Extending Safety Culture through Improved Communication: Lessons from Russian – Norwegian Regulatory Cooperation

Malgorzata K Sneve

Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority

Session 94: ENVIRONET – Resources for Safer and More Efficient Environmetal Remediation

Waste Management 2012, 26 February - 1 March 2012

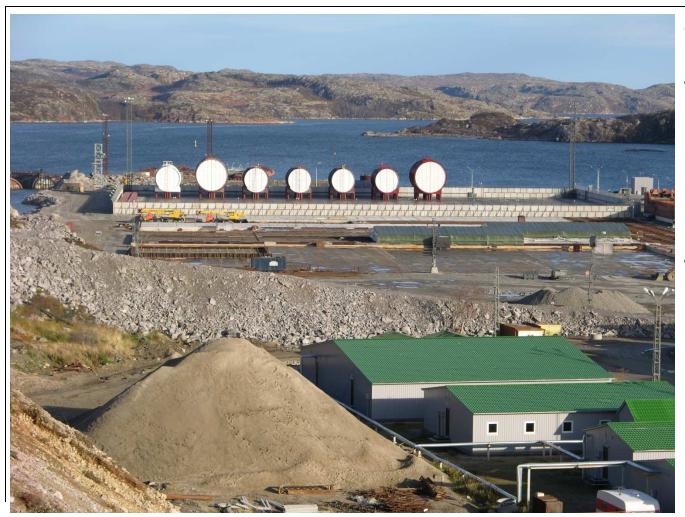


Nuclear legacy sites and facilities

- Spent fuel and radwaste stored in vessels (e.g. Lepse), and at
- Sites of Temporary Storage (e.g. Andreeva Bay)
- > Radio Thermoelectric Generators
- Submarine dismantling



Remediation => waste management needs



Waste treatment and reactor compartment storage facility:

Saida Bay



Out of normal conditions at legacy sites → regulatory complexity

- Nuclear safety
- Nuclear security
- Radiation protection of workers and public
- Radioactive waste: treatment, storage, transport and disposal
- Environmental protection
- Contaminated land management
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Non-radiological physical and pollution hazards

Requires integrated regulatory basis for legacy supervision, BUT:

These regulatory functions not found in just one authority!

We work with civilian and military sectors; and

Federal and Regional administrations



Key regulatory challenges

- Radiation and nuclear safety is not the only issue
- Making balanced and proportionate decisions: workers and public; in short and long term; addressing social, cultural and economic factors
- Flexibility to address surprises at legacy sites, new information and latest science
- Effective engagement of stakeholders
 - > To be fully informed, and
 - Promote acceptance and cooperation in implementation
- Providing strong, transparent, independent regulatory supervision:
- Role in planning: options assessment and selection



We recognise need to facilitate improved communication

All our cooperation projects promote joint technical meetings:

- between managers and shop workers
- between different operators e.g. waste producers and waste disposal organisations
- between operators and regulators
- between nuclear safety regulators, radiation protection regulators and other pollution and safety regulators
- between scientists, policy makers and wider stakeholders, and
- between all of those mentioned above.



Key message on communication

Effective and efficient communication strategies contribute tremendously to effective and efficient regulatory supervision

Flexibility and preparedness to link responsibilities necessary, but this requires an open and long term approach to problem solving, not always common in government departments

Both are vital to sustained safety culture enhancement



IAEA's International Working Forum on Regulatory Supervision of Legacy Sites

- To address specific situations at real sites and hence lend support to the regulatory authorities at those sites
- To assist in deriving practical interpretation of generic radiation protection guidance on nuclear legacy sites
- To identify good practices in stakeholder engagement with regulatory supervision and enhancement of safety culture as it applies to legacy sites
- Better understanding and application of different types of risks in the regulatory supervision process

More info: malgorzata.sneve@nrpa.no www-ns.iaea.org/projects/rsls/default.asp?s=8&l=99



IAEA RSLS - Scope and Activities

Scope covers development of effective and efficient regulatory processes:

- > regulatory requirements and guidance development
- licensing and authorisation,
- inspection, compliance monitoring and enforcement.
- Compilation of existing national policies for regulatory supervision and strategies employed for the conduct of safety and environmental assessments
- Training requirements to ensure that regulatory staff can effectively carry out their responsibilities
- Compilation of lessons learned from past experience with legacy site remediation and provide recommendations for good practice for regulatory supervision of legacy sites

