



Training Workshop on Considerations in the Planning and Construction of Near Surface Disposal Facilities

**Hosted by the
Republic of Slovenia**

**through the
Agency for Radioactive Waste Management (ARAO)
and virtual participation via Cisco Webex**

Portoroz

16–20 June 2025

Ref. No.: EVT2404420

Information Sheet

Introduction

This technical meeting on “Planning and Construction of Near Surface Low Level Waste Repositories” is being organized under the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA’s) International Low Level Waste Disposal Network – DISPONET.

Through DISPONET, the IAEA aims to foster the exchange of valuable information among Member States and organizations, facilitating the enactment of sound policies, the establishment of effective programs, and the implementation of solutions for the disposal of radioactive waste in near surface or intermediate depth disposal facilities.

Radioactive waste disposal facilities are required by Member States as an endpoint in the management of radioactive waste. "Over the years, considerable experience has been gained in designing, constructing,

and operating near-surface disposal facilities for very low-level waste (VLLW) and low-level waste (LLW) as defined by the IAEA's Classification of Radioactive Waste (GSG-1).

Due to the performance requirements imposed on facilities designed for the disposal of LLW, robust solutions are necessary to ensure the containment and isolation of waste for periods of up to several hundred years. The level of robustness is directly dependent upon the specific conditions at a selected site. The selected design solution will have to consider both current and future environmental conditions, such as adverse climatic conditions as well as the site specific geologic conditions. The proposed engineering solution will need to be adapted to ensure the safe performance of the facility throughout its operational and post-closure periods, meeting containment and isolation requirements.

DISPONET, the International Low Level Waste Disposal Network, was initiated in 2010 to facilitate communications and exchanges of ideas among Member States pursuing waste disposal low and very low radioactive waste as well as intermediate level waste, where not planned for co-disposal with high level waste in deep geologic repositories.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge among members of the International Low Level Waste Disposal Network, with a technical focus on the planning and construction of disposal facilities for low level waste.

Specifically, the 2025 annual meeting will concentrate on experiences gained in planning and constructing low-level waste disposal facilities. The Slovenian LLW disposal facility, currently under construction near the Krško Nuclear Power Plant located in Vrbina, will be highlighted. The Krško Nuclear Power Plant is co-owned by Slovenia and Croatia, with each country assuming responsibility for 50% of the generated waste from both operations as well as future decommissioning activities. The facility itself presents a unique design for Member States with smaller waste inventories that still require robust design solutions to provide long-term safe containment and isolation of the waste. The facility is specifically intended for the disposal of the Slovenian portion of waste from the Krško Nuclear Power Plant.

Target Audience

The meeting is targeted to representatives of organizations substantially contributing to sharing experience in the Disposal of Low Level Waste.

Working Language(s)

The working language of the meeting will be English. Interpretation will not be provided. All communications, reviews and discussion papers must be submitted in English.

Expected Outputs

The primary outputs of this Technical Meeting will include the minutes of the meeting and a library of presentations. These will encompass:

- Annual Member State updates on progress in their disposal programmes for VLLW, LLW and ILW.
- Records of technical discussions, supported by detailed technical presentations, focusing on considerations in planning and implementing construction of near surface disposal facilities.

Topics

Administrative:

- Roll call and introductions;
- Review and accept minutes from the last annual meeting;
- Administrative update on Network issues;
- Planning for Network activities in 2025 and beyond; and
- Questions and/or suggestions on Network administration.

Technical:

Country Updates –Network members are requested to prepare a short country update specific to each Member State’s programme in MS PowerPoint. The updates should be uploaded to the DISPONET website at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Country Updates will be discussed in a roundtable format, however, Member States with particularly interesting updates will be afforded extra time if requested. Member States desiring more time should contact the Scientific Secretary directly *at least two weeks prior to the meeting*. Please note that time limits may require a prioritization and acceptance of presentation by representatives of the Steering Committee. Member States accepted for a virtual presentation must provide a prerecorded version of their presentation.

Technical Presentations - The technical component of the meeting will allow Member States the opportunity to present and discuss issues related to the following topics through a series of Technical Presentations:

- Working with local communities and siting waste disposal facilities;
- Designing, licensing and planning for construction;
- Implementing construction including logistical considerations; and
- Managing design changes and impacts.

Technical Visit - Finally, a technical visit to the waste disposal facility under construction at Vrbina will allow members the opportunity to experience first-hand the considerations taken in planning and implementing the construction of a near surface disposal facility in progress.

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **31 March 2025**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
 - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
 - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
 - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
 - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
 - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
 - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **31 March 2025**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

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. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA’s scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA’s mandate. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

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 presentations are requested to submit an abstract of their work. The abstract will be reviewed as part of the selection process for presentations. The abstract should be in A4 page format, should extend to no more than 2 pages (including figures and tables) and should not exceed 500 words. It should be sent electronically to Gerald Nieder-Westermann, the Scientific Secretary of the event (see contact details below), not later than **31 March 2025**. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed presentations by **15 April 2025**.

In addition to the registration already submitted through the InTouch+ platform, participants have to submit the abstract, together with the Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B), to the competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA not later than **31 March 2025**.

Presentation guidelines

Member State updates may be submitted either as standard Microsoft PowerPoint slides or as pre-recorded video presentations. If submitted as pre-recorded presentations, these should be designed using Microsoft PowerPoint in landscape with a slide ratio of 16:9 using the 'Record Slide Show' function and saved as an MPEG-4 video (*.mp4) file, not exceeding 2 GB. This will allow all participants to watch the updates at a convenient time. Further details on pre-recording Member State updates will be provided upon request. Please note that the original Microsoft PowerPoint slides, used to generate video presentations, should also be provided to the secretariat.

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, together with the submission of the application, by **31 March 2025**.

Venue

The event will be hosted by the Slovenian Agency for Radwaste management (ARAO): at Hoteli Bernardin, Obala 2, 6320 Portorož, Slovenia.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Slovenia should submit the necessary application as soon as possible to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Slovenia.

IAEA Contacts

Scientific Secretary:

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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/EVT2404420

Enclosure: Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) (if 'Abstract/Paper submission requested)