

Summary record of the topical session of 9th Meeting of the IGSC

25 October 2007

Note: This summary record was extracted from NEA/RWM/IGSC(2008)1

Proposed Programme of Work for the IGSC

Chairperson: P. Gierszewski (NWMO)

Rapporteur: E. Smistad (US-DOE)

Item 13 TOPICAL SESSION: Proposed Programme of Work for the IGSC

13.1 Introduction by the Chairperson

P. Gierszewski (NWMO), Chair of the Session, introduced the topic. He reminded participants that a proposed programme of work (PoW) [see NEA/RWM/IGSC(2007)12] had been provided for review and comments requested in advance of the meeting. He emphasized that the topical session is meant to confirm what should be the *final* programme of work for the next few years. It is expected that a final PoW should be approved by IGSC in time to be presented for endorsement by the RWMC at its meeting in March 2008. To accomplish this, the group should affirm that the proposed PoW reflects national priorities and should identify the most immediate priorities and actions for future IGSC work. Representatives were asked to consider specifically what proposed activities would be of most interest to their national programmes and what role their organizations would be willing to play in planning and bringing forward these projects. E. Smistad (US-DOE) was introduced as the rapporteur for the session.

13.2 Overview of Proposed Programme of Work and its Development Process

H. Umeki (JAEA; IGSC Chair) provided an overview of the process used to develop the proposed programme of work and presented its main elements. He recalled that a special session at IGSC-8 was devoted to identifying preliminary priorities for future IGSC work [see NEA/RWM/IGSC(2006)5]. The outcomes of that meeting also identified a process for further developing the programme of work, notably to convene a task group that would conduct interim work aimed at:

- Providing a comprehensive and structured list of key issues and priorities,
- Checking links and synergies with other international work,
- Incorporating further input from national programmes on key issues,
- Defining the vision and strategy for future IGSC work, and
- Reporting to RWMC for further feedback.

In accordance with these decisions, a task group was convened in early 2007 and conducted work to prioritise and define the key issues of interest to IGSC members, as well as to identify possible deliverables and mechanisms for IGSC action. [The details of this process, and the criteria used to evaluate and prioritise issues, are described in more detail in NEA/RWM/IGSC(2007)13, "Updating

the IGSC Programme of Work: The Process Followed and Input Received from IGSC.”] During summer 2007, the task group presented its recommendations for review by the full IGSC membership. The comments received were considered in developing a formal proposed PoW, which was provided for review in advance of IGSC-9. [See NEA/RWMC/IGSC(2007)12.]

The list of proposed future activities was presented. It was reiterated that the goal of the topical session is to reach agreement on the proposed activities and on the process for any further revisions in order to gain IGSC approval so that an updated PoW can be presented for endorsement by RWMC at its meeting in spring 2008.

13.3 Topic-by-Topic Presentation on Proposed Activities and Actions

13.4 Discussion

13.5 Preliminary Conclusions

For each proposed new activity in the future PoW, a short presentation was provided by a member of the PoW task group to explain the topic, summarise the background and past work, review key questions of interest to IGSC, and describe the proposed IGSC action and timeframe. (Copies of the slide presentations can be found on the IGSC protected web page for the meeting; the details supporting the presentations can be found in the proposed PoW.) The topics and speakers were:

- Proposed Core Activities:
 - Managing Confidence (C. Pescatore, NEA Secretariat)
 - Balancing Operational Safety and Long-Term Safety (B. Cahen, Andra)
 - Safety Assessment Methods (K-J. Röhlig, Technical University Clausthal)
- Proposed Technical Activities
 - Reversibility and Retrievability (B. Forinash, NEA Secretariat)
 - Cross-Cutting Issues: Intersection of EBS and the Geosphere (H. Umeki, JAEA)
 - Monitoring (P. De Preter, ONDRAF/NIRAS)
 - Gas Migration and Transport (B. Cahen, Andra)
 - FEPs Database (H. Umeki, JAEA)
- Proposed Modus Operandi
 - IGSC Visibility and Knowledge Transfer (B. Forinash, NEA Secretariat)
 - Increased Coordination with RWMC and its Working Parties (B. Forinash, NEA)
- Other Topics
 - Topics Recommended for Study by Others: BAT/Optimisation, Human Intrusion, Timescales (P. De Preter, ONDRAF/NIRAS)
 - No Current Activity Proposed: Organisational Issues (H. Umeki, JAEA)

Discussions aimed to confirm that the issues reflected the interests and concerns of most immediate priority to the IGSC. IGSC members were asked to consider whether these topics and activities, taken together, would represent a robust but realistic programme of work that meets the mandate of the IGSC. They were asked, in addition, to confirm that the most relevant aspects of each issue had been accurately identified and to suggest any additional issues that should be considered for further work.

The discussions confirmed that no significant issues were overlooked. Some adjustment of time frames was suggested for certain activities and possible re-prioritization of several issues. Final decisions were deferred until the following day, under agenda item 15; in preparation, the session chair presented a chronological listing of all ongoing and proposed future IGSC activities.