

WM2013 Conference Panel Report

PANEL SESSION 86: Worldwide Regulatory Challenges of Radioactive Legacy Sites - Progress in Bi-Lateral Cooperation

Co-Chairs: **Malgorzata K. Sneve**, *Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (Norway)*
Ray Clark, *US EPA*

Panel Reporter: **Graham Smith**, *GMS Abingdon Ltd (United Kingdom)*

Panelists:

1. **Nataliya Shandala** *Federal Medical Biophysical Center (Russia)*
2. **Stuart Walker**, *US Environmental Protection Agency*
3. **Malgorzata Sneve**, *Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (Norway)*

About 25 people attended this panel session which focused on bi-lateral cooperation in relation to radioactive legacy sites.

Summary of Presentations

Nataliya Shandala: Progress in Bi-Lateral Cooperation between Federal Medical Biological Agency (FMBA) and Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA).

Mrs. Shandala opened by summarizing the wide range of nuclear legacy sites in Russia, taking full account of all the factors and not a partial view of just one type of legacy. She then provided a substantial account of the regulatory cooperation program between the NRPA and the FMBA, including the development of new regulatory documents required to address the abnormal situation at legacy sites, software to support radiation exposure control and visualization of the radiation situation in hazardous buildings and in the wider environment at sites for the temporary storage of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel in the northwest of Russia. She then outlined the continuing cooperative work program, which focuses on the application of new regulatory requirements and guidance during the next phase of remediation activities, including the recovery and removal of spent fuel from poorly maintained stores at these sites, and the regulatory arrangements for the management of radioactive waste generated during remediation operations.

Stuart Walker: US Superfund Remedial Collaboration with the International Community on Radiation Site Issues.

Mr. Walker summarized EPA's international outreach program and the needs for and advantages of wider international collaboration. He noted the participation of agencies from Australia, France, UK, Iraq, Japan, Norway and Russia. He then summarized particular EPA cooperation activities with the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) and with the Environment Agency of England and Wales (EA) on remediation of radiation sites. This has resulted in the identification of a wide range of values and challenges. Many significant issues have been identified in common with international partners alongside mutual interest in their solution. These include: selection of site cleanup levels, D&D, risk and dose assessment, stakeholder involvement, remediation technologies, groundwater protection and disposal cell design.

Malgorzata Sneve; Norway's Bi-lateral Regulatory Cooperation Program. Mrs. Sneve first provided background information on Norway's interest in nuclear legacy sites, related to the

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close proximity of substantial legacies close to its territory in NW Russia. She noted the recent extension of Norway's long-standing Plan of Action for Nuclear and Radiation Safety and cooperation agreements with various agencies in the Russian Federation, including those responsible for regulation of nuclear safety, those concerned with radiation protection and also the Russian Ministry of Defense. The outputs have included: updated regulatory norms and standards and enhanced regulatory guidance required to address the abnormal conditions of legacies; independently collected site characterization data and environmental monitoring; improved and new assessment tools for controlling safety of workers, the public and the environment; and improved capabilities in case of emergencies, including communication between Russian stakeholders and Norwegian authorities. Factors contributing to success include: development of a trusting working relationship, effective project implementation through technical support organisations, effective interfaces between regulatory authorities, operators and technical support organizations, and project development within a logical sequence, in parallel with industrial project implementation. Following the success and mutual benefits of cooperation with Russia, regulatory cooperation programs had been set up with countries in central Asia. Here the priorities include: clarification of roles and responsibilities of all involved organizations; integrated consideration of legacy issues to support coherent risk supervision across the different regulatory areas of responsibility, and the development of practical regulatory requirements and guidance relevant to the common abnormal situations arising at the Central Asian legacy sites. The work is being supported through the involvement of EuRaSec/Russian experts.

Questions and Answers

The following was noted, arising from discussion:

The bi-lateral regulatory cooperation between NRPA and Central Asian authorities is quite separate from the activities of CGULS, which is just a coordination forum. It was noted that some work can be best addressed bi-laterally, or through regional cooperation such as across Scandinavia, e.g. where there is a local common interest, rather than involving all the international community.

FMBA of Russia is also contributing in this area, via EuraSec.