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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques
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**NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**NEA/RWM(2003)13
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**Summary Record of the 36th Session
of the Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC)**

**Paris, France
12-14 March 2003**

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English - Or. English

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (RWMC)

Summary record of the 36th Session Paris, 12-14 March 2003

The 36th session of the Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) took place in Paris on 12-14 March 2003. This document provides a summary record of that meeting as well as the list of attendees (Annex 1), and the list of documents that were made available (Annex 2).

The plenary meeting of the RWMC was preceded by a topical session organised by the Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH), in the morning of 12 March, on the subject of "The Implications of Draft ICRP Recommendations" [NEA/CRPPH(2003)6/REV1]. This topical session, which RWMC had been invited to attend, is documented in the minutes of the March meeting of the CRPPH [NEA/CRPPH(2003)13]. An oral report was also received by the RWMC under Item 13 of this agenda.

Further, the RWMC Regulators' Forum met in a separate session on 11 March. This meeting will be documented in NEA/RWM/RF(2003)3.

One of the highlights of the plenary meeting was a topical session on the subject of "Liabilities Identification and Long-Term Management at National Level". The topical session is briefly reviewed in this summary record, and will be documented separately in NEA/RWM(2003)14.

1. Opening of the meeting/Adoption of the agenda NEA/RWM(2003)1

The RWMC extended a **special welcome** to the delegation of the Slovak Republic, the newest member country in the NEA. New members were also welcomed.

The RWMC **agreed** to follow the proposed agenda with two minor changes in the order of the items.

2. Approval of the records of RWMC-35 NEA/RWM(2002)5 NEA/RWM(2002)3 NEA/RWM(2002)6

The RWMC **agreed** to accept the summary record and its supporting documents without modifications.

3. Recent developments within the NEA and the OECD

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Luis Echávarri, NEA Director General.

Four issues of interest to the RWMC, discussed at the latest Steering Committee (SC) meeting, are:

- 1) PoW & Budget - despite a small reduction of NEA budget (1 to 2%), no effect on Agency's work is anticipated;

- 2) Gen IV initiative - six promising technologies have been identified;
- 3) Debate on Safety Standards - there is general consensus on international standards issued by IAEA; perhaps there is a need for harmonising criteria within the EU;
- 4) NEA strategic plan - since the current plan expires in October 2004, the SC discussed the subsequent strategic plan; a proposal is due by May 2004; SC will prepare the new plan in time for approval by October 2004; input from the NEA Committees, including the RWMC, will be elicited.

The Director General noted, in particular, some of the activities sponsored by the RWMC: 1) three peer reviews (SAFIR-2, Dossier 2001, and Opalinus Clay) have been, or are being carried out. Thanks are due to the organisations supporting these activities; 2) the workshop in Ottawa, organised on behalf of the Forum on Stakeholder Confidence, is considered by all to have been extremely useful. Thanks are due to the Canadian authorities for their support. Thanks are extended in advance to the Belgian authorities for their assistance in the preparation of the next workshop of the FSC; 3) the DG noted also that the RWMC/WPDD is making important contributions in the field of decommissioning; and 4) the Trade Unions Committee of the OECD (TUAC) has shown interest in NEA work.

The RWMC **noted** the appreciation of the RWMC status and high-level support within the NEA, and **took note** of its future engaging in the update of the NEA strategic plan.

4. Overview of the RWMC Work Programme and activities since RWMC-35

NEA/RWM(2003)2

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Hans Riotte (NEA Secretariat) and **agreed** that it was good to have a supporting document on the RWMC work programme that can be maintained up to date.

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Jean-Paul Minon (Belgium) on the NEA-organised international peer review of the SAFIR-2 report.

5. Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC)

The RWMC **took note** of the report by Mr. Yves Le Bars (France), the FSC Chairman, and **agreed** that the FSC group is performing groundbreaking work. In particular, the FSC is helping out Member countries in a direct way through its holding of country-based workshops.

5.a The past year: lessons learnt and future work

NEA/RWM/FSC(2003)3

The RWMC **acknowledged** the Canadian delegation input pointing out the success and usefulness of the FSC workshop in Ottawa, and **acknowledged** the Belgian programme for hosting the next FSC workshop.

