



Report of the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group

*Submitted for inclusion in the Joint Statement of the IFNEC Executive Meeting,
October 17, 2014, Seoul, Republic of Korea*

October 2014

The Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group has sent to the Executive Committee a report on the Workshop held by the Working Group in Bucharest, Romania, in May 2014, on the subject of, “Developing Options and Pathways for Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste.”

The report is available on the IFNEC Resource Library website:

<http://www.ifneclibrary.org/Home.aspx>

:

The Workshop was a follow up to the “CFS Discussion Paper” that addressed the benefits and challenges associated with creating international disposal options for the back-end of the fuel cycle.

The objective of the Workshop was to provide the opportunity for an open discussion regarding the potential for developing multinational disposal options, taking into account available political and technical experience. Participants included representatives from agencies and parliaments of member countries, international organizations, and the nuclear industry.

The Workshop provided a valuable opportunity for a balanced discussion and increased understanding between stakeholders with experience built on national programs, and participants promoting the development of a multinational approach to disposal.

Summarizing the outcomes of the Workshop:

- There is a consensus on the relevance of taking possible multinational approaches, at some point in the future, through on-going initiatives within the international community with the intent to improve the maturity of the concept.
- In this regard, forums like IFNEC can continue to help by sponsoring meetings and dialogues to expand the understanding by member countries of both the challenges associated with the concept of developing multinational disposal options, and the benefits that options would provide, particularly to countries with limited capabilities to site, construct, and operate a geologic repository for the disposal of spent fuel and high-level waste.



IFNEC

- There is an important contribution that progress on national programs can make to the development of multinational programs.
- One can define the comprehensive fuel services concept in a way that invites the industry to offer services at all stages covering a broad scope of activities for a disposal project, national or multinational, keeping in mind that the ownership responsibilities will always remain on the government's side and must be in compliance with international standards. Of utmost importance is the help that industry can provide to decision makers by offering a choice among options. However, industry cannot, independent of full government coordination, assume a role that promotes a particular disposal concept option.

In the coming year, the Working Group proposes to continue efforts to promote international cooperation in addressing critical issues associated with progress in exploring multinational disposal options. This work will provide member countries with a better understanding of both the benefits and challenges of developing multinational disposal options for the back-end of the fuel cycle.

The proposed path forward:

- The Working Group will continue to identify and address key issues related to the multinational disposal options concept in coordination with interested member countries in order to further mature the concept. This effort should include industries willing to support this process. Key issues such as seeking approaches to addressing the need for international cooperation in exploring the development of disposal options, and the economics of a multinational repository project, will be considered.
- The Working Group will pursue technical collaboration in its activities with the NEA and IAEA and will enhance participation by member countries who have significant reasons to be interested in the development of multinational disposal options and who can provide important input into those activities.