

Arius Participation in Work of the World Nuclear Association in London

Arius has for many years been a member of the World Nuclear Association (WNA) and is officially a participant in some of the working groups which meet periodically. On Tuesday 9th January 2018, a joint session was held between the Working Groups on Law, Sustainable Used Fuel Management (SUFM), and Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning (WM&D), all of which are interested in the topic of international cooperation and development of high-level waste repositories. Presentations were given on existing national disposal plans in Finland and in Russia. An IAEA representative described existing work and challenges posed by multinational repository initiatives. The interesting Slovenian – Croatian situation in which spent fuel from a single reactor is owned by two different nations was presented. The status of the South Australian discussion on hosting a multinational repository was presented by a government representative via videoconferencing. Legal and stakeholder aspects were explained by speakers. Finally, a roundtable discussion on the whole topic of multinational disposal was introduced and chaired by Charles McCombie from Arius/ERDO. The detailed agenda is appended. The presentations given are available to WNA members of the website or can be obtained from the Arius/ERDO secretariat.

At the conclusion of the Roundtable discussion, the following questions were put to the audience with responses requested via a show of hands:

- 1 Does developing the MNR concept help nuclear power prospects?
- 2 How credible is it that an MNR initiative will be successful?
- 3 Should the WNA be active in this area?

It was interesting to observe that the responses to all three questions were overwhelmingly positive with the French representative being the only negative response to question one.

Working Groups – Joint Session:
Law, Sustainable Used Fuel Management, Waste Management & Decommissioning
International cooperation in developing high-level waste repositories

1: Welcome & Introduction

Helen Cook, Shearman & Sterling (Law WG chair)

2: Existing Plans for a Repository

- Finland – Onkalo Spent Fuel Repository
Mika Pohjonen, Posiva
- Russia – High-level Waste Disposal
Mikhail Baryshnikov, TENEX

3: Multinational Repositories – Existing Work Undertaken & Challenges Posed

- Overview of IAEA Activities on Multinational Repositories
Philippe Van Marcke, IAEA
- Multinational approaches to HLW and SF disposal - Report on Progress within IFNEC
Tomaž Žagar, IFNEC
- Slovenian – Example of a Dual Track Approach
Leon Kegel, ARAO
- Australian Case Study
Geordan Graetz, Dept. of State Development, Govt of South Australia

4: Legal Considerations with Multinational Repositories

Helen Peters, Pinsent Masons

5: Communication & Stakeholder Engagement (TBC)

Roy Payne, GDFWatch

6. Round Table

- Introduction to the Round Table
Charles McCombie, Arius