This document confirms that, in line with the RWMC decision in 2005 to extend the WPDD mandate to October 2008, with the option of further extension to October 2010, the current WPDD mandate is extended to the latter date. This brings the mandate duration into line with that of current strategic plan of the NEA.
RWMC WORKING PARTY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF DECOMMISSIONING (WPDD)

Preamble

Once a facility ceases its useful life, decommissioning begins with a view to release from the nuclear regulatory regime both the facility and the sites on which it rests. OECD Member countries will be increasingly faced with the need for decommissioning of phased-out nuclear facilities and appropriate provisions will have to be made in terms of policy, financing, and management of all aspects of the decommissioning project. Depending on the strategy chosen, decommissioning may take a few years or several decades, which entails specific problems in decision making and also has an impact on such broad issues as the sustainability of nuclear power and preserving the well-being of local communities.

The NEA Radioactive Waste Management Committee (RWMC) has long recognized the importance of decommissioning in its work programme. Nowadays, as decommissioning technology has become mature, and decommissioning is getting increased visibility, the broader societal implications have come to the fore, which requires a dialogue amongst all institutional and non-institutional actors. The RWMC has traditionally provided a neutral ground for such broader debates.

Description and membership

The RWMC has installed the Working Party on the Management of Decommissioning (WPDD) as its main support for keeping under review the policy, strategic, and regulatory aspects of decommissioning of phased-out nuclear installations in view of the ultimate release of both the relevant facilities and the site from the regulatory regime.

The WPDD is constituted of senior representatives of national organisations who, in their capacity as regulators, implementers, R&D experts or policy makers, have responsibility, broad overview and experience in the field of decommissioning.

The decommissioning experience of the NEA Co-operative Programme on Decommissioning (“Agreement for the Exchange of Scientific and Technical Information on Nuclear Installation Decommissioning Projects”, CPD) is represented by the membership of CPD member countries in the WPDD.
Cross-representation with the other NEA Standing Technical Committees is sought. Participation from civil society organisations and others at specific meetings shall be considered on a case by case basis.

**Remit**

The remit of the WPDD is as follows:

1. To define, oversee and carry out work programme activities as assigned by the RWMC, in order to increase the outreach and efficiency of both the RWMC and NEA in the field of Decommissioning as described in the NEA Strategic Plan 2005-2009.

2. To identify and analyse main issues regarding policies and strategies for the Decommissioning of phased-out nuclear facilities, including funding related issues, and the attending issues of recycling, reuse and/or disposal of materials and the release of buildings and sites.

3. To observe, on a world-wide level, the development of the state of the art of management and technique of decommissioning projects, and make it better available to other NEA bodies engaged in this crosscutting field, in particular building on the experience from the technical information exchange performed within the CPD.

4. To facilitate multilateral communication and information exchange among the WPDD members, and to promote an open dialogue among peers, in particular the regulatory authorities, R&D institutions and the decommissioning industry both private and public.

5. To keep the WPDD members and the RWMC aware of progress and activities in other international fora and their implications, and help the RWMC participate in international initiatives. Co-ordination with EC and IAEA initiatives is important.

6. In close co-operation with the FSC examine and further develop the link between decommissioning, decision-making and public confidence and acceptance, keeping in mind the long time scales for planning and carrying out decommissioning projects.

7. To set up, manage, and make broadly available a database of information on decommissioning in NEA Member countries.

8. To be of service to the other NEA committees with the goal to strengthen overall visibility of decommissioning as a NEA crosscutting activity.

**Mode of operation**

Communication within the group takes place through at least a yearly plenary meeting. The plenary meeting will be devoted to:

- Exchange of information on recent developments in the Member countries.
- In-depth discussions of current developments and of topical issues, where specialists from outside the WPDD can also be invited. The presentation of case studies will be used as a vehicle to focus discussions.
• The discussion and co-ordination of the working programme, which will include the update of the decommissioning information database.
• The identification of main lessons to be reported to the RWMC and to the NEA annual coordination meeting of the standing technical committees’ chairmen.
• The preparation of initiatives involving also other NEA committees and regarding topical issues in decommissioning, e.g., international symposia.

The working programme and modus operandi should promote:
• the pooling of resources;
• the sharing and synthesis of understanding and experience; and
• the communication of findings to varied audiences.

In order to take full benefit of the experience matured in NEA Member countries, and in order to bring the expertise of the WPDD members directly to individual countries, meetings may be held in specific national contexts, hosted by either a Member country or member organisation.

The NEA Secretariat will assist the working party in carrying out its activities and liaise with other international bodies and activities.

**Duration of the mandate**

The WPDD was set into force in May 2001. Its mandate was reviewed at the first session of RWMC 2003, taking into account development and progress in this specific field, as well as organisational developments in the NEA regarding the administration of crosscutting issues, and was extended until October 2005. It was reviewed again in March 2005 (RWMC-381), which meeting decided to approve the extension of the mandate for three years with a possible extension to five, i.e. up until October 2010.

In light of the decision by the NEA Steering Committee to extend the current strategic plan of the NEA to the end of 2010, the WPDD intends to proceed in line with the RWMC decision in 2005 to extend its mandate to October 2010, thus bringing its current mandate into line with the current NEA strategic plan.

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