The Committee **noted** further a few issues on which it would be good to generate additional insight. Namely: 1) a transition phase leading to an evaluation of the incorporation of the lessons learnt within waste management organisation; 2) the need to assure that results of FSC work are presented in a form understandable and useful for a broad public; 3) how to handle possible conflicts between the

technical approach to problem-solving and the requirements of other stakeholders, *e.g.* politicians; 4) what are the factors of cultural change in organisation; 5) how to increase personnel flexibility in organisation; 6) the FSC should provide guidance on (a) what is expected from the technical side (*e.g.* the IGSC) and (b) on how to raise the political awareness that countries have a problem that needs to be solved.

The Committee **acknowledged** the RWMC chairperson's comment that expertise in the waste management field is ageing in some Member countries, *e.g.* the US, as young technical people show limited interest to enter the field. More in general: what could be the impact of cultural change within organisations and society at large on waste management?

5.b The stepwise decision-making paper

NEA/RWM(2003)3

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Claudio Pescatore (NEA Secretariat).

The RWMC **agreed** in principle to endorse the publication of the stepwise decision-making report following the incorporation of additional comments by the Committee members; comments are due to reach the Secretariat by the *end of April 2003*.

5.c Extension of the FSC mandate

NEA/RWM(2003)4

Mr. Hans Riotte presented the report justifying the extension of the FSC mandate.

The RWMC **agreed**, with broad support, to the extension of the mandate of the FSC for an additional two years.

6. The Integration Group for the Safety Case (IGSC)

6.a The past year: lessons learnt and future work

NEA/RWM(2003)5

Mr. Abe Van Luik (USA), IGSC chairman, presented an oral report illustrating ongoing and future initiatives of the IGSC.

The RWMC **acknowledged** the central role of this group to the work of the Committee. Discussion addressed a variety of issues; such as: time-scales in safety analyses, and role and qualification of different isolation barriers.

It was **noted** also that next two IGSC workshops, EBS and AMIGO, which are planned to take place in Finland and Switzerland, respectively, will focus on the integration of the engineered barrier system and of the geosphere in the safety case for disposal. They will offer good opportunities to address many relevant issues in detail.

6.b The Safety Case brochure

NEA/RWM(2003)6

Mr. Abe Van Luik gave a presentation on the status and proposed contents of the brochure.

The RWMC **agreed** that the production of the brochure is an important undertaking. The current version of the brochure shows that progress was made. The upcoming version needs to clarify terminology and understanding, and be broadly acceptable to professionals such as IGSC and RWMC members.

The RWMC **agreed** also to perform a “fatal flaw” review of current draft - comments due to Secretariat by end of May 2003 - with the understanding that the later version will receive an in-depth discussion at the next meeting of the IGSC. It will then be revised and presented for final approval at the meeting of the RWMC in 2004.

6.c Extension of the IGSC mandate

NEA/RWM(2003)7

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Hans Riotte and **agreed** that the mandate of the IGSC will be extended by additional two years.

7. RWMC sponsored initiatives

7.a Safety requirements for geological disposal with IAEA

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Hans Riotte.

The Committee **agreed** that the latest draft of the safety requirements document issued by the IAEA will be reviewed by Mr. Abe Van Luik to verify the incorporation of the earlier comments of the IGSC. The RWMC will be involved in the next round of reviews. The Bureau will collect the RWMC comments and will provide the consolidated comments to the IAEA in the July/August time horizon.

7.b P&T initiatives with NDC

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Jean-Marc Cavedon (France) and that an IGSC representative will chair the working group on the impact of P&T on waste management.

The RWMC **agreed** to continue its participation in this activity.

7.c RWM fact sheets with central Secretariat

NEA/RWM(2003)8

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Hans Riotte and **agreed** to co-sponsor this effort.

In particular it **requested** that co-ordination and consistency be assured with other, already-existing, fact sheets and that the final fact sheets will be placed on the web.

