



CZ9827881

ACTIVITIES OF THE IAEA IN THE AREA OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

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The IAEA activity in the area of radioactive waste management mainly concentrates on three areas, namely:

- the establishing of international principles and standards for the safe management of radioactive waste;
- to promote the development and improvements of waste processing technologies, including handling, treatment, conditioning, packaging, storage and disposal of waste; and
- assisting developing Member States in establishing good waste management practice through dissemination of technical information, providing technical support and training.

These activities are carried out by the Waste Technology Section, Department of Nuclear Energy, and the Waste Safety Section, Department of Nuclear Safety. The Waste Technology Section's activities are organized into four subprogrammes covering:

- Handling, processing and storage of radioactive waste;
- Radioactive waste disposal;
- Technology and management aspects of decontamination, decommissioning and environmental restoration; and
- Waste management information and support services.

In the subprogramme Handling, Processing and Storage of Radioactive Waste, special emphasis is being placed on safe, sound and cost effective methods to minimize the generation of radioactive waste, and on the promotion of effective technologies to manage all types of radioactive waste, e.g. the waste generated from nuclear power plants, fuel cycle facilities and nuclear applications. Quality assurance of waste packages required for safe transportation, storage and disposal is also considered as an important project area within this subprogramme. The Radioactive Waste Disposal subprogramme is focused on planning, design, construction, closure and quality assurance of radioactive waste repositories for all types of radioactive wastes. In the Decontamination, Decommissioning and Environmental Restoration subprogramme, attention is mainly given to nuclear power plants and fuel cycle facilities, although, in recognition of the specific needs of many Member States, some work is oriented on the decommissioning and associated problems at research reactors and non-fuel cycle facilities. The fourth subprogramme is concerned with the provision of information and supporting services to facilitate the establishment of technical infrastructure in accordance with the specific needs of Member States and to offer assistance in resolving special waste management problems.

The detail information will be provided on the ongoing activities of the IAEA on the technological aspects of waste management, including information on the technical reports recently published or under preparation on different aspects of waste management.