

NEA Forum on Stakeholder Confidence Swedish National Workshop

Solna & Östhammar, Sweden 23-24 September 2024



Dialogue, Information Exchange and Transparency When a Site and Method are Licensed

PROGRAMME

General information

Location

23 September: Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM)
Solna strandväg 96
171 54 Solna
Sweden

24 September: Kulturhuset Storbrunn
Klockstapelsgatan 2
742 32 Östhammar
Sweden

Registration

Monday, 23 September, from 8:00 a.m. at the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM). Participants will be met upon arrival by NEA staff to finalise their registration and obtain visitor badges.

Badges are to be worn when attending lectures and all other events.

A passport or another form of photo identification is required to obtain a visitor badge.

Please note that hybrid access will not be provided, in-person attendance is mandatory to participate in the workshop.

Lunch

Lunch will be provided on-site for workshop participants at VIPPEN on Monday, 23 September.

On Tuesday, lunch will be provided at Sjökrogen, a short walk from Storbrunn.

23 September 2024

08:00-09:00 **Registration**

Session 1: Workshop opening

Moderator: **Sigrid Eeckhout and Nuria Prieto Serrano**,
Co-chairs of Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC)

09:00-09:30

Opening remarks

Catarina Danestig Sjögren, Director of Department,
Regulation and Knowledge Development Swedish
Radiation Safety Authority

William D. Magwood IV, Director General, Nuclear
Energy Agency

09:30-10:00

Session 2: The Swedish Nuclear Waste Management Programme: Looking back, looking forward

Michael Egan, Advisor International Policy and
Cooperation, Swedish Radiation Safety Authority

10:00-10:30

Session 3: Research project: Including (local) stakeholder participation in the regulatory mission – a future challenge.

Anne Bergmans, Researcher, University of Antwerp

Meritxell Martell, Researcher, Merience SCP

10:30-11:00

Break

11:00-12:00

Round table discussions: How to include stakeholder participation in the future steps?

Participants discuss and exchange on a set of
questions (moderators: FSC Co-chairs)

- How to maintain a stakeholder dialogue in the long-term?

- What are the possibilities for public scrutiny during construction, operation and closure? (e.g. which issues or elements need public scrutiny, how often, etc.)
- At what level (local, regional, national) do you think this should take place?
- Who should be involved? And which is the role and responsibility of the different stakeholders in maintaining a long-term dialogue?
- To what extent do you think addressing reversibility might help in keeping dialogue ongoing? What kind of financial arrangements could be made to maintain the dialogue in the long-term?

12:00-12:30

Reporting from discussions

12:30-13:30

Lunch

13:30-14:00

Session 4: Research project: To what extent do the present generations need to address post-closure costs?

Karim Jebari, Researcher, Institution for future studies, Sweden

14:00-15:30

Round table discussions: What about post-closure? (moderators: FSC Co-chairs)

Participants discuss and exchange on a set of questions

- Need for financing arrangements for the post-closure phase and for how long?
- How to address the future regarding the planned end-state after closure and decommissioning of the facility: restoration of the site vs. remembrance of the site?

15:00-15:30

Reporting from discussions

15:30-15:50

Break

15:50-16:10

Session 5: Status in the Swedish processes – with a report from the Land and Environment Court

Anna Porelius, Head of Communications, Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB)

- 16:10 – 16:30 **Session 6: Characteristics of trusted regulator: newly published NEA green booklet**
Rhonda Walker-Sistie, Director General of Strategic Communications, Head of Communications, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
- 16:30-17:30 **Closing panel discussion**
- **Michael Egan**, Advisor International Policy and Cooperation, Swedish Radiation Safety Authority
 - **Anne Bergmans**, Researcher, University of Antwerp
 - **Karim Jebari**, Researcher, Institution for future studies
 - **Anna Porelius**, Head of Communications, Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company
 - **Anna Bergsten**, Analyst, Municipality of Östhammar
 - **Linda Birkedal**, The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (environmental organization)
- 17:30-17:40 **Closing remarks**
Nuria Prieto Serrano and **Sigrid Eeckhout**, FSC Co-Chairs
- 18:00 **Reception at SSM office**

