



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace and Development

Workshop on Research Reactor Spent Fuel Management

**IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria
and virtual participation via Cisco Webex**

7-10 July 2026

Ref. No.: EVT2503608

Information Sheet

Introduction

At the beginning of 2026, the IAEA Research Reactor Database reported 228 research reactors in operation and 7 under temporary shutdown in 54 countries. Twelve research reactors are currently under construction, and about 30 countries are considering building new research reactors. Research reactors continue to play a prominent role in many Member States, supporting applications in research, medicine, industry and education.

The management of associated spent research reactor fuel remains an ongoing responsibility, requiring sound technical approaches and long-term planning. Attention is increasingly focused on how irradiated fuel will be managed over time, within the framework of national policy and strategy, taking into account current storage arrangements and available and emerging technical options.

The management of irradiated fuel involves a range of related technical and management aspects, including wet and dry storage, its transfer and transport, and, where it is declared and managed as radioactive waste, its treatment, conditioning and eventual disposal. Depending on the national approach, management of irradiated fuel may also include recycling or reprocessing to recover usable materials but still leaving radioactive waste that must be managed and eventually disposed of. These aspects are closely linked to infrastructure, regulatory frameworks and institutional roles and responsibilities at the national level, and to how responsibility for irradiated fuel and radioactive waste is maintained or transferred over time.

This workshop is intended to support Member States in strengthening their understanding of these technical and strategic aspects, and in connecting current practices with practical national planning for the management of irradiated fuel over taking into account the intended end point.

Objectives

The workshop aims to:

- Support review of participants' current national situation for irradiated fuel management;
- Improve understanding of existing storage practices and their implications for long-term management, and how these inform future management decisions;
- Provide an overview of key management activities, including storage, transfer and transport, potential return arrangements, recycling or reprocessing, treatment and conditioning, and disposal;
- Highlight how current decisions influence future management and responsibilities; and
- Support the development or refinement of practical national approaches for managing irradiated fuel, taking into account the intended end point.

Target Audience

The workshop is intended for those involved in the management of research reactor irradiated fuel, including:

- Research reactor operation and fuel storage;
- Fuel cycle services (e.g. storage, reprocessing, transport);
- Radioactive waste management;
- Regulatory oversight;
- Government authorities responsible for nuclear energy or radioactive waste management;
- International organizations (e.g. OECD NEA, European Commission); and
- Technical support and other relevant institutions.

Participants are expected to be directly involved in, or responsible for, the management, storage, planning or regulation of irradiated fuel.

Working Language(s)

English.

Expected Outputs

The workshop is expected to:

- Improve shared understanding of current practices and approaches to irradiated fuel management;
- Support exchange of experience related to storage, handling and planning, including different national approaches;
- Provide participants with a clearer view of how current practices relate to longer term management pathways and end points;
- Help identify key questions, uncertainties and decision points at the national level; and
- Support participants in identifying practical next steps for strengthening national management and planning arrangements.

Structure

The workshop will be conducted as an interactive, discussion-based event combining technical presentations, structured national contributions and facilitated discussions.

Participants are expected to actively contribute to the workshop by sharing national experience and perspectives related to the topics outlined in this information sheet. Participants will be invited to present relevant aspects of their national programmes, including current practices, challenges and planned approaches. This exchange of experience is a central element of the workshop and is essential to achieving its objectives.

All participants will also be expected to complete a short pre-workshop survey to provide background information on their national programmes. The results will be used to inform the workshop discussions and ensure that sessions are tailored to the needs and experience of participants.

Participants should indicate the topic and title of their proposed contribution in the Participation Form (Form A). Following acceptance, presentations will be required to be submitted in advance of the workshop.

In addition to presentations, the workshop will include structured roundtable discussions and breakout sessions to enable more detailed consideration of key issues. These sessions are intended to provide an open and constructive forum for participants to compare approaches, explore shared challenges and reflect on the implications for their own national context.

Topics

The workshop will address the following main areas:

- International and national context
 - Overview of global status and trends in research reactor irradiated fuel management

- National programme updates, including inventory, storage arrangements, management approaches and key considerations
- Fuel characteristics and storage considerations
 - Fuel types, condition, degradation mechanisms and related research projects
 - Implications for storage and future management decisions
- Current storage practices
 - Wet storage: operation, monitoring, ageing and continued use
 - Dry storage: approaches, experience and constraints
 - Considerations for transition from wet to dry storage
- Management approaches and technical options
 - Storage over extended timeframes
 - Potential return or transfer arrangements
 - Recycling and reprocessing approaches
 - Treatment and conditioning approaches
 - Associated transfer and transport considerations
 - Consideration of how different approaches influence subsequent management steps and end states
- Lifecycle management and national planning
 - Linking current practices with future management pathways and end states
 - National planning approaches and tools (including IAEA BRIDE)
 - Institutional roles and interfaces, including continuity of responsibility
 - Identification of national priorities and next steps

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 or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **29 May 2026**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
 - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
 - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
 - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
 - If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;

- If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
- Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
- Submit their application.

Once submitted through the [InTouch+ platform](#), the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **29 May 2026**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

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. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning IAEA InTouch+ platform.

Papers and Presentations

The IAEA encourages participants to give presentations on the work of their respective institutions that falls under the topics listed above.

Participants who wish to give presentations are requested to submit an abstract of their work. The abstract will be reviewed as part of the selection process for presentations. The abstract should be in A4 page format, should extend to no more than 1 page (including figures and tables) and should not exceed 200 words. It should be sent electronically to Ms. Kerry Dunn, the Scientific Secretary of the event (see contact details below), not later than **29 May 2026**. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed presentations by **12 June 2026**.

Submission of a paper should be confirmed, together with the submission of the main application via the InTouch+ platform, by **29 May 2026**.

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, together with the submission of the application, by **29 May 2026**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where the IAEA's Headquarters are located. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:

www.iaea.org/events.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

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

Event Web Page

Please visit the following IAEA web page regularly for new information regarding this event:

www.iaea.org/events/EVT2503608