



Technical Meeting on the Decision-making Process and Roles of Licence Holders and Regulators During Geological Disposal Development

**Hosted by the
Government of Spain**

**through the
Nuclear Safety Council**

Madrid, Spain

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Information Sheet

Introduction

The successful development and implementation of safe geological disposal facilities for radioactive waste require a robust and transparent decision-making framework involving close collaboration between license holders and regulatory bodies and engagement of other interested parties to build public confidence and ensure acceptance. For this to occur, all stakeholders (e.g. regulator, operator, public) need to understand

- (i) what will be decided when (aligned with regulatory milestones),
- (ii) what is the basis for each decision,
- (iii) what role does each stakeholder play,
- (iv) how is each stakeholder involved / engaged, and
- (v) what competence is required for each stakeholder to play its role.

This technical meeting/workshop provides a platform for detailing these topics and sharing associated good practice. The overarching objective is to describe and optimize the decision-making process, taking account of the inherent complexities of geological disposal. This workshop will foster a shared understanding of the decision-making framework, ensuring informed and timely decisions throughout all phases of development.

The rationale rests on several key pillars:

- **Mapping Decisions:** Identifying the sequence of decisions from conception to closure of a disposal facility.
- **Improving Decision Quality:** Geological disposal involves intricate scientific, technical, regulatory, and societal considerations. Effective decision-making requires a clear understanding of each stakeholder's roles, responsibilities, and perspectives.
- **Optimizing Collaboration:** The workshop aims to improve collaboration between license holders and regulators facilitating an understanding of their expectations and needs relevant to the safety of the facility and the decision-making framework. This includes establishing clear communication channels, defining shared objectives, and fostering a culture of mutual trust and respect. Efficient collaboration and regulator-operator interactions are crucial for navigating complex technical, regulatory, and societal challenges.
- **Ensuring Public Acceptance:** Public confidence is essential for the successful implementation of geological disposal. This workshop will explore who should be involved in each decision as defined by the decision-making framework, that is designed to be inclusive and transparent, building public trust and promoting informed societal participation. This workshop will also explore how to build and maintain this trust through effective communication strategies.

Capacity Building of Stakeholders: All stakeholders need to be able to perform their role in developing a safe geological disposal facility in a timely manner. The workshop will explore strategies for capacity building that will empower operators to develop a safe geological disposal facility in compliance with regulatory requirements; regulators to efficiently evaluate license submissions related to geological disposal; and the public to be involved and actively participate in the process.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to foster effective communication and collaboration between regulators and operators, and to engage with other interested parties in the context of the decision-making framework for geological disposal of radioactive waste, promoting safety, transparency, and public acceptance.

The expected outcomes of the event are:

- Shared view on sequence of decisions from conception to closure of a disposal facility (aligned with regulatory milestones);
- A shared understanding of best practices in decision-making framework for safe geological disposal projects;

- Shared view of information required as the basis of each decision (technical, regulatory, societal);
- Clear identification of roles, responsibilities, and decision-making authorities;
- Practical recommendations for improving the decision-making process at each stage of the facility lifecycle;
- Clarity on topics requiring engagement for each decision;
- A framework for capacity building of all stakeholders relevant to the safety of a geological disposal facility;
- A report summarizing the workshop's key findings and recommendations.

Target Audience

Member States are invited to designate suitably qualified and experienced participants for the meeting. Participants should be drawn from organizations with responsibility for the management of radioactive waste, from regulatory bodies, from technical support or other organizations involved in activities related to the disposal of radioactive waste, particularly those working on planning, establishing or advancing geological disposal programmes. The involvement of other stakeholders, including representatives of local communities, interested in the topics of the event is also encouraged.

Working Language(s)

English

Participation and Registration

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 **15 September 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 **15 September 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.

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 **15 September 2025**.

Visas

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

Organization

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.