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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
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English - Or. English

NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

NEA/RWM(2005)13/REV3
Unclassified

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

Extension until 31 December 2010

The mandate of the FSC [NEA/RWM(2005)13/REV2] was extended, unchanged, until 31 December 2010, at the RWMC annual meeting in March 2009. The FSC mandate will be updated again in 2010, taking account of the broader NEA strategic considerations planned to be completed at that time.

Please send any questions regarding this document to claudio.pescatore@oecd.org

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English - Or. English

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

Preamble

Because of changes in society’s decision-making environment and heightened public sensitivity to all matters connected with environmental protection, nuclear power, radioactivity, and especially radioactive waste, any decision regarding whether, when and how to implement waste management solutions will typically require thorough public examination and the involvement of many relevant stakeholders. The latter include waste management agencies, safety authorities, local communities, elected representatives, and technical intermediaries between the general public and decision makers. The involvement of stakeholders will become increasingly important as countries develop their strategic choices for long-term radioactive waste management, and/or move towards siting and developing final 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 main support group to keep under review the world-wide experience of its participating organizations in outreach programmes and to identify and examine stakeholder confidence issues.

The FSC is a discipline-oriented working party of the RWMC and is composed of representatives of national organizations with responsibility, overview and experience in the field of building 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.

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 stakeholder confidence related to waste management.
3. To act as a forum to share experience in achieving stakeholder 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 workshops 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.

Duration of the mandate

The FSC was set into 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. Extension was then accorded for an additional three years extendible to five.

The present FSC mandate is put into effect until 31 December 2010, at which time it will be revisited and updated to take account of an updated programme of work and strategic directions for the overall OECD Nuclear Energy Agency and its standing technical committees, including the RWMC.