



## **INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

### **TECHNICAL MEETING ON POTENTIAL INTERFACE ISSUES IN SPENT FUEL MANAGEMENT**

**3–6 November 2009,  
IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria**

### **INFORMATION SHEET**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Safe, secure, reliable and economic technology for the management of spent fuel from power reactors is a key issue for sustainable utilization of nuclear energy. Currently, most of the spent fuel accumulating from power reactors is stored while awaiting national or international decisions on final disposition.

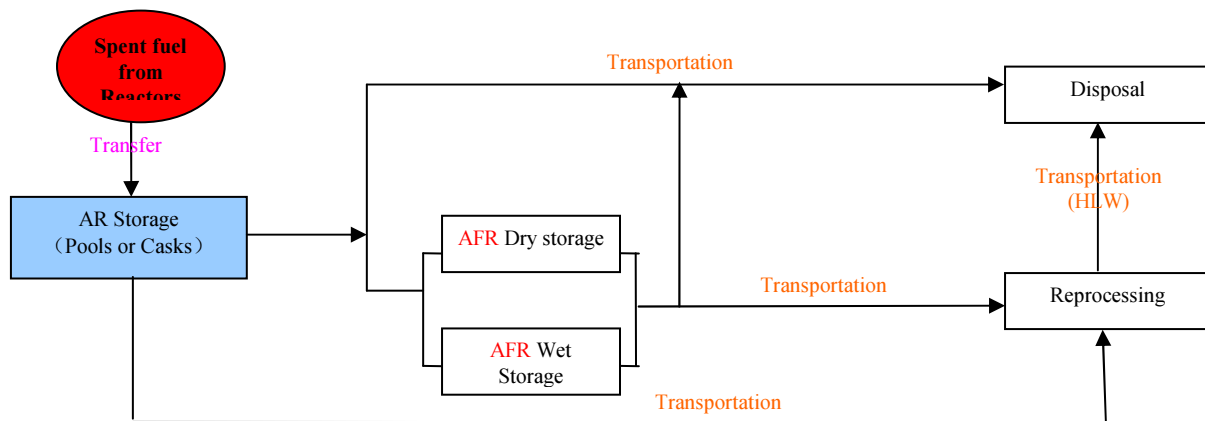
To address a number of open technical issues, further understanding of the challenges associated with spent fuel management including extended storage is required. Member States have a growing awareness that effective management strategies must address key interfaces between various facilities, regulations and participants involved in the spent fuel management activities. To achieve this goal, the IAEA plans to prepare a technical document for Member States to identify the interfaces and potential interface issues between the spent nuclear fuel (SNF) storage, transportation, reprocessing and/or disposal phases of the back end of the fuel cycle (BEFC). This task will also include a review of the current national approaches for addressing these issues and the sharing of information that will help 1) to recognize and address potential problems and opportunities in the area of spent fuel management; 2) to balance optimization and flexibility when developing policies and management strategies for the back end of the fuel cycle.

#### **II. TOPICS TO BE COVERED**

The focus of the meeting will be on gathering and sharing information and experience on potential interface issues in spent fuel management. The scope of the meeting will be twofold. The first part will consist of presentations by the participants of their interface experiences. The attached questionnaire is provided to stimulate thought and provide a format to collect information from other experts in this area. The second part will consist of breakout sessions where participants will be able to comment, amend, and annotate the matrices developed during the consultants' meeting that took place in December 2008. Where an interface is identified, the participants' experience would be used if possible to identify potential issues and propose solutions.

The main topics to be covered are the interfaces and integration considerations. The issues to be covered are as follows:

- Interfaces and potential interface issues between the spent nuclear fuel (SNF) storage, transportation, reprocessing and/or disposal phases of the back end of fuel cycle; and national approaches for addressing these issues. See Fig.1 *Interfaces of Spent Fuel Management (SFM) options*;
- Information that will help: 1) to recognize and address potential problems and opportunities in the back end of the fuel cycle (BEFC) and 2) to balance optimization and flexibility when developing policies and management strategies for the BEFC;
- Examples of successes/failures related to managing interfaces.



