

Improving Spent Nuclear Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management in Romania

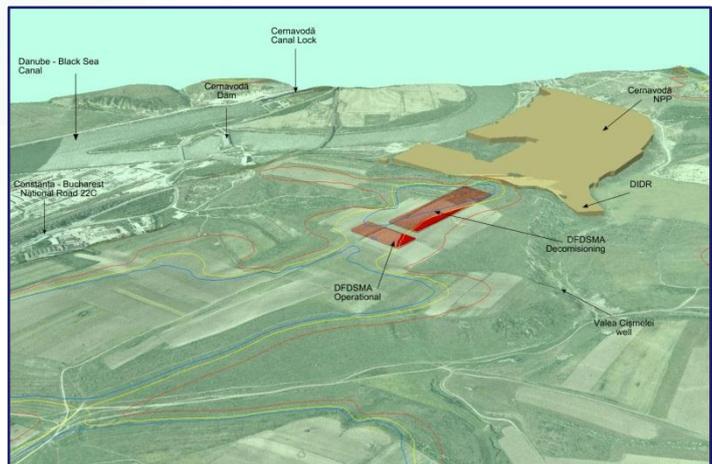
The challenge...

The Nuclear and Radioactive Waste Agency (ANDR) is the national organization in Romania responsible for the disposal of radioactive waste. Romania required technical support for capacity building, as well as support for licensing for a proposed near-surface low level waste (LLW) repository site at Saligny near the Cernavoda nuclear power plant. Assistance was also provided for further development of key radioactive waste management activities inline with good international practices and specific national legislation.

The project...

With the support of an IAEA technical cooperation project, the status of Romania's 'Policy and Strategy for Radioactive Waste Management' was reviewed and assessed. The proposal for the restructuring of the radioactive waste management component of the new agency ANDR was also reviewed, taking into account IAEA guidelines, international best practices and regulatory guidance on radioactive management.

At the end of 2009, a review of technical documentation was carried out by independent technical experts as part of the Waste Management Assessment and Technical Review Programme (WATRP). The peer review team provided expert advice and recommendations in support of a submission for an extension to a siting licence for the prospective LLW repository site at Saligny.



Schematic of the layout of the proposed Saligny near-surface radioactive waste repository.

Through the project, the IAEA fielded nine expert missions and facilitated eight national workshops and meetings. The project offered junior employees of waste management organizations, regulatory authorities and technical support organizations the opportunity to enhance their professional qualifications and experience, thereby contributing to national waste management programmes. During the training, emphasis was placed on the IAEA safety standards, supporting documents and international conventions.

The impact...

By facilitating national dialogue and capacity building, the project has made a major contribution to strengthening ANDR's capacity to address nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management issues. It has thus contributed to the development of proper and safe administration of radioactive waste in Romania.