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**NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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FORUM ON STAKEHOLDER CONFIDENCE

MANDATE - PHASE 2

This document updates and replaces the FSC mandate [NEA/RWM(2003)4/REV1].

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Mandate of the RWMC Working Party “Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC)”

Preamble

Issues of public confidence and stakeholders involvement figure prominently in the Strategic Plan of the NEA, and in the working programme of the Radioactive Waste Management Committee. The RWMC, building upon the technical areas in which it has demonstrated strength, will continue to extend its endeavours to the interfaces between technical advances, regulatory developments, societal concerns and their input to the decision making process.

In recent years, the waste management institutions and RWMC have become more and more aware that technical expertise and technical confidence in the geologic disposal concept are insufficient, on their own, to justify to a wider audience geologic disposal as a waste management solution, or to see it through to successful implementation. Partly due to a sensitivity of the public on all matters connected to protection of the environment, to nuclear power and especially nuclear waste, partly because of the unique nature and required longevity of the proposed management concepts, and partly because of the changed conditions in society in the process of decision-making, any decision on long-term waste management will need a thorough public examination and involvement of all relevant stakeholders. The latter include waste management agencies, safety authorities, local communities, elected representatives, and the technical intermediaries between the general public and the decision-makers. The involvement of local stakeholders will become increasingly important as more countries move towards siting and developing geological repositories.

Since the decision-making process and avenues for stakeholders' involvement differ from country to country, it is important to identify similarities and differences, understand the key concerns of various stakeholders, and develop means to interact effectively with the different audiences.

Description and membership

The Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) is the RWMC's main support group to keep under review the world-wide experience of its participating organizations in outreach programs and to identify and examine stakeholder confidence issues.

The FSC is a discipline-orientated working party of the RWMC and is composed of representatives of national organizations with responsibility, overview and experience in the field of stakeholders' confidence. Participation of RWMC members in the FSC is considered a good means to enhance the co-ordination of the work of the FSC with that of the RWMC and other working parties.

The FSC was set in force at the 33rd RWMC on 9-10 March 2000. Its mandate was extended in March 2003 until the first session of RWMC in 2005, at which time the RWMC will decide whether to extend again the mandate or amend it or address the issues concerned therein by other organisational means¹.

1. The RWMC will need to consider the indications of the NEA Strategic Plan slated to enter into force before or around March 2005.

Remit

1. To define, oversee and carry out work programme activities in the strategic area of public perception and stakeholders' confidence as assigned by the RWMC.
2. To advise the RWMC on major and emerging issues in the area of public perception and stakeholders' confidence related to waste management.
3. To act as a forum to share experience in achieving stakeholders' confidence and, in particular, in how to obtain the trust of local communities, and their representatives and intermediaries with the technical decision makers. Public input to decision making, while maintaining a workable decision-making process, needs to be more fully explored, especially in relation to the role of the regulator.
4. To analyse today's processes for embedding waste management programmes into a socio-political decision-making context.
5. To identify opportunities for harmonised views of Member countries, regarding:
 - Successful and unsuccessful experiences in interacting with stakeholders (e.g., compiling and reviewing factual information and experiences related both to outreach programs and to public inquiries, drawing out and examining generic elements that are required to ensure and maintain credibility of waste management).
 - Technical concerns of stakeholders.
 - Effective means of communicating with technical and non-technical audiences.

Mode of operation

The FSC shall establish: (i) a highly task-oriented working programme to identify resources and schedules for the issues at hand, (ii) expert groups and/or task groups and workshop can be envisaged, as appropriate. (iii) means to review the working programme and the effectiveness of the FSC.

Communication within the group takes place through at least a yearly plenary meeting. The plenary meeting will be devoted to:

- exchange of information on recent development in the Member countries,
- in-depth discussions of current developments and of topical issues, where specialists from outside the FSC can also be invited,
- the identification of main lessons to be reported to the RWMC, including organising topical sessions at the RWMC plenary meetings, and
- the discussion and co-ordination of working programme.