24 September 2024

08:15-10:00

Day 2

Bus transport to Östhammar: SSM arranges transportation from the office in Solna to Östhammar

Moderators – Sigrid Eeckhout and Nuria Prieto Serrano, FSC
co-chairs

Session 7 – The local context

10:00-10:15

Coffee

10:15-10:30

Welcome to Östhammar

Fabian Sjöberg, Mayor of Municipality of Östhammar

10:30-11:30

The municipality's role – from site investigations to final closure and beyond

Elin Jonsson, Chair of Final Repository Committee, Municipality of Östhammar

Tomas Näslund, Vice Chair of Final Repository Committee, Municipality of Östhammar

Magnus Degerman, Communications Officer, Municipality of Östhammar

(45 min presentation, 15 min questions)

11:30-12:00

Building local trust – SKB's work in the local community before, now and in the future

Stig Björne, Head of local communications, project communication and added value programme, Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB)

(20 min presentation, 10 min questions)

12:00-13:30

Lunch

Session 8 – The international context

- 13:30-14:00 **The importance of the international context from a local perspective**
Margareta Widén Berggren, Former Mayor of Municipality of Östhammar and Former Chair of the Swedish Group Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (KSO)
Fabian Sjöberg, Mayor of Municipality of Östhammar and Vice President of the Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF)
(20 min presentation, 10 min questions)
- 14:00-14:45 **Key Information File – part of a strategy for remembering a nuclear waste repository**
Thomas Keating, Postdoctoral Researcher, Linköping University, Sweden
Florence Poidevin, Head of the Memory Program, Andra, France
(30 min presentation, 15 min questions)
- 14:45-15:00 Break

Session 9 – Future challenges

- 15:00-15:15 **Societal challenges with the establishment of a repository in a community**
Elin Dahm, Business Manager, Municipality of Östhammar
- 15:15-15:30 **How to enhance youth involvement**
David Alvarez, Fellow board member of Jóvenes Nucleares
Christopher Müller, Co-President of the regional conference Nördlich Lägern

- 15:30-16:30 **Round table discussions**
(moderators: FSC Co-chairs)
Break-out session with discussions from a set of questions relating to the subjects raised during the day.
- 16:30-17:00 **Sum up from round-table discussions and closing remarks**
NEA FSC co- Chairs
- 17:00-19:00 **Bus transport back to SSM office in Solna (with a stop at Arlanda Airport at about 18:30)**

Speaker Biographies



Catarina Danestig Sjögren is director of department Regulation and Knowledge Development at SSM, the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority. Danestig Sjögren has a Master of Science in Physics with an expertise in radiation physics. She has over 25 years of experience in radiation safety and security. She has worked both in the health care sector, the private sector and at central authorities. She joined SSM in 2006 and has worked there in various positions with varying responsibilities and tasks. Her latest position before director of department, Danestig Sjögren was head of the Emergency Preparedness and Response section, with a responsibility for the development and coordination of national radiation protection preparedness and response as well as nuclear security and civil defence.



