topic in a more appropriate way. If on the one hand, regulatory frameworks are being put in place, on the other one effective guidance and harmonized solutions for NORM wastes management and disposal are in need. These aspects may be addressed by means of (regional) training courses and publications. The fact of the matter is that more consistent and concrete guidance need to be offered to Member States and development of this guidance must precede training activities.

The presentations given to WATEC showed that on-going activities are aimed at giving Member States guidance on how to implement remediation projects, not only from the perspective of technical issues, but also from the point of view of their adequate management. As an example, it was pointed out the documents being produced on how to integrate remediation work with decommissioning activities and operating remediation projects under resource constraints.

During WATEC's discussions it became evident that if the Programme and Budget 2006-2007 as well as 2008-2009 are considered some of the areas of assistance mentioned in the questionnaires are fully addressed. Mention was made, as for example, to initiatives on publications that will address Lessons Learned on Remediation Strategies, and Changing the Paradigm of the End-of-Pipe to Life-Cycle Assessment.

It has been demonstrated that one of the key elements in the decision making process about the assessment of the effectiveness of remedial actions is the ability of the operators and decision makers to make trustable predictions of the long term behavior of the effectiveness of the applied solutions on, for example, the reduction of contaminant mobilization and transport from the contamination sources and ultimately of the effectiveness of the remedial measures to be applied. It was pointed out that this can only be achieved by means of mathematical models that can couple the transport of pollutants with geochemical reactions, which of course will depend on a series of environmental phenomena that will need to be appropriately addressed. Some concerns were expressed by WATEC regarding the approach presented by WTS to be incorporated in the activity plans beyond 2009, however support from many members was also expressed.

Another point debated during the meeting had to do with the maintenance and further development of the DRCS database. Concerns were expressed about its usefulness and feasibility of full scale implementation. Again, despite the expressed concerns from some members of the WATEC, support was also manifested to the initiative. It was pointed out however that the applicability of the DRSC in a platform that will connect the database with Remote Sensing and the Network of Centres of Excellence will be a more robust to provide an appropriate environment for information dissemination that ultimately will help Member States in deploying sound scientific cost-effective and technology based remediation programs whenever needed.

Integration of activities within IAEA was pointed out as a key factor for the success of the IAEA in accomplishing its mission. Example was given about the joint activities developed in the field of Environmental Remediation between WTS/NE and WSS/NS.

Finally, it was discussed that stakeholder involvement is always a very important issue in remediation projects. Ways to involve interested parties in these projects are in need to be improved even more. In this way it has been pointed out that the Layperson Guide on Environmental Remediation (in preparation by WTS) is an interesting element that may contribute to this purpose.

WATEC's conclusions

WATEC supports the development of guidance on integrated life-cycle sustainable strategies on the appropriate management of remediation of contaminated areas arising from NORM-industries operation.

WATEC takes note of WTS' proposal to establish a "platform" for environmental remediation, including involving Remote Sensing Technologies, Network of Centres of Excellence and the DRCS database, and recommends WTS to elaborate the objective, scope and organization of the "platform", and present this at the next WATEC meeting. Furthermore, WATEC recommends WTS to revisit the objectives and scope of the DRCS database and reassess its relevance and usefulness.

WATEC supports the implementation of the initiative for enhancing the ability to predict the outcomes of remediation activities for assessing the effectiveness and safety of remedial actions in Member States (with emphasis on the needs of developing countries) trying to increase the level of expertise of this activity in those Member States in order to make them more self reliant on their own capabilities in this field. However, WATEC is concerned about the proposal to develop training in a specific code (or codes) at this time and strongly encourages the development of guidance and the framework (process and methodology) for use of modeling tools prior to assessing tools and development of training adapted for success in developing countries.

WATEC also encourages the efforts made to increase even more the cooperation in the environmental remediation area with other parts of the IAEA and to establish solid partnerships with other national and multilateral organizations.

