

FSC activities

FSC **national workshops and community visits** provide feedback about the factors that influence public confidence in the area of radioactive waste management. On-site participants include the national waste management agency and safety authorities as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, local communities, and the general public. Hosting the international learning group is appreciated by stakeholders as a means for dialogue and competence building. The FSC's **annual meetings** in Paris include topical sessions and discussions to elaborate the ideas gained from the national workshops and deepen investigation. In addition to FSC members, participants typically include social scientists, academics, and local communities' representatives. The FSC distills the lessons learnt from these activities and from desk studies and member questionnaires. It provides a pool of information to those with an interest in radioactive waste management or societal dialogue in the general area of technological decision-making. ■

FSC publications

FSC studies and reports can be downloaded freely from the NEA web site at www.nea.fr/html/rwm/fsc.html

- › Learning and adapting to societal requirements
- › Stepwise approach to decision-making
- › Stakeholder involvement techniques
- › Public information, consultation and involvement
- › Regulators' evolving role and image
- › Mental models approach to risk research
- › Media relations
- › Link between research, development and demonstration, and stakeholder confidence
- › Cultural and structural changes in radioactive waste management organizations
- › Fostering a durable relationship between a waste management facility and its host community
- › Stakeholder involvement in the decommissioning of nuclear facilities
- › Proceedings from all the FSC national workshops and community visits ■

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WE OWE IT TO OURSELVES AND TO FUTURE GENERATIONS TO DEAL WITH RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN A SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE MANNER. TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS ARE NEEDED, BUT ALSO, CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN TECHNICAL AND NON-TECHNICAL STAKEHOLDERS TO ENSURE THAT SOCIETY WILL AGREE UPON AND UPHOLD ITS PREFERRED SOLUTIONS



MANAGING RADIOACTIVE WASTE FOR THE LONG TERM

FSC mandate & profile

The Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC) is first and foremost a learning organisation. The FSC is stimulating a new approach to radioactive waste management and decision making. Through the FSC, members improve themselves as responsive actors in the governance of radioactive waste, and their involvement is helping to promote a cultural change in their home organisations. The FSC was established by the NEA Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) in the year 2000. It fosters learning about stakeholder dialogue and ways to develop shared confidence, consent and approval of management solutions. «Stakeholder» is defined as anyone with a role to play or an interest in the process of deciding about RW management.

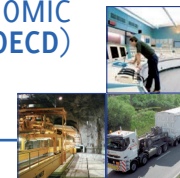
The FSC provides a setting for direct stakeholder exchange in an atmosphere of mutual respect and learning. The FSC is one of the rare contexts where technicians, civil

servants and social scientists can interact. Together with local and national stakeholders, the FSC explores issues of interest, identifies best practice, and suggests recommendations. The FSC takes as a responsibility to mature its lessons in discussion and cooperation with those concerned, to validate its conclusions with the help of academic researchers, and to publish this learning for the record. Participating in this forum are government policy and regulatory officials, R&D specialists, implementers and industry representatives from 16 countries: Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Together they explore means of ensuring an effective dialogue with the public, and consider ways to strengthen confidence in decision-making processes. ■

FSC

Forum on Stakeholder Confidence

AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF
THE NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY (NEA)
A SPECIALISED AGENCY OF
THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)



FSC national workshops

Finland 2001

STEPWISE DECISION MAKING WITH STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Case Study: The Government's Decision in Principle on the final disposal facility for spent nuclear fuel in Eurajoki

Canada 2002

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Case Study 1: The clean-up of low-level radioactive contaminated lands in Port Hope
Case Study 2: Federal legislation: The Nuclear Fuel Waste Act



Belgium 2003

INTERESTS, VALUES AND KNOWLEDGE IN MANAGING RISK

Case Study: Local partnership methodology for the long-term management of low-level radioactive waste; its application in Fleurus-Farciennes, Mol and Dessel

Germany 2004



RE-ORIENTATION OF THE RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT SITE SELECTION STRATEGY

Case Study: The Gorleben high-level waste and spent nuclear fuel repository project and a new national site selection process

Spain 2005

STAKEHOLDER INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Case Study 1: National policy for central long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel
Case Study 2: The decommissioning of the nuclear reactor Vandellós-I



Hungary 2006

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Case Study 1: The role of local public oversight and information associations.
Case Study 2: Confidence aspects in the acceptance of the Bataapáti repository

France 2009

REPOSITORIES AND HOST REGIONS : ENVISAGING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Case Study: Territorial development and local expectations for a potential repository in the Meuse/Haute-Marne



International Feedback from a Local Perspective

The FSC has held workshops in six countries and local communities therein according to its own well-tested approach. In each place, the host defines the principal themes for discussion in radioactive waste management. FSC members learn from national presenters about the history and context of each case study and hear a broad range of stakeholder voices describe their position, actions and concerns. Sitting together in small groups for roundtable discussions, FSC members can ask questions of hosting stakeholders, understand better their point of view, and share experience from their own institutions and countries. Each table then gives feedback to the entire audience, and the main observations are published alongside the texts of stakeholder presentations. The FSC then elaborates further on the lessons to be learnt. ■

The FSC has learnt that a number of factors contribute to shared stakeholder confidence that radioactive waste is managed safely, securely and in accordance with societal values and aspirations. These confidence factors, drawn from workshop discussion and reflection, can be arranged under the following themes.



Factors of Confidence Related to...

... Decision-making Process

A stepwise approach to decision-making is preferred, combining a technical and societal focus. It should take into account and empower the full range of stakeholders (government, industry, public), fostering their mutual learning. It should embrace ethical considerations concerning future generations, and the potential socio-economic impacts on facility hosts as well as health, safety and environmental concerns. A bottom-up, community-based methodology should allow early, significant participation of the public in analysis and deliberation alongside the experts. The site selection process should empower potential host, neighbouring and transit municipalities to negotiate a win/win solution. Voluntary processes that incorporate the right to veto can be especially effective. Regional development plans should be worked out with local, industry

and national support. There should be cooperative efforts to rebuild trust between key players when there has been conflict, for example third-party facilitation when communication has broken down.

... Roles and Structures

There should be a clear framework defining the role and rights of players. The financial responsibility for long-term waste management should be clear, and placed primarily on those who produce the waste. A driving role should be played by local communities. They should have an active role in developing and overseeing their own solutions with significant assistance from regulatory and decommissioning authorities and industry proponents. This includes planning and implementation when

siting agreement is reached. It is useful to have local liaison groups near potential sites facilitating public information, education and consultation.

... Actors' Knowledge and Behaviour

It is important that all stakeholders assume their responsibilities, and that local and national players work together towards a mutually agreed resolution. Trust in the national regulatory bodies is valuable. Dialogue across communities through federated associations, and dialogue established between local decision-makers and national agency managers, enhance programs. Solutions are more easily reached when local players are engaged to solve their problem and/or improve their com-

munity well being. Confidence is gained if a higher standard of living is observed in the host community through for example increased tourism and better connections with other regions and the capital. Local communities appreciate technical training to participate in environmental monitoring. Community familiarity with the nuclear industry and the knowledge of community members working in existing facilities and construction sites contribute to local confidence. ■

If you have comments or questions on the work of the FSC, or would like to obtain FSC materials, please contact Claudio Pescatore at the Secretariat of the NEA Radioactive Waste Management Committee: claudio.pescatore@oecd.org