William D. Magwood, IV took up his duties as Director-General of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) on 1 September 2014. He has extensive experience in both the regulatory and developmental aspects of nuclear energy, including at the international level. From 2010 to 2014, he served as one of the five Commissioners appointed by the US President and confirmed by the US Senate to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). While a commissioner, he served as global voice for the importance of nuclear regulatory independence and advocated the necessity of maintaining strong, credible and technically sound nuclear regulation in the United States and all countries that use nuclear power. Prior to his appointment at the NRC, from 2005 to 2010 he provided independent strategic and policy advice to US and international clients on energy, environment, education, and technology policy issues. From 1998 to 2005, Magwood was Director of the US Government's civilian nuclear energy programme at the US Department of Energy (DOE). During his tenure, he established the Idaho National Laboratory; created activities that reversed the decline of US nuclear technology education; and launched important initiatives such as the Generation IV International Forum (GIF) and US "Nuclear Power 2010," which helped restart nuclear plant construction in the United States. He was also actively involved in the work of the NEA, serving as a Steering Committee Bureau member from 1999 to 2003, and as Chairman of the Steering Committee from 2004 to 2005. Prior to his experience at the DOE, Magwood managed electric utility research and nuclear policy programmes at the Edison Electric Institute in Washington, DC, and was a scientist at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Magwood, a US national, holds Bachelor degrees in Physics and English from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pittsburgh.



Fabian Sjöberg currently serve as the Mayor of the municipality of Östhammar, Sweden. In addition to his local leadership, he also hold the position of Vice President for the Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF). His focus is on fostering sustainable growth while ensuring the safe management of nuclear resources, which remains a key priority for both local and national development.



Nuria Prieto Serrano is a philologist and lawyer with over 20 years of experience in radioactive waste management. She studied her both degrees in Madrid, with postgraduate studies on European Union Law at the University of Saarbrücken (Germany).

In the Spanish radioactive waste management agency Enresa she has served in the Legal Department and currently she works at the Department of International Cooperation and R&D. During the period of negotiations of the European Waste Directive (2010-12), she was seconded as a national expert to the European Commission in Luxembourg.

She participates in several international groups: she is the co-chair of the OECD-NEA Forum on Stakeholders' Confidence; the Chair of the Club of Agencies; Chair of the Working Group on Radioactive Waste of INLA, the International Nuclear Law Association. She participates in different fora at IAEA (e.g. Joint Convention review processes) and the EU representing her country (e.g. ENSREG WG on waste). She is the author of several academic papers about EU Nuclear law and lecturer at the Master of Energy Law of the Spanish Energy Club in Madrid.



Sigrid Eeckhout holds a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Ghent, Belgium. After more than 10 years of fundamental research in physical mineralogy at the University of Ghent, Belgium, the University of Ouro Preto, Brazil and the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, France, she obtained an additional degree in Science Communication in London, UK. She has been working at ONDRAF/NIRAS for almost 15 years, where she is currently Head of

the Communication and Participation Department. She has been a Bureau Member since 2017 and co-chair of the Forum on Stakeholder Confidence, NEA, since 2023, where she leads the Task Group on Youth Involvement. She is also since 2021 member of the *Comité éthique et société*, a pluralistic committee responsible for advising ANDRA's Board of Directors on how to take account of societal issues in its activities.



Michael Egan has worked as an analyst at the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) for almost 12 years, where until recently his main area of responsibility has been related to SSM's review, assessment and authorisation of facilities for the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. During this time, he has been closely involved in communication with stakeholders and government, as well as in the preparation of SSM's decisions. He has participated as an expert in international review projects within the framework of the European nuclear waste directive and was responsible for co-ordinating Sweden's self-assessment when a similar review was conducted here in 2023. He has recently taken up a new role as an advisor within SSM's international policies and cooperation team.



Anne Bergmans holds a PhD in sociology (2005). She is Associate Professor in Sociology of Risk, Safety and Security at the University of Antwerp (UAntwerp).

Her main field of study is the interface between society and technology and the governance of risk. She has a particular experience in research on informed and inclusive decision making on environmental and technological risk, such as regarding the siting of contested facilities, (participatory) technology assessment

and (responsible) innovation.

Most of her research is policy-oriented action-research, mainly qualitative in design and based in Science and Technology Studies (STS), with a strong focus on system and network analysis including both humans and non-humans as actors in the risk and safety discourse.