Management of Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources

Background

The use of sealed radioactive sources is essential to the well being of human activities. For many decades radioactive sources have been used to benefit various medical, industrial, and agricultural activities. However, the management of such sources, when they become spent or disused, has not been well organized in many Member States. This has been even more pronounced because radioactive sources have been identified as a security issue in recent years.

At any Member State's request, the IAEA provides a valuable service to ensure safety and security of disused radioactive sources (DSRS) by recovery, conditioning, repatriation, and in some cases long-term storage in a safe and secure manner. This has led to the involvement of both developed and developing Member States to contribute to these solutions that are

implemented by IAEA. However, significant challenges remain to address logistical and administrative issues as well as cooperation at the international level by all stakeholders, e.g. governments, source suppliers, shippers, waste operators, and regulators.

There are considerable DSRS management activities occurring in Member States. All WATEC members reported collection and safe storage activities within their countries. Member States reported tens-of-thousands of DSRS recovered worldwide and disposed or placed in secure storage to date. When possible, return of DSRS to manufacturers is a common practice. Disposal capability exists in some Member States for some sources, and several new disposal facilities are planned. Member States identified the importance of global efforts to increase safety and security by recovering DSRS. Member States also identified progress in development of regulations and implementation of national registries for Class 1 and 2 sources.

WATEC members reported specific issues and challenges which fall into 3 general categories. First, many developing nations do not have facilities for dismantlement and conditioning of sources. Member States recognized the importance of the IAEA Sealed High Active Radiation Sources (SHARS) assistance. Secondly, the disposal of DSRS remains a challenge, like other radioactive waste. Although the design is complete and peer reviewed for the IAEA borehole disposal concept (BOSS), no Member State has decided yet to implement the design. Finally, there remains a need for additional source reporting and registry requirements.

WATEC's conclusions

Staff from the IAEA provided insightful presentations on nuclear safety activities (NSNS) for sealed radioactive sources and management of DSRS activities. Excellent progress is evident in these areas, and it was noted that requests for assistance from Member States are increasing within limited resources available.

WATEC recognizes that technology is mature and processes are available to address management of DSRS, but issues remain on the policy and political levels. WATEC encourages the IAEA to organize a “high-level” conference at the international level involving all stakeholders to discuss ways of implementing the IAEA source management program in an efficient and effective manner. Potential topics might include: political endorsement of source repatriation, facilitation of source transportation, and availability of technical support, e.g. sharing transport overpacks, and financial support at the international level. This conference should provide an opportunity for all source supplier countries to candidly discuss source repatriation, and increase the awareness of international source activities and promote cooperation among key decision makers in Member States. The conference should also provide an opportunity for the public and private sectors (e.g. manufacturers, suppliers and shippers) to work together to identify more efficient solutions.

WATEC recognizes that the source management program is a very important ongoing recurrent activity of IAEA with tangible results that is expected to continue for some time in the future. However, a significant portion of the funding for the program, within WTS and NSNS, is derived from limited extra-budgetary contributions provided to IAEA by Member States. Sustainability of the source management program and unnecessary uncertainties in funding could be avoided if this program were included in the regular IAEA budget. This recommendation has been made previously by WATEC and the uncertainty in funding

remains. WATEC recommends that sustainable funding be discussed with SAGNE at the next opportunity.

WATEC commends the IAEA for their direct assistance source management program to Member States and recommends that similar consideration be given to direct assistance for other radioactive waste management programs where Member States can benefit from infrastructure development at the regional level.

NE publications and RWM Information Systems

Background

WATEC agrees that the IAEA provides a potentially valuable tool to developing Member States through the Net-Enabled Waste Management Database (NEWMDB). This system allows for easy access to information on radioactive waste inventories, RWM infrastructure, including institutional and organizational aspects, and documents related to waste management programmes in the Member States.

WATEC was informed about the progress made in establishing the NE publications series, which among other things will increase the visibility, ensure quality and consistency of NE publications.