8. The RWMC Regulators’ Forum – Main achievements and report from 11 March Meeting

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Carl-Magnus Larsson. In particular, it **took note** of the major products of the Regulators’ Forum: the document “Regulatory control in Member countries” [NEA\RF(2002)2REV2], whose national contributions are posted on the open NEA Web site [<http://www.nea.fr/html/rwm/rf/welcome.html>] and will be updated yearly, and the document on the “Evolving image and role of the regulator” [NEA\RWM\FSC(2003)2/REV2] originating from the FSC, which is being updated, and should be released in Summer 2003.

9. Decommissioning

The RWMC **agreed** that decommissioning is an important issue for many Member countries and it should be an important component of the RWMC work programme. The Bureau will take this indication in due account.

9.a Restructuring of decommissioning work under the RWMC

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Hans Riotte.

It **took note** of the re-organisation that may undergo the CPD – on account of future decisions within the NEA Steering Committee – and that, as a result, further changes may be required in the mandate of the WPDD.

9.b. The past year: lessons learnt and future work of the Cooperative Programme on exchange of information amongst Decommissioning projects (CPD)

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Jean-Guy Nokhamzon (France), the Chairman of the CPD, and **took note** of the main achievements of this programme, which has been contributing to the RWMC work programme over the past 15 years.

9.c. The past year: lessons learnt and future work of the Working Party on Decommissioning and Dismantling (WPDD) NEA/RWM(2003)9

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Ernst Warnecke (Germany), vice-chair of the WPDD, and **took note** of the very large amount of work accomplished by this group in a short time frame.

The RWMC **took note** also of the remark about the common membership between CPD and WPDD – 14 of the 40 WPDD members are also within CPD – and **agreed** that activities on D&D should continue.

It **remarked** that greater co-ordination and harmonisation with related activities would be desirable. Attention is also required on the issue of harmonisation of criteria for release of sites and materials.

9.d Extension of the WPDD mandate NEA/RWM(2003)10/REV1

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Hans Riotte and **agreed** that the current WPDD mandate should be revised, as suggested in document RWM(2003)10/REV1, and extended for two years.

9.e Organisation of a decommissioning conference in 2004

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Hans Riotte and **agreed** to co-sponsor this NEA initiative.

10 Criteria for new projects – Proposal by RWMC Bureau NEA/RWM(2003)11

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mrs. Margaret Federline (USA), chairperson of the RWMC, and **agreed** that the proposed criteria should be consistently applied to all proposals for new activities.

11. Proposal for new project on long-term storage

The RWMC **acknowledged** the report given by Mr. Alexander Nies (Germany).

The proposal generated a lengthy and lively discussion. Various committee members expressed concern about the current formulation of the proposal. In particular, the presentation of long-term storage - or open-ended storage – as an alternative management option and comparable to disposal is considered by several countries to be unacceptable. It contradicts also the position taken by the RWMC in the collective opinion of 1995. Other RWMC members declared instead that they were already committed to perform detailed analyses of various implications of long-term storage.

In the end, the RWMC **decided** that the proposal could not be supported in its present form, but that there may be merit in reviewing and revising it. The RWMC **agreed** that a small working group should review the proposal in light of the discussions that took place at this meeting. In particular, consideration needs to be given to the outcome of germane, ongoing activities within IAEA and EC.

12. Topical session on “Liabilities identification and long-term management at national level”

Mr. José-Luís Gonzalez (Spain) acted as chairman of the topical session. Six Member countries – Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, UK, Italy, Hungary – and EC presented contributions dealing with the handling of liabilities resulting from nuclear activities. Mr. Peter Brown (Canada) acted as rapporteur for the topical session and presented a short summary of the session with some final remarks.

The RWMC **acknowledged** the presentations given by the various speakers.

During the discussions the Committee **agreed** that estimates about the amount of funds required to meet liabilities (decommissioning and waste management) are characterised by great uncertainty. It **agreed** also that cost estimates in different Member countries are not necessarily comparable as they may include different items and be based on differing assumptions.

