



Training Workshop on the Value Proposition for Establishing the Deep Borehole Disposal Concept as a Viable Disposal Option

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria
and virtual participation via Microsoft Teams

29 June–2 July 2026

Ref. No.: EVT2503819

Information Sheet

Introduction

Several IAEA Member States have over the past years launched generic feasibility studies on - or have expressed interest to learn more about - the deep borehole disposal (DBD) concept to address specific national disposal needs. This has motivated launching an IAEA Coordinated Research Project (CRP), with overall objective to support Member States' strategic decision on whether to invest in DBD feasibility studies as part of their national disposal strategy. The specific DBD-CRP objectives to achieve this are:

- To provide a value proposition and comprehensive suite of assessments at the strategic and programmatic level as useful to support IAEA Member States needing to make such an informed decision, including a balanced consideration of potential benefits and risks.
- To expand the scientific and technical basis needed to demonstrate the safety and engineering feasibility of the deep borehole disposal concept.
- To develop preliminary plans for a field demonstrator of the deep borehole concept.

While an extensive body of knowledge and practical experience are available on the implementation of geological disposal facilities, a variety of reasons could motivate a national disposal programme to invest in further developments of the DBD concept. These include one or several of the following: The relative size of the national intermediate level waste (ILW) and/or high-level waste (HLW) inventory; the relatively high fixed costs associated with establishing a geological disposal facility; considerations of siting flexibility or of time estimates for siting, licensing and construction; and/or the preference to dispose of a smaller subset of the inventory in a dedicated facility given its specific physical, chemical and/or radiological properties.

The overall effectiveness of the national disposal strategy and the selection of complementary developments will depend on national circumstances, including regulatory readiness, licensing options, inventory characteristics and the maturity of the supporting safety case. Developing a field test demonstrator, selecting and characterizing a site, developing the basis to submit a license application – and indeed developing the corresponding legal and regulatory framework – would be a global “first of a kind” endeavour. The risks inherent in pursuing it are measured by the loss potential for time and resources invested at the various stages of development, should future results fail to provide assurances needed for safe and effective implementation.

Building on the knowledge shared and discussions from the first and second Research Coordination Meetings of the DBD-CRP, hosted by IAEA in June 2024 and in October 2025; as well as a workshop on technological readiness of the DBD concept hosted by IAEA in November 2024, the partners of the DBD-CRP decided to organize a training workshop on the value proposition for a DBD concept, to adequately reflect both the merits and risks of investing into further R&D and technical demonstration. Some of the merits and motivations within the broader national waste disposal strategy are mentioned above. Some of the risks refer to time and resources required to perform further R&D and technical demonstration to address valid open questions – without an a priori guarantee that these will be successful.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to further develop the comparative analysis for geological disposal concepts, including a value proposition for the deep borehole disposal concept as an option available to Member States.

The objectives are to share current state of knowledge, incorporate valid questions and indicate further R&D and technical demonstration needs to progress a draft IAEA publication on the value proposition for the deep borehole disposal concept. Workshop presentations and discussions will contribute to further clarifying the development risks and potential merits of investing into DBD feasibility studies as part of the broader scope of a national disposal strategy.

Target Audience

Partners to the IAEA CRP T22003 on the Deep Borehole Disposal Concept as well as representatives of Member States with prior experience in studying the potential for the deep borehole disposal concept to be a viable component for the national radioactive waste disposal strategy, or with an interest in assessing the relative merits and risks of further investing in feasibility studies of deep borehole disposal for radioactive waste.

Working Language(s)

The working language of the event will be English with no interpretation provided. All communications, abstracts and papers must be submitted in this language.

Expected Outputs

Participants to this event will be informed, discuss and/or provide input towards further developing the draft publication presenting a Value Analysis for the Deep Borehole Disposal Concept, within the broader context of national disposal strategies.

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 **30 April 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 **30 April 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 one page (including figures and tables) and should not exceed 350 words. It should be sent electronically to Stefan Mayer, the Scientific Secretary of the event (see contact details below), not later than **30 April 2026**. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed presentations by **15 May 2026**.

Submission of a paper should be confirmed, together with the submission of the main application via the InTouch+ platform, by **30 April 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 **30 April 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.

IAEA Contacts

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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.

Event Web Page

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

<https://www.iaea.org/events/evt2503819>