*Fig.1 Interfaces of Spent Fuel Management (SFM) options*

Notes: AR = At- Reactor site, AFR = Away-From-Reactor site, HLW = High-Level-Waste

### III. ORGANIZATION

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#### IV. PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING

The primary objective of this technical meeting is to supplement the knowledge of the participants of the consultants' meeting in December 2008 concerning BEFC interfaces by gathering a catalogue of the participants' relevant experience (i.e. where interfaces occur, potential issues associated with these interfaces, and solutions to these issues). Each person wishing to participate in the meeting is requested to complete the Participation Form and the Questionnaire (**Forms A and C** attached).

The designation of a participant will be accepted only when transmitted not later than **3 August 2009** through the Government of a Member States of the IAEA or by an organization invited to participate.

#### V. PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Participants will be asked to prepare a paper on the topic of interface issues in spent fuel management and to present their paper. The presentations will have a duration of approximately 20 minutes and should preferably be prepared in MS PowerPoint format. Papers will be published in the resulting technical document. In order to obtain the broadest range of experiences, we encourage the participants to distribute the attached questionnaire to their colleagues who may have significant inputs to this topic. Contributed papers should be submitted in English with an electronic version provided to the scientific secretaries prior to the meeting. The designated participants should provide an abstract of approximately 250 words for their paper as well as the completed Form for Submission of a Paper (**Form B** attached) to the scientific secretaries by **3 August 2009**. The abstract should be sent by email to the scientific secretaries at [Z.Lovasic@iaea.org](mailto:Z.Lovasic@iaea.org) or [X.Zou@iaea.org](mailto:X.Zou@iaea.org), using MS Word and Times New Roman as the text font. The papers should be sent to the scientific secretaries by email by **5 October 2009** and the presentations should be sent to the scientific secretaries by email by **28 October 2009**.

#### VI. VENUE

The meeting will be held at the IAEA's Headquarters in the Vienna International Centre (VIC), Meeting Room (A0478), Wagramer Strasse 5, 1400 Vienna, Austria. Participants are advised to arrive one hour prior to the starting time of the meeting to allow for timely registration. Please note that you must present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

The following web site (<http://www.iaea.org/worldatom/Meetings/Guide/vic.shtml>) can be

accessed for more detailed information on Vienna and the VIC: [Meetings Guide](#).

## **VII. VISA ARRANGEMENTS**

Participants are also advised that they may require a valid passport and Schengen visa for entry into Austria. Accordingly, it would be advisable to begin the immediate preparation of travel arrangements and necessary authorizations. Please advise the Secretariat as soon as possible if a formal invitation letter is needed in order to facilitate the visa request. We recommend that you apply for visa in a timely manner, if necessary. If you need more information please check: <http://www.eurovisa.info/SchengenCountries.htm>).

## **VIII. EXPENDITURES**

In accordance with the established rules, Governments, national authorities, private companies or individual sources are expected to bear the travel and other costs of designated participants in the meeting. Limited funds are, however, available to help cover the cost of participants from Member States eligible to receive technical assistance under the IAEA's technical cooperation programme. Such assistance can be offered, upon specific request, to one participant per country provided that, in the IAEA's view, this participant will make an important contribution to the meeting. The application for financial support should be made at the time of the designation of the participant.

The Secretariat wishes to state that compensation is not payable by the IAEA for any damage to or loss of the experts' personal property. However, for the period of their engagement with the IAEA, including travel between their residence and the duty station, the designated experts will be covered under the IAEA's insurance policy for permanent total disablement or death resulting from service-incurred accidents or illness up to a maximum of €100 000, for permanent partial disablement resulting from service-incurred accidents or illness up to a maximum of €100 000 and for medical expenses up to a maximum of €20 000 plus €10 000 for supplementary travel and accommodation expenses in case of illness or injury resulting from service-incurred accidents or illness, in accordance with the terms of the IAEA's relevant insurance policy. This insurance coverage only covers accidents and illnesses insofar as they clearly result from attendance at an IAEA meeting. The IAEA recommends that the expert also make arrangements for private insurance coverage on an individual basis.

## **IX. WORKING LANGUAGE**

The working language of the meeting will be English. All communications, abstracts, and papers must be sent in English.