It **requested** the Secretariat to prepare the proceedings of the topical session on the basis of contributions already provided by the speakers and the reports of the chairman and rapporteur. It considered acceptable to include in the proceedings additional contributions provided by other Member countries, on condition that they are submitted to the Secretariat within a relatively short delay (**end of May 2003**).

It **gave mandate** to the Bureau to consider the implications of this topical session to the PoW of the RWMC.

The topical session will be documented as NEA/RWM(2003)14.

13. Report from the special CRPPH session on the impacts of ICRP recommendations (with focus on RWM issues)

Mr. Carl-Magnus Larsson (Sweden) presented an oral report on the subject.

The RWMC **acknowledged** the presentation and, in particular, **appreciated** the leading role played by the CRPPH in having the voice of the NEA committees heard by the ICRP.

It **noted** that there may be time left for additional comments on developing ICRP documents. Any comment should be sent to Mr. Hans Riette by 1st April 2003.

The special CRPPH session is documented in NEA/CRPPH(2003)13.

14. Major developments world-wide

This agenda item is meant to provide space for detailed presentations about important developments in selected Member countries. At this meeting contributions were presented for Japan and Germany.

14.a Consultation process for site investigation in Japan

Mr. Sumio Masuda (Japan) made a presentation on the subject. An information package (produced by NUMO) describing the Japanese approach to siting geological repositories was made available.

The RWMC **noted** the report which describes an approach aimed at involving local communities in the siting process. The approach is based on the distribution of information and on the involvement of volunteer communities. A discussion followed about the effectiveness of the approach when siting facilities for which the geological conditions represent a most important technical factor. The Committee **acknowledged** the report and **noted** that the Japanese programme is making progress.

14.b Procedure and criteria for the selection of repository sites – Experience from the German advisory group AkEnd

Mr. Alexander Nies (Germany) gave the presentation. The AkEnd report, which is entitled "Selection Procedure for Repository Sites" was finalised in December 2002 and is available in English. The advisory group was composed of 15 members from a variety of disciplines and representing different sectors of society. The AkEnd expert group has received considerable recognition by many stakeholders. Some important conclusions of the expert group deal with the role of the geological barriers, which continue to be considered of paramount importance, and with the target isolation time required for the disposal system - in the order of a million years. The expert group recommends also that public participation to the siting process should be promoted from the very beginning.

The RWMC **noted** that the described approach is the suggestion of an advisory group and not, at least not yet, Government policy.

The Committee **acknowledged** the report by Mr. Nies, and **recognised** the interest of the approach suggested by the expert group. Later, under Item 18 of the agenda, the RWMC **agreed** as well to organise a topical session on siting criteria at the next meeting of the Committee in 2004.

15. Election of new bureau member

The RWMC **elected** Mr. Sumio Masuda (Japan) to be the new member of the Bureau, replacing Mr. Fred Decamps (Belgium) who has retired.

The RWMC **thanked** Mr. Decamps, in absentia, for his contribution and leadership during the many years of his association with the RWMC.

16. National and international updates

The RWMC **noted** the brief presentations by the representatives of Member countries and international organisations describing the recent developments within their respective programmes.

17. Other business (including date of next meeting)

The RWMC **agreed** tentatively to have its next meeting on 10-12 March 2004. The RWMC meeting will be preceded by the meeting of the Regulators' Forum on 9 March 2004.

18. Summary of decisions

Mrs. Margaret Federline presented to the Committee the list of decisions taken during the meeting. She also elicited comments on the conduct of the meeting itself. During the discussion it was **agreed** that the next topical session will focus on exchanging information on siting criteria.

It was also discussed that agenda papers ought to be obtained within a reasonable time before the meeting; a cut-off date should be set by the Secretariat. Additionally, discussion time is thought to be very valuable, even more valuable than presentations. Thus a balance should be struck that increases discussion time.

