



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace

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Strengthening the safe management of radioactive waste in Latin America

The challenge...

In many countries in the Latin America region, radioactive waste is generated as a result of the use of radioactive material in industry, medicine, research and other areas. Disused radiation sources, mainly from industrial and medical applications, are included in the national radioactive waste inventories. Although the quantity of waste generated is limited, it still increases the public's risk of exposure and the possibility of radiological accidents.

The public can also be exposed to radiation in the environment from both naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) and technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material (TENORM) that arise from residues generated by different non-nuclear industries, such as mining, production of phosphate fertilizers, extraction of metals, and the oil and gas industries.

The project...

This regional project was established in 2007 with the aim of strengthening national infrastructure and regulatory frameworks for the control of public exposure and safe management of radioactive waste in the Latin America region. Assistance was provided to participating countries to build well-established national policies on the management of radioactive waste, in line with international recommendations. Training for the staff responsible for regulatory activities and for managers of radioactive waste was improved through the provision of workshops, expert missions, training courses and fellowships.

Since 2007, 52 expert missions have been conducted in the region. The project has provided eight workshops, a regional training course, five fellowships and six scientific visits. The training activities for participants from the region covered topics related to public exposure control and safe management of radioactive waste, including waste safety requirements, environmental monitoring and national policy and strategy for radioactive waste management.

The impact...

- As a result of the project, many national regulations are being established for the control of public exposure in accordance with the safety standards of the IAEA, covering all stages of radioactive waste management. This results in regionally strengthened protection of the public and a decreased risk of exposure, radiological accidents and malicious acts with radioactive waste materials.
- The abilities of staff and managers to carry out safety assessments, licensing and control activities and to manage radioactive waste safely have increased.



A new predisposal facility in Paraguay to condition and check disused radioactive sources before temporary storage.

RLA/9/055: Strengthening the National Infrastructure and Regulatory Framework for the Safe Management of Radioactive Waste in Latin American Member States (TSA4)