Her interest in nuclear waste management and related governance challenges date back to the late 1990s, when she became part of the team that designed and set-up the partnership approach for NIRAS-ONDRAF in Belgium. Since then, Bergman has participated in several (European) research projects on the topic of radioactive waste management, often in an interdisciplinary setting.



Meritxell Martell is the founder and director of Merience, a consultancy company focused on communication and stakeholder engagement in the field of ionising radiation. She has over 20 years of experience as an international consultant, working for different international organisations and as partner in European research projects. Martell received her PhD in Environmental Sciences from the University of East Anglia (UEA, Norwich, United Kingdom) in 2001. She is the secretary of the SHARE platform on

Social Sciences and Humanities in Ionizing Radiation Research and the executive director of the association of European nuclear municipalities (GMF Europe).



Karim Jebari is a researcher at the Institute for Future Studies, who defended his doctoral thesis in 2014 at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH). His research interests are interdisciplinary, combining philosophy, political theory and futures studies. Current research concerns global catastrophic risks, technological advancement like AI, the long-term future of earth-originating life, and full-picture conceptual understanding of “Social collapse” and the risks associated with such outcomes.

He is participating in this workshop having been assigned to produce a report discussing the post-closure costs of the final repository for high-level waste in Sweden. The most perplexing and expansive topic in this regard is one of collective memory, records, knowledge, and the ethical considerations required for ensuring the protection of the rights of future generations.



Anna Porelius has a bachelor's degree in media and communication science at Stockholm University, Sweden. She has been Senior Vice President Communications and Public Affairs and member of the executive management team at the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB) for 12 years.

She is responsible for trust-building communication in municipalities and national political decision-making processes. She is also chairman of the board of the subsidiary company SKB Nu (local business development), board member of Forsmark nuclear Power Plant and Svafo (decommissioning of nuclear facilities from previous research). Anna Porelius was previously head of communications and marketing at two different municipalities and journalist at a newspaper.



Rhonda Walker-Sistie has been the Director General for Strategic Communications at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) since September 2017. Under her leadership, the Directorate is responsible for communication strategy, advice and services in support of the CNSC’s nuclear safety mandate, including effective emergency communications, regulatory and digital communications, as well as media relations.

Prior to this, she was the A/Director General of Communications for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), including the Canadian Coast Guard, from 2015 to 2017. During this time, she successfully led the Department’s crisis communications team through a number of serious incidents.

Walker-Sistie has worked in the field of government communications since 2010. Before her career in the public service, she held a number of positions on Parliament Hill culminating her time there as Chief of Staff to the Minister of State (Sport, responsible for the 2010 Olympics).

Walker-Sistie holds a Doctorate in communication from Carleton University’s School of Journalism and Communication.



Anna Bergsten work as an analyst at the municipality of Östhammar, Sweden, where Forsmark, the location of the planned repository for spent fuel in Sweden, is situated. She has worked at the municipality since 2012 and is since 2017 part of the municipality's organisation for questions concerning radioactive waste. In addition to her assignment as an analyst she is secretary for the municipality's Final Repository Committee and have an active part in the municipality's communication with the public. Bergsten is a biologist and has a PhD in biology from Uppsala University, Sweden. She has also studied environmental law and have previously worked at the municipal environmental authority.



Elin Jonsson, from the municipality of Östhammar, Sweden, currently serve as the chair for the Final Repository Committee, focusing on the safe storage of nuclear waste. Alongside this, she works as a political secretary for the Swedish Parliament's Tax and Finance Committee. Jonsson is in the final stages of completing her dual bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Economics. Her passion lies in bridging political decision-making with economic and environmental sustainability, particularly in the context of energy policy.



Tomas Näslund is the vice chair of the Final Repository Committee in the municipality of Östhammar, Sweden. Näslund has been involved in the municipality's organisation for questions concerning the final repository since 2009. He was first member of the Long-term Safety Group and after that he has been chairman of first the Long-term Safety group and then of the Review Committee. Näslund is representing the social democratic party and work as a math teacher at the upper secondary school and adult education at Bruksgymnasiet, municipality of Östhammar.