A first list of decisions was later distributed to all participants and RWMC members, by e-mail on 17 March 2003.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**36th SESSION OF THE RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
held at OECD headquarters, Paris, France, 12-14 March 2003**

Chairperson: Mrs. Margaret Federline, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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ANNEX 2: LIST OF AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- Item 1 Agenda - NEA/RWM(2003)1
- Item 2 Summary record of the 35th meeting of the RWMC - NEA/RWM(2002)5
Topical Session on Trust in Organisation - NEA/RWM(2002)3
Topical session on the subject of "Overall waste management approaches" - NEA/RWM(2002)6
- Item 4 Overview of the RWMC Work Programme and Activities since RWMC-35 - NEA/RWM(2003)2
Room document - Publication list since RWMC-35
OHs H. Riotte: Overview of the RWMC Work Programme and Activities since RWMC-35
OHs J.P. Minon: SAFIR-2 Peer Review by NEA
- Item 5a Status report of RWMC FSC programme of work - NEA/RWM/FSC(2003)3
OHs Y. LeBars: FSC Status Report
- Item 5b The Stepwise decision-making paper - NEA/RWM(2003)3
OHs C. Pescatore: Stepwise Decision Making Paper of the NEA Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC)
- Item 5c Extension of the FSC Mandate - NEA/RWM(2003)4
- Item 6a IGSC: Lessons learnt and future work - NEA/RWM(2003)5
OHs A. Van Luik: The past year Lessons learnt and future work
- Item 6b IGSC: The Safety Case Brochure - NEA/RWM(2003)6
OHs A. Van Luik : The Safety Case Brochure
- Item 6c Extension of the IGSC mandate - NEA/RWM(2003)7
- Item 7b OHs J.M. Cavedon: Expert Group on Impact of Advanced Nuclear Fuel Cycle Options on Waste Management Policies
- Item 7c RWM Fact Sheets with Central Secretariat - NEA/RWM(2003)8
- Item 9b Room document - Executive Summary of CPD, progress during 1995-2000
OHs J.G. Nokhamzon: Sixteen Years of International Co-operation

- Item 9c WPDD: lessons learnt and future work - NEA/RWM(2003)9
OHs E. Warnecke: Progress in the activities of the WPDD
- Item 9d Extension of the WPDD mandate - NEA/RWM(2003)10/REV1
- Item 10 Criteria for new projects - proposal by RWMC Bureau - NEA/RWM(2003)11
OHs M. Federline: Criteria to assess proposals for new activities
- Item 11 Proposal for new RWMC project on long-term storage - NEA/RWM(2003)12
OHs A. Nies: A proposal to the RWMC for new project on long-term storage
- Item 12 OHs J. L. Gonzalez: Topical Session Introduction
OHs P. Brown: Key Findings and Messages
- Item 12a OHs M. Aegersold: Securing the long-term financing of decommissioning and radioactive waste management - from cost estimates to a comprehensive financing system
OHs Auguste Zurkinden: Decommissioning and Disposal Costs in Switzerland
- Item 12c OHs T. Hedman, SKB, M. Westerlind, SKI: The Swedish System for Funding of Nuclear Waste Management
- Item 12d OHs R. Sellers: Managing the Nuclear Legacy in the UK. Progress towards the Establishment of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
- Item 12e OHs L. Noviello: Programs and liabilities management
- Item 12f OHs I. Czoch, HAEA - Funding of RW Management and Decommissioning in Hungary
- Item 12g OHs D. Taylor: The European Commission's "nuclear package" - Decommissioning funds
Word Document on Liabilities identification and long-term management at national level French situation review, from DGEMP (M. Philippe PIERRARD and M. Jean JAVANNI)
- Item 14a OHs S. Masuda: Consultation process for site investigation in Japan
Room document from S. Masuda on the Consultation process for site investigation in Japan
Information package from S. Masuda: open solicitation of volunteers for areas to explore the feasibility of constructing a final repository for high-level radioactive

waste

Item 14b OHS A. Nies: Procedure and criteria for the selection of repository sites experience from the German Advisory Group AkEnd

Item 14b Brochure from A. Nies: Selection Procedure for repository sites

Item 16 National updates from:

- Belgium
- Canada
- Czech Republic
- Czech Republic : The Concept of Radioactive Waste and Spent Nuclear Fuel Management
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Norway
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom
- United States
- EC
- EC: Final and secure disposal of radioactive sources: The situation in the European Union
- IAEA

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