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English - Or. English

NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Expert Group on Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory across Generations

Overview of Phase-I of the initiative on the Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RK&M) across Generations

This document supports item 10a of the provisional agenda of the 47th session of the RWMC, to be held 26-27 March 2014

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OVERVIEW OF PHASE-I OF THE INITIATIVE ON THE PRESERVATION OF RECORDS, KNOWLEDGE AND MEMORY (RK&M) ACROSS GENERATIONS

Introduction

Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RK&M) across Generations is an initiative under the RWMC in the area of knowledge consolidation and transfer. It started in March 2010. (NEA/RWM(2010)9/PROV. The vision for Phase-I, scheduled until March 2014, is documented in NEA/RWM(2011)6/REV2.

The project's many products can be consulted on the project web page www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm and, much more interactively, through its wiki-based information platform, which is the project's final deliverable for Phase-I.

Four main observations from the project are: (a) The context has changed greatly since the 1980s, when RK&M was thought to serve the sole function of deterring intrusion into a repository. Today, the goal is to preserve information to be used by future generations while maintaining technical and societal oversight of the repository for as long as practicable; (b) There are a number of mechanisms, outside radioactive waste management, that can foster RK&M preservation. They constitute a potential resource for waste management organisations and governments; (c) The period of time of a few centuries that will follow repository closure – defined in the RK&M Glossary as the medium term – is rarely specifically addressed in the literature. Yet, this is an important period for RK&M preservation and for preparing the future; (d) The regulatory aspects of long term RK&M preservation are much in need of formulation and systematisation; (e) Terminology is important when discussing long-term issues. Attention is called to the RK&M Project glossary.

At the end of Phase-I, the RK&M members have drafted a proposal for continuation into Phase-II as well as a collective statement for the RWMC to consider. In this document we list the main products of Phase-I. An additional, intangible output of Phase-I has been the establishment of the RK&M as an important reference internationally on memory aspects for waste disposal and the start-up of the related project RepMet, which is more focused on the period of time before closure of a geological repository.

Main Phase-I Outputs

1. Project Meetings

- 29-30 June 2010 – 1st preparatory meeting
- 23 November 2010 – 2nd preparatory meeting
- 24-25 February 2011 – 1st project meeting
- 10-11 April 2012 – 2nd project meeting
- 14 September 2012 – 3rd project meeting
- 16-18 April 2013 – 4th project meeting
- 24-26 September 2013 – 5th project meeting
- 5-6 February 2014 – 6th project meeting

2. Workshops

- 11-13 October 2011 – 1st RK&M Workshop
“The Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RK&M) Across Generations: Scoping the Issue”
- 12-13 September 2012 – 2nd RK&M Workshop
“The Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RK&M) Across Generations: Improving our Understanding”

3. Documents

Foundation Documents

- Survey on Long-Term Preservation of Information and Memory for Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste
NEA/RWM(2010)7/REV
- Collective Statement of the RK&M Project
 - English: <http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/documents/rkm-collective-statement-en.pdf>
 - French: <http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/documents/rkm-position-collective-fr.pdf>
 - Japanese: <http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/documents/rkm-collective-statement-jp.pdf>
- Vision for the RWMC project on “Preservation of RK&M across generations.”
NEA/RWM/RKM(2011)6/REV2

Progress Reports

- 1st progress report: March 2011 – March 2012 NEA/RWM/RKM(2012)3
- 2nd progress report: March 2012 – March 2013 NEA/RWM/RKM(2013)1
- 3rd progress report: March 2013 – March 2014 publication upcoming

Workshop Proceedings

- Proceedings of the 1st RK&M Workshop NEA/RWM/RKM(2012)1/FINAL
- Proceedings of the 2nd RK&M Workshop NEA/RWM/R(2013)3

Project Meeting Summary Records

- Summary Record of the 3rd project meeting NEA/RWM/RKM(2012)6
- Summary Record of the 4th project meeting NEA/RWM/RKM(2013)4
- Summary Record of the 5th project meeting NEA/RWM/RKM(2013)5/PROV
- Summary Record of the 6th project meeting publication upcoming

Set of Essential Records (Minimal Set of Records)

- Minimal Set of Records initiative – Vision document
NEA/RWM/RKM(2013)3/PROV/REV1

RK&M Wiki

- Wiki-based communication platform (restricted access)
<http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/>
- Phase-I project report based on RK&M Wiki (publication upcoming)

Glossary of Terms

- Draft – Definitions as of 19 November 2013 NEA/RWM(2011)14/REV3
- Current version on RK&M Wiki
<http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Glossary>

Bibliography

- Reference Bibliography within the RK&M Project NEA/RWM(2011)13/REV2
- Interactive version on RK&M Wiki
<http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Bibliography>

Regulatory Catalogue

- Catalogue of Legislation, Regulation and Guidance Governing the Preservation of RK&M for the Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste
- Interactive version on RK&M Wiki
http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Regulatory_Catalogue

Strategic Articles

- Archives [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Archives_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Archives_(Strategic_Article))
- Bibliography [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Bibliography_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Bibliography_(Strategic_Article))
- Causes of Loss of Records, Knowledge and Memory [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Causes_of_Loss_of_Records,_Knowledge_and_Memory_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Causes_of_Loss_of_Records,_Knowledge_and_Memory_(Strategic_Article))
- Connection to Safety [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Connection_to_Safety_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Connection_to_Safety_(Strategic_Article))
- Cultural Heritage [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Cultural_Heritage_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Cultural_Heritage_(Strategic_Article))
- Guiding Principles [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Guiding_Principles_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Guiding_Principles_(Strategic_Article))
- International Mechanisms [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/International_Mechanisms_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/International_Mechanisms_(Strategic_Article))
- Markers: [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Markers_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Markers_(Strategic_Article))
- Monitoring and RK&M Preservation [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Monitoring_and_RKM_Preservation_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Monitoring_and_RKM_Preservation_(Strategic_Article))
- Regulation [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Regulation_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Regulation_(Strategic_Article))
- Terminology [http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Terminology_\(Strategic_Article\)](http://www.oecd-nea.org/rwm/rkm/wiki/index.php/Terminology_(Strategic_Article))

Research Studies

- Literature Survey on Markers and Memory Preservation for Deep Geological Repositories
NEA/RWM/R(2013)5
- Examples of the loss of information, records, knowledge and memory relating to conventional waste disposal (publication upcoming)
- Monitoring of Geological Disposal Facilities: Technical and Societal Aspects (publication upcoming)
- International Mechanisms to support Records, Knowledge and Memory (RK&M) Preservation over the short and medium term (publication upcoming)
- Markers - reflections on intergenerational warnings in the form of the Japanese tsunami stones (publication upcoming)

Papers to Conferences

- J. Schröder, C. Pescatore, “Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory Across Generations. An emerging Multidisciplinary Work Area and an NEA Project”, WMS 2012
<http://www.wmsym.org/archives/2012/papers/12218.pdf>
- C. Pescatore, “Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RK&M) across Generations. An overview of the eponymous OECD/NEA Project”, WMS 2014
(publication upcoming)
- S. Hotzel, C. Pescatore, P. Raimbault, A. Claudel, “When Dealing with the Long Term, Care as to How Terms are Used: Reflections from the OECD/NEA RK&M Project Glossary”, WMS 2014
(publication upcoming)
- C. Pescatore, J. Schröder, “Markers and Deep Geological Repositories - Learning within the OECD/NEA Project on the Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory across Generations”, WMS 2014 (publication upcoming)