IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

Technical Meeting on Methodologies and Technologies Used for the Characterization of Radioactively Contaminated Land

IAEA Headquarters,
Vienna, Austria

21 – 25 August 2023

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Information Sheet

Introduction

Contaminated sites and areas requiring environmental improvement exist across the world. Critical to ensuring their management, remediation and reuse is the ability to adequately characterize the site. Radioactively contaminated land can arise from naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM), mining and processing of radioactive deposits, accidental releases or medical, industrial, power generation or military uses of radioactivity.

To ensure characterization is carried out in an efficient and effective way, teams of practitioners with a range of expertise and technical backgrounds require opportunities to share and discuss approaches as well publications for reference.

In general, characterization is an iterative process underpinned by systematic planning to achieve relevant data quality objectives within a specific legal and regulatory context. Data maybe collected at different times and through different methods which are then combined to produce the overall understanding of the contamination at a site. For example, in situ survey techniques provide the opportunity to gain real-time information on the spatial distribution of radioactive contaminants and inform sample collection. Geo-statistics can then be used to integrate and evaluate the data sets to support further characterization, or underpin waste management decisions, or inform risk assessment or guide remedial design.

This Technical Meeting is part of an on-going series of activities organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA's) Decommissioning and Environmental Remediation Section to support Member States in the characterization of radioactively contaminated land.

Objectives

The objective of the technical meeting is to share information and experience on methods and technologies used for the characterization of radioactively contaminated land.

Information collected from the meeting will contribute to a new IAEA publication on the characterization of radioactively contaminated land. The publication will replace outdated IAEA publications and provide guidance on developing and implementing characterisation plans.

Target Audience

The meeting is aimed at practitioners in Member States who are responsible for, or actively involved in, the characterisation of radioactively contaminated sites.

Working Language

English.

Topics

Participants are invited to propose presentations for inclusion at the meeting. Presentations of case studies demonstrating the application of methods and technologies for the characterization of contaminated land are particularly welcome. The following sub-topics are of interest:

- Development and use of a conceptual site model,
- Approaches to systematic planning site investigations,
- Design and implementation of site investigation activities, this may include:
    - surface, subsurface and groundwater characterisation,
    - non-intrusive or intrusive approaches,
    - *In situ* and on-site measurements,
- Use of UAS (unmanned aircraft system) to provide safe and/ or rapid surveys,
- Data visualisation, spatial analysis and mapping using geostatistical techniques,
- Recognising and handling uncertainties throughout the characterisation process,
- Use of characterisation information to support risk-based decision making.

Participation and Registration

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State, participants are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) for onward transmission to the IAEA by **9 June 2023**. Participants who are members of an organization invited to attend are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** through their organization to the IAEA by the above deadline.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required.

Papers and Presentations

The IAEA encourages participants to give presentations on the work of their respective institutions that falls under the topics listed above.

Participants who wish to give a presentation are requested to submit a summary of their presentation. The summary will be reviewed as part of the selection process for presenters. The summary should be in A4 page format, should extend to no more than 1 pages (including figures and tables) and should not exceed 400 words. It should be sent electronically to Ms Kim Baines, the Scientific Secretary of the event (see contact details below), not later than **9 June 2023**. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed presentations by **14 July 2023**.

In addition, participants have to submit the summary together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or their organization for onward transmission to the IAEA not later than **9 June 2023.** Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed presentations by **14 July 2023**.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made using the **Grant Application Form (Form C),** which has to be stamped, signed and submitted by the competent national authority to the IAEA together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** by **9 June 2023**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:

www.iaea.org/events.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

IAEA Contacts

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.

Event Web Page

Please visit the following IAEA web page regularly for new information regarding this event:

www.iaea.org/events/evt2205146