



# **Technical Meeting of the International Low Level Waste Disposal Network (DISPONET) on Lessons Learned from the Disposal of Low Level Waste**

**Hosted by the**  
Government of United Kingdom

**through the**  
Nuclear Waste Services (NWS)

**9–13 October 2023**

**Ref. No.: 2207118**

## **Information Sheet**

### **Introduction**

Radioactive waste disposal facilities are required by Member States as an endpoint in the management of radioactive waste. Over the years considerable experience has been gained in the design, construction, and operation of near surface disposal facilities for very low-level waste (VLLW) and low-level waste (LLW).

Following defined criteria waste acceptance criteria (WAC) for disposal facilities are developed and updated as needed as the repository matures from concept to licensed design. The design considers the WAC for each specific disposal facility. Based on these WAC and the engineered barrier concept will be developed and implemented into the design. With respect to the design, it is important that consideration is given to maintaining flexibility in both the design and construction of the engineered barrier systems, to the extent possible. In this light consideration can be given to the application of future proofing concepts in repository design. Future proofing of these systems should take into account the whole lifecycle of a repository through closure and the subsequent period of institutional control.

Once an operational license is issued and approvals to proceed are granted, a radioactive waste disposal facility is operated and closed in accordance with the design plans included in the licensing documentation.

The long-term nature of disposal facility operations also requires reacting to changes in national policy, regulatory requirements and other stakeholder requirements. All information related to the construction process and quality controls should be recorded and stored throughout a repository's lifetime.

DISPONET, the International Low Level Waste Disposal Network, was initiated in 2010 to facilitate communications and exchanges of ideas among Member States pursuing waste disposal low and very low radioactive waste as well as intermediate level waste, where not planned for co-disposal with high level waste in deep geologic repositories.

## **Objectives**

The purpose of the event is to facilitate the exchange of information and foster discussions among members of DISPONET with respect to recent experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the disposal of low level waste.

Specifically, this event will focus on the closure of near surface disposal facilities and ensuring that the facility designs are sufficiently robust to manage potential changes in WAC, regulation or stakeholder requirements.

This 2023 annual meeting will concentrate in particular on operational experiences, planning considerations and lessons learned from the disposal of LLW in a near surface facility as implemented in the United Kingdom. This will reflect the evolution of the disposal design from early trench disposals in 1959 to planning for future waste facilities at the site.

## **Target Audience**

The meeting is targeted to representatives of organizations substantially contributing to sharing experience in the Disposal of Low Level Waste.

## **Working Language(s)**

The working language of the meeting will be English. Interpretation will not be provided. All communications, reviews and discussion papers must be submitted in English.

## **Expected Outputs**

Annualized Member State updates on progress in their disposal programmes for low and intermediate level radioactive waste.

# Topics

## Administrative:

- Roll call and introductions
- Review and accept minutes from the last annual meeting
- Administrative update on Network issues
- Planning for Network activities in 2023 and beyond
- Questions and/or suggestions on Network administration

## Technical:

Country Updates – Network members are requested to prepare a short country update specific to each Member State's programme in MS PowerPoint. The updates should be uploaded to the DISPONET website *at least two weeks prior to the meeting*. Country Updates will be discussed in a roundtable format, however, Member States with particularly interesting updates will be afforded extra time if requested. Member States desiring more time should contact the Scientific Secretary directly *at least two weeks prior to the meeting*.

Member State updates may be submitted either as standard Microsoft PowerPoint slides or as pre-recorded video presentations. If submitted as pre-recorded presentations these should be designed using Microsoft PowerPoint in landscape with a slide ratio of 16:9 using the 'Record Slide Show' function and saved as a MPEG-4 video (\*.mp4) file, not exceeding 2 GB. This will allow all participants to watch the updates at a convenient time. Further details on pre-recording Member State updates will be provided upon request. Note that the original Microsoft PowerPoint slides, used to generate video presentations, should also be provided to the secretariat.

The technical component of the meeting will also allow Member States the opportunity to discuss issues related to:

- Development of waste acceptance criteria for LLW disposal facilities;
- Lessons learned from the design and construction of engineered barrier systems, and the requirement to maintain flexibility in design and construction for futureproofing; and
- Update on the IAEA draft technical report on design considerations for closure of near surface waste disposal facilities.

Finally, a technical visit to the UK Low Level Waste Repository will be conducted to allow members the opportunity to see first-hand the operations of a large near surface disposal facility including the preliminary work for installation of closure systems.

## Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State, participants are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) for onward transmission to the IAEA by **30 June 2023**. Participants who are members of an organization invited to attend are requested to send the **Participation Form (Form A)** through their organization to the IAEA by the above deadline.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate.

## Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made using the **Grant Application Form (Form C)**, which has to be stamped, signed and submitted by the competent national authority to the IAEA together with the **Participation Form (Form A)** by **30 June 2023**.

## Venue

The event will be hosted by the Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) at the Clayton Hotel, Manchester City Centre, 55 Portland Street, Manchester M1 3HP, United Kingdom.

## Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter the United Kingdom should submit the necessary application as soon as possible to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of the United Kingdom.

# IAEA Contacts

## Scientific Secretary:

### Mr Gerald Nieder-Westermann

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## Administrative Secretary:

### Mr Shelby Thomas Elamkunnam

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Email: [s.t.elamkunnam@iaea.org](mailto:s.t.elamkunnam@iaea.org)

Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.

# Participation Form

## Technical Meeting of the International Low Level Waste Disposal Network (DISPONET) on Recent Experiences, Good Practices and Lessons Learned in the Disposal of Low Level Waste

**Manchester, United Kingdom: and virtual participation via Cisco Webex**

**9 to 13 October 2023**

To be completed by the participant and sent to the competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA, or National Atomic Energy Authority) of his/her country for subsequent transmission to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) either by email to: [Official.Mail@iaea.org](mailto:Official.Mail@iaea.org) or by fax to: +43 1 26007 (no hard copies needed). Please also send a copy by email to the Scientific Secretary ([G.Nieder-Westermann@iaea.org](mailto:G.Nieder-Westermann@iaea.org)) and to the Administrative Secretary [No](#).

**Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels: 30 June 2023**

Family name(s): (same as in passport)		First name(s): (same as in passport)	Mr/Ms
Institution:			
Full address:			
Tel. (Fax):			
Email:			
Nationality:	Representing following Member State/non-Member State/entity or invited organization:		
If/as applicable: Do you intend to submit a paper? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Would you prefer to present your paper as a poster? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Title: I plan to attend virtually: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate.

# Grant Application Form

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**Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels: 30 June 2023**

Family name(s): (same as in passport)	First name(s): (same as in passport)	Mr/Ms:
Mailing address:	Tel.:	
	Fax:	
	Email:	
Date of birth (yy/mm/dd):	Nationality:	
I plan to attend virtually:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

### 1. Education (post-secondary):

Name and place of institution	Field of study	Diploma or Degree	Years attended from	to

### 2. Recent employment record (starting with your present post):

Name and place of employer/ organization	Title of your position	Type of work	Years worked from	to

### 3. Description of work performed over the last three years:

### 4. Institute's/Member State's programme in field of event:

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature of applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name, signature and stamp of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority** \_\_\_\_\_