Magnus Degerman has a background as a teacher in media technology with a Master's degree in Media Design from Luleå university of technology. Currently he is working in Östhammar municipality as a communications officer with a focus on final repository issues and local development projects since 2017. He prefers to help others present themselves well than to be in the spotlight himself.



Stig Björne is the Head of Department for Local Communication and stakeholder involvement and also CEO of SKB Business Development (SKB Nu), which is a 100% subsidiary of SKB. Björne is responsible for all local communication activities including project communication and contacts with local stakeholders. SKB Business Development is a company within the programme that works with guarantees for loans to local companies in Oskarshamn and Östhammar.

He was previous a management consultant with customers as Swedbank, the Swedish Government, around 100 municipalities and a number of authorities and regions – and SKB. From 1997 Björne also was a partner and from 2004 CEO for EuroFutures. The company had around 20 employees. As consultant he worked for SKB from 1994 to 2010 in all feasibility studies with analyses in the municipalities.



Margareta Widén Berggren, former mayor of the municipality of Östhammar, Sweden, have participated in the Swedish process for a final repository for over 25 years. During her years as mayor and deputy mayor she has represented the municipality in a wide variety of both national and international contexts. She has also held the chair of the Local Safety Board of the nuclear power plant in Forsmark for 20 years. She has been the chair of the Swedish group Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (KSO) and have within that assignment been part of the work done within the Group of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF).



Thomas Keating holds a PhD in Human Geography from the University of Bristol (UK) and has held academic positions at UNSW Canberra's School of Science in Australia, Swansea University (UK), the European School Brussels (Belgium), and the University of Bristol. His research engages with the pressing issues arising from the interplay between humans and technology. Keating's recent publications include articles on nuclear memory in *Progress in Environmental Geography*, and technogenesis in *Progress in Human Geography*. He also co-edited the collection *Speculative Geographies* published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Currently, Keating is the lead investigator – alongside Prof Anna Storm – on a project exploring the speculative problem of how to communicate the memory of nuclear waste repositories in Sweden 100,000 years into the future via the development of a Key Information File (KIF).



Florence Poidevin is the manager of the programme “Memory for Future Generations” at Andra, the French National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management. Graduated engineer from Chimie ParisTech in 2009, she worked in non-proliferation at the French Institute of Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN), before joining Andra in 2016, where she first worked in the industrial operations division, on the waste specifications and acceptance. She joined the programme “Memory for Future Generations” in 2022.



Elin Dahm is Business Manager at the municipality of Östhammar, Sweden. As Business Manager, she is the head of the municipality’s unit for business life, which main assignment is to be a link between local businesses and the municipality. Elin also represents the municipality of Östhammar in the added value program of the final repository for spent fuel, an agreement between the municipality of Östhammar, the municipality of Oskarshamn and the owners of the nuclear power plants.



David Álvarez is a nuclear engineer working for Westinghouse Electric Spain, where he performs core design and neutronics calculations. He completed a 1-year internship at the Belgian Nuclear Research Center, where he wrote his Master's thesis, to obtain a Master's degree in Nuclear Science and Technology from the Technical University of Madrid. This year he also became a board member of Jóvenes Nucleares -The Spanish Nuclear Young Generations- after 2 years of collaboration with the organization.



Christopher H. Müller, a PhD in Environmental Sciences from ETH Zurich. He lives with his Family of 6 in Niederweningen, Switzerland, part of the Nördlich Lägern region, site of the proposed geological repository. His career spans leadership roles in various companies and academic work at ETH Zurich. Beyond his professional duties, Müller has been actively involved in regional development and participation through his long-standing volunteer work with the Nördlich Lägern Regional Conference. He is Co-President of the Nördlich Lägern Regional Conference and Co-Head of the Regional Development Task Force.

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