

Mr Björn DVERSTORP
Swedish Radiation Safety Authority
SE-171 16
Stockholm
Sweden

Issy-les-Moulineaux, 30 May 2011

Dear Björn,

On the occasion of the 1st meeting of the International Review Team (IRT) of SKB's SR-Site, the IRT took a number of decisions. For carrying out some of them we shall need your assistance as contact point between the IRT and the Swedish side.

Communications with SKB and SSM

The IRT considered whether individual members may communicate with SKB directly. The IRT is expected to forward to the Swedish side three types of questions:

1. The NEA kick-off questionnaire (first round of questions)
2. Orientation questions concerning the documentation, such as "where can I find information on...."
3. Structured questions after first and other rounds of replies

The IRT members will ask directly SKB only orientation questions (type 2, above).

NEA kick-off questionnaire

Along with this letter, enclosed please find the NEA kick-off questionnaire for delivery to SKB. We would like to receive replies within 3 weeks. We prefer to have a partial set of answers within 3 weeks to no answers at all.

Workshop Week December 12-16, 2011

We propose to hold the main review workshop during the week of 12-16 December 2011. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- Dec. 12 - Monday morning: IRT Internal Meeting
- Dec. 12 - Monday afternoon through Dec 13 Tuesday 3:00 pm plenary discussions with SKB as necessary. Appropriate SKB staff ought to be available and participate based on pre-identified questions. Other questions will be asked as well as they arise.
- Dec 13 - Late Tuesday internal IRT discussion. SSM will be informed whether the IRT needs to meet again with SKB for plenary discussions on Thursday am. By the day's end, some IRT members may depart for Oskarshamn to visit Äspö HRL, the bentonite facility and the encapsulation facility the next day. We will provide names in due course.

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- Dec. 14 - Wednesday field trip to Östahammar (Forsmark) for some IRT members; other IRT members will remain in Stockholm while others will be in the Oskarshamn area. The IRT will be back in Stockholm by Wednesday evening.
- Dec. 15 -Thursday, potential additional plenary discussions with SKB and/or internal IRT meetings
- Dec. 16 - Friday morning internal IRT meetings until 2:00 pm to prepare statement on impressions from review so far.
- Dec. 16 - Friday afternoon 2:30 pm plenary meeting to present the IRT intermediate statement.

Plenary meeting and discussions are open external observers, the SSM being one of them. Observers ought not to ask questions or interfere with the conduct of the review by the IRT. Who and how many external stakeholders will be decided by the Swedish side, keeping in mind the good conduct of the review.

Role of the IRT's internal technical observer

The IRT – assembled by the NEA on behalf of the Swedish government – has an internal technical observer. It is important at this stage to clarify the role of this person.

Any peer review takes place in the framework of the NEA statutes that endorse co-operation between its member governments. The conduct of peer reviews is approved by the NEA with the understanding that it will benefit not only the reviewed country or programme but also the other national programmes in the NEA countries. To that effect, reporting on the peer review is foreseen at various NEA technical events after the peer review itself has been finalised. Additional to reporting, direct involvement of experts, proposed by affiliated organisations on a case by case basis as internal observers to the work of the IRT, may provide added-value to countries under the NEA statutes and strategic plan. The presence of internal technical observers has been an exceptional situation in peer reviews up to date, and only regulators from a third country have been accepted in such a position. Namely, M. Federline (USNRC) and S. Norrby (SKI) in the review of Canada's Concept for Disposal of Spent Fuel in 1995, and K. Compton (USNRC) in the current review of SKB's SR-Site.

In the case of Mr. Compton the following objectives and expectations have been agreed by the review team:

Objectives for the USNRC

- Support NRC efforts to leverage international experience and knowledge while at the same time providing valuable regulatory insight from the NRC experience in the review of the Yucca Mountain application
- NRC increased understanding of international best practices in the development and communication of a safety case for deep geologic disposal
- NRC increased understanding of the issues and methods for spent fuel management and disposal in Sweden
- Provide a valuable “benchmarking” of the NRC SOAR code

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Objectives for the IRT

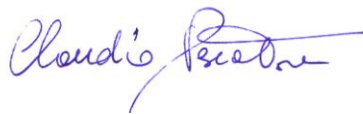
- Provide additional technical and practical experience to the IRT as its members may find useful.

Guidelines

- The USNRC will cover all expenses (e.g. transportation, lodging, meals)
- The IRT internal technical observer will attend IRT internal discussions and activities and provide expertise as asked
- The internal technical observer will not take active participation in public/open meetings
- The internal technical observer will not have any independent writing assignments for sections of the IRT report

Overall, I trust this information to set a good basis for the conduct of our work and for future contacts in the coming months.

Kind regards,



Claudio Pescatore, PhD.

on behalf of the IRT and its Chairman