

## QUICK LOOK TRIP REPORT

**Travel Dates:** November 12-17, 2005

**Location:** Belgian Nuclear Research Centre, Brussels, Belgium

**Organization:** Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development, Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA)

**Committee:** Working Party on Decommissioning and Dismantling (WPDD)

**Meetings:** Topical Meeting on "Stakeholder Involvement in the Decommissioning" and Annual Meeting

**Desired Outcome:** The annual OECD/NEA/WPDD meeting will consist of topical sessions on stakeholder involvement in decommissioning, a focused discussion of decommissioning in Belgium, a site visit, a plenary/business meeting of the WPDD, and a meeting of the WPDD Core Group. The Core Group is currently comprised of members from the US, Germany, the UK, and France.

**Results Achieved:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff presentation at the Topical Meeting was well received. Overall, the technical programs at both meetings were informative. The Core Group met to plan the next meeting and nominate a new chair.

### Summary of Trip:

#### OECD/NEA WPDD Topical Meeting on "Stakeholder Involvement in Decommissioning":

On November 14, 2005, Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff participated in a Topical Meeting entitled, "Stakeholder Involvement in Decommissioning" in Brussels, Belgium. The purpose of the meeting was to enable decommissioning experts to evaluate experiences and lessons learned regarding stakeholder involvement from various international decommissioning projects. Bruce Watson, Health Physicist, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection, Reactor Decommissioning Section, presented "Stakeholder Involvement in Decommissioning of Trojan and Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plants" (ADAMS Accession # ML053010024.) Although no attendance list was provided, the Topical Meeting was attended by over 30 participants. The key conclusions of the meeting are summarized below.

- Stakeholders, local, state and national interests, should be involved early in the decommissioning project.
- The earlier stakeholders are involved and the more information provided, the more likely there will be public acceptance, trust and confidence in decommissioning decisions.
- Stakeholders need to know the process for obtaining information and who is leading the decommissioning communication process, since in some countries it may be the national government rather than the plant owner.
- For long term decommissioning projects, there may be a need to engage young people in the communication effort.
- Local stakeholders are likely to be concerned with undesirable effects of plant closure. Local issues include the economic impacts associated with the loss of jobs and

environmental safety concerns that the site will become either a permanent radioactive waste storage site or a disposal site. Local stakeholders, such as mayors and other elected officials, may provide the leadership to resolve issues.

- National stakeholder issues that need to be addressed include both the transportation and disposal of radioactive waste.
- Regulatory staff responsible for communicating with the public must be competent communicators. They must be able to communicate technical issues to the non-technical public.

#### OECD/NEA/WPDD 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:

On November 15 and 16, 2005, NRC Staff participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Energy Agency - Working Party on Decommissioning and Dismantling in Brussels, Belgium. The primary purpose of the WPDD 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was to assess ongoing program work, and to plan the next meeting of the WPDD. The WPDD was briefed on the Belgian Decommissioning Scene by the host, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK.CEN) and toured the Belgian Reactor BR-3.

On day one, November 15, 2005, the WPDD visited the BR-3 reactor decommissioning research project. During the past 15 years, SCK.CEN has completed the segmentation and decontamination of the pressurized water reactor large components. The remaining work includes removal of utility services from the containment and decontamination of concrete structures.

On day two, November 16, 2005, the WPDD 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting plenary session was held. A review of ongoing work was conducted and it was determined that the WPDD would pursue completion of a number of products early in 2006. These products include the WPDD Task Group Reports on Funding, Release of Sites, and Decommissioning Strategy. New issues were solicited for incorporation into the WPDD Strategic Plan for 2007/2008 and will be evaluated by the WPDD Core Group in early 2007. The 28 attendees from 14 countries were briefed on activities issues from the International Atomic Energy Agency, European Union and NEA-Radioactive Waste Management Committee. The next WPDD meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 2006, in conjunction with the Co-operative Program for the Exchange of Scientific and Technical Information Concerning Nuclear Installation Decommissioning Projects in Paris, France. The suggested subject for the topical meeting is the decommissioning owner and regulator interface. In addition, Ivo Triputti, SOGIN (Italy), was elected as the new chair and Douglas Metcalfe, Natural Resources Canada, was elected vice chair.

#### **Planned Next Steps for NRC:**

NRC staff recommends continued participation on the OECD/NEA WPDD. The technical and social issue information exchange benefits both the US and the international participants. NRC staff representation continues to re-enforce the need to focus on products and deliverables that will make the WPDD a valuable group to the NRC and the international decommissioning community. However, since the work products are accomplished principally by the volunteer efforts of the members, timeliness for completion requires diligence by the volunteer task group chairs and the commitment from the members' management to support the work.

**Policy Issues/Commission Interest:**

The meetings did not involve policy issues and the content of this trip report is not likely to be of interest to the Commission. Therefore, this is the only trip report to be issued for this meeting.

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