



Workshop on Decommissioning Planning for Research Reactors

**IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria**

27–31 August 2018

Ref. No: EVT1701628

Information Sheet

A. Introduction

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Specific Safety Requirements publication *Safety of Research Reactors* (IAEA Safety Standards Series No. SSR-3) states, in Requirement 89, that the operating organization for a research reactor facility “shall prepare a decommissioning plan and shall maintain it throughout the lifetime of the research reactor, unless otherwise approved by the regulatory body, to demonstrate that decommissioning can be accomplished safely and in such a way as to meet the specified end state.” SSR-3 also states that the decommissioning plan “shall be prepared at the design stage and shall be updated in accordance with changes in regulatory requirements, modifications to the systems, structures and components, advances in technology, changes in the need for decommissioning activities and changes in national policies for decommissioning and/or the management of radioactive waste.”

The Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors states that the operating organization “should ensure that siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance and utilization of the research reactor are carried out keeping in view the ultimate decommissioning of the installation”, and also that the operating organization “should maintain documentation in a secure and organized manner throughout the life of the research reactor to assist in its safe operation and ultimate decommissioning.”

The feedback from the IAEA’s activities in this field, including safety review missions and international meetings on the application of the Code of Conduct on the Safety of Research Reactors that include self-assessment by the Member States, has highlighted the need for many countries to develop up-to-date plans for the decommissioning of research reactors and to prepare for decommissioning throughout the lifetime of their reactors. Additionally, according to the IAEA’s Research Reactor Database, there

are currently 155 research reactors in a state of shutdown. For some of these reactors there are plans to restart operation, and some have been earmarked for decommissioning, but the majority are with no clear plans for their future. This situation presents safety concerns and needs to be managed effectively by Member States to ensure the safety of these facilities, including during the transition period between the end of operation and the start of decommissioning activities.

During the Technical Meeting on Decommissioning Plans and Managing the Transition Period between Operation and Decommissioning of Research Reactors, held in Vienna from 8 to 12 December 2014, the participants recommended that the IAEA Secretariat continue supporting Member States in developing decommissioning plans, including through the organization of meetings for the exchange of experience from decommissioning and by providing assistance with the application of the IAEA's safety standards in this area.

Taking into consideration the issues mentioned above, the IAEA is organizing this Workshop on Decommissioning Planning for Research Reactors, to be held at its Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, from 27 to 31 August 2018.

B. Objectives

The purpose of the workshop is to provide the participants with a forum to discuss and exchange information, experience and practical knowledge related to the safety and operational aspects of establishing a decommissioning plan for a research reactor and updating the plan during the reactor's lifetime, and also related to managing the transition period between the operation and decommissioning of such facilities, including safety management of research reactors in a state of extended shutdown.

C. Target Audience

Participation in the workshop is subject to designation by governmental or national organizations that are involved in planning, constructing, operating or decommissioning research reactors. To ensure maximum effectiveness in the exchange of information, participants should be persons responsible for decommissioning planning for research reactors. Specialists from regulatory bodies who are responsible for the regulatory supervision of research reactors are also invited to participate in the workshop. Member States are strongly encouraged to identify suitable women participants.

D. Working Language

The working language of the workshop will be English.

E. Topics

A. In addition to presentations by the IAEA representatives on the basis of the IAEA safety standards and technical guidelines, the workshop will include presentations by the participants on their national practices and experiences, followed by discussions that address the following topics:

- Application of the IAEA safety standards related to decommissioning planning;

- Considerations related to eventual decommissioning in the design, construction, operation and utilization of research reactors;
- Decommissioning plans for research reactors and how they are updated;
- Updating of decommissioning plans during the lifetime of the research reactors;
- Good practices in the preparation for decommissioning of research reactors;
- Experience with the management of research reactors during a state of extended shutdown and during the transition period between operation and decommissioning, including:
 - Safety management of research reactors in extended shutdown, including accelerated decisions on the future of such facilities;
 - Measures for criticality safety, and arrangements for dealing with spent fuel and radioactive waste;
 - Maintenance, periodic testing and inspection of structures, systems and components important to safety;
 - Updating of safety analyses and operational limits and conditions;
 - Radiation protection programmes and emergency planning arrangements;
 - Staffing requirements to undertake the tasks necessary to keep the reactor in safe condition, and to maintain knowledge about the reactor.
- Elements of a feasibility study for deciding on the future of research reactors in a state of extended shutdown;
- Regulatory aspects of decommissioning planning and of research reactors in extended shutdown and during the transition between operation and decommissioning.

B. The discussions in the working groups will focus on the practical aspects related to the development of decommissioning plans and programmes for managing research reactors in extended shutdown and during the transition period between operation and decommissioning.

F. Visas

Designated participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to their nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria, as soon as possible.

G. Application Procedure

Designations should be submitted using the attached Participation Form (Form A). Completed forms should be endorsed by the competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA, or National Atomic Energy Authority) and returned through the established official channels. They must be received by the IAEA not later than **31 May 2018**. Designations received after that date or applications sent directly by individuals or by private institutions cannot be considered. Designating Governments will be informed in due course of the names of the selected candidates and at that time full details will be given on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters. Any applications for financial support should be made at the time of designating participants.

H. Organization

Scientific Secretaries:

Mr Deshraj V.H. Rao

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Administrative Secretary:

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

Participation Form

Workshop on Decommissioning Planning for Research Reactors

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria

27–31 August 2018

To be completed by the participant and sent to the competent official 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), Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100, 1400 Vienna, Austria, either electronically by email to: 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 Secretaries (D.V.Rao@iaea.org) and (Ram.Sharma@iaea.org), and to the Administrative Secretary (L.Hedervari@iaea.org).

Participants who are members of an invited organization can submit this form to their organization for subsequent transmission to the IAEA.

Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels: 31 May 2018

Family name: (e.g. Smith)		First name(s): (e.g. John)	Mr/Ms
Institution:			
Full address:			
For urgent communications please indicate:	Tel.:		
	Fax:		
	Email:		
Nationality:	Designating Government or organization:		
Mailing address (if different from address indicated above):			
Do you intend to give a presentation?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Title:			