WATEC was briefed on features of the WATEC web site and its purpose to serve as a communication tool in facilitating the exchange of information among WATEC Members and WTS staff (for example planned meetings and documents under preparation).

WATEC's conclusions

WATEC's overall assessment of the efforts to support, collect and disseminate radioactive waste management information at the global level is quite positive. In this respect, WATEC encourages WTS to expand the relevance and usefulness of the current system by

- improving the user interfaces
- making it easier for Member States to enter and update the data
- expanding the information currently collected to include activity and mass and any other parameters that the Member States agree would be useful for analytical, economic, or statistical purposes, and
- continuing to develop the reporting tool.

WATEC supports the effort to modernize the user Public interface of the NEWMDB to make it easier to use and easier to extract the information contained in the system. By making the data more accessible, it should encourage both additional users and additional contributions from participating Member States.

WATEC supports WTS' approach in developing new features such as a reporting tool within NEWMDB to provide a method of using the information to support national reporting, either under the auspices of the Joint Convention or for other reasons, such as reporting to other international organizations.

WATEC recognizes that the developed Member States already have comprehensive RWM data management systems and it is not the purpose of the NEWMDB to provide an alternative to these systems. Rather, the NEWMDB and associated products are intended to assist the IAEA and Member States to understand global RWM inventories, treatment capacities, changes in the rate of global waste generation, comparisons of participating Member State programs, and to harmonize the reporting of these data to all interested parties.

WATEC believes that the NEWMDB could be a useful and cost-effective tool for Member States that have yet not developed comprehensive RWM data management systems and could be evolved further to assist in developing strategies and cost estimation models.

WATEC was impressed by the progress made in the establishment of the new NE publications series and strongly supports this activity.

WATEC appreciates the WATEC web site since it keeps WATEC up-dated on WTS' activities and provide WATEC members means, on a voluntary basis, to comment on documents being prepared by the WTS.

General observations and conclusions

During the meeting WATEC recognized that some issues raised were common to several of WTS's areas.

Currently economic aspects are primarily considered by WTS in relation to decommissioning. However, economic aspects are of relevance for also RWM activities, e.g. pre-disposal, disposal, remediation and NORM-management, and guidance would be useful to many Member States. WATEC thus suggests that WTS explore how economic aspects of RWM could be addressed in its future programmes.

During WATEC's meeting public acceptance, stakeholder involvement etc. was mentioned on several occasions. Public perception of risk from nuclear energy has not changed, but its perception of the benefits to be obtained from nuclear energy has changed towards better acceptance. WATEC recognizes that IAEA must strike a balance in presenting the facts while maintaining a neutral or unbiased position especially on the safety aspects. To assist Member States in their public acceptance activities, the IAEA is encouraged to support national awareness seminars with the objective of reaching various stakeholders.

WATEC supports the work done by WTS to establish networks in different areas, since this provides for efficient information and experience exchange between Member State organizations, and facilitates training of participants in the networks.

WTS addresses a very broad range of aspects on RWM. WATEC understands that this in combination with many requests from Member States for technical assistance makes prioritization of activities a complex task. For its next meeting WATEC wishes that WTS presents e.g. how priorities are set and how cross-disciplinary issues (involving more than one unit) are managed.

Issue for SAGNE's consideration

WATEC recognizes that the source management program is a very important ongoing activity of IAEA with tangible results that is expected to continue for some time in the future. However, a significant portion of the funding for the program, within WTS and NSNS, is derived from limited extra-budgetary contributions provided to IAEA by Member States. Sustainability of the source management program and unnecessary uncertainties in funding could be avoided if this program were included in the regular IAEA budget. This recommendation has been made previously by WATEC and the uncertainty in funding remains. WATEC recommends that sustainable funding be discussed with SAGNE at the next opportunity.

Vienna, 1 June 2007

Magnus Westerlind
Chairman of WATEC