



Technical Meeting on Lessons Learned from the Russian Research Reactor Fuel Return Programme

Information Sheet

- Project Title:** “Supporting the Repatriation, Management and Disposal of Fresh and/or Spent Nuclear Fuel from Research Reactors”
- Meeting Code:** T3-TM-52270
- Place (City, Country):** Charleston, South Carolina, United States of America
- Dates:** 20–23 June 2016
- Deadline for Nominations:** **15 April 2016**
- Organizers:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in collaboration with the Government of the United States of America through the Savannah River National Laboratory, Aiken, South Carolina, USA.
- Host Country Organizer:** Mr John N. Dewes
Savannah River National Laboratory
AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Tel.: +1 803 725 9200;
Email: john.dewes@srnl.doe.gov
- Language:** The meeting will be held in English with interpretation into Russian (and retour interpretation into English).
- Purpose:** The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the present status and future of the Russian Research Reactor Fuel Return (RRRFR) programme, as well as to give an insight into the status of efforts to convert facilities using US origin high enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel and repatriate the HEU to the USA, and of similar projects to minimize the civilian use of Chinese origin HEU in research reactors and miniature neutron source reactor (MNSR) facilities. Most of the

meeting will be dedicated to a discussion of experience gained from previous shipments of fresh and spent HEU fuel elements from research reactors in Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Libya, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam, as well as to the preparatory arrangements for removal of Chinese origin HEU MNSR cores from Ghana and Nigeria and those two countries' efforts to convert their MNSR cores from HEU to LEU. Technical, legal, logistical, administrative and other challenges while preparing and performing shipment operations will also be considered. Special attention will be given to first experiences gained from pioneer shipments made by air and by sea, as well as to further actions for improving safety, radiation and physical protection while shipping spent fuel.

**Expected
Outputs:**

The countries scheduled to send further shipments of HEU spent nuclear fuel to the Russian Federation during 2015–2017, as well as countries having Chinese origin HEU MNSR facilities and planning to convert them from HEU to LEU fuel and repatriate the HEU to China, will benefit from lessons learned during recent completed shipments. New modes of transport, such as sea vessel and air shipment, as well as package technologies are now available that were not yet viable options at the start of the RRRFR programme. The information exchanged at the meeting will benefit all countries planning first and second shipments as well as carrying out conservation maintenance after shipment operation.

**Scope and
Meeting Topics:**

The meeting will consist of a series of review lectures given by leading experts, followed by status reports from facilities, and plenary discussions of relevant problems and tasks.

Meeting topics:

- General status of the RRRFR programme
- Outlook on efforts and achievements of US and Chinese origin HEU take-back programmes
- Shipments (of fresh and spent HEU fuel) completed since May 2015
- New cask developments
- Cask handling techniques, equipment and experiences
- Licensing by legislation
- Logistic challenges
- Shipments planned for 2016–2017 (preparation after core conversion)
- New LEU fuel, accelerator-driven systems
- Other shipment issues

Participants are requested to submit their presentation proposals using the attached Form for Submission of a Presentation (Form B) to the Scientific Secretary of the meeting, Mr Sandor Tozser (Email: S.Tozser@iaea.org).

Deadline for the announcement of a presentation: **15 April 2016**.

The meeting agenda will be drafted on the basis of the proposed presentations submitted by participants.

Background Information:

The tripartite (Russian Federation–IAEA–USA) initiative known as the RRRFR programme was launched in 2002. Since then, the programme has seen the successful completion of 60 safe shipments of more than two tonnes of fresh and spent HEU fuel from different countries using Russian fuelled research reactors to the country of origin. Each shipment resolved unique problems and this meeting, held annually since 2006 (until 2012 it was entitled “Regional Workshop on the RRRFR Programme”) has helped avoid the repetition of problems previously encountered. With seven scheduled second/third shipments of spent fuel by 2017, and the foreseen MNSR core removal plans, the continued sharing of information through this meeting will benefit planning for first and second shipments, and will help avoid potential delays.

Participation:

The meeting is open to two participants per Member State receiving technical cooperation assistance under this project, as well as to cost-free experts and observers from other Member States and organizations.

Member States with research reactor operating organizations and regulatory bodies involved in the return shipment of fresh and irradiated Russian-origin research reactor HEU fuel and Chinese origin HEU MNSR fuel to the countries of origin: Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Libya, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam.

Participants’ Qualifications:

The participants should be senior professional staff members or managers of research reactor operating organizations or regulators **directly involved in HEU minimization programmes**.

Designation Procedure:

Designations for the meeting should be submitted to the IAEA using the attached Participation Form (Form A) together with the Grant Application Form (Form C) if applicable. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and returned to the IAEA through the established official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters.

The completed forms should be sent for the attention of the Scientific Secretary of the meeting, Mr Sandor Tozser, via IAEA official fax (+43 1 26007) or email (Official.Mail@iaea.org) not later than **15 April 2016**. Designations received after this date or which have not been routed through the established official channels cannot be considered.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements:

Designating Governments will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected and will, at that time, be given full details of the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants from countries eligible to receive technical assistance (travel grant support assistance) will be provided with a round trip economy class air ticket from their home countries to Charleston, South Carolina, USA, and a daily subsistence allowance at the prevailing United Nations rate. The shipment of accumulated meeting materials to the participants’ home countries is not the responsibility of the IAEA.

The organizers of the meeting do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the meeting, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in designating participants, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

Participation Form

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Charleston, South Carolina, United States of America

20–23 June 2016

To be completed by the participant and sent to the competent official authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA, or National Atomic Energy Authority) of his/her country for subsequent transmission for the attention of the Scientific Secretary, Mr Sandor Tozser, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100, 1400 Vienna, Austria, either electronically by email to: Official.Mail@iaea.org or by fax to: +43 1 26007 (no hard copies needed).

Participants who are members of an invited organization can submit this form to their organization for subsequent transmission to the IAEA.

Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels: 15 April 2016

Family name:		Given name(s):		Mr/Ms
Institution:				
Full address:				
For urgent communications please indicate:		Tel.:		
		Fax:		
		Email:		
Nationality:		Designating Government or organization:		
Mailing address (if different from address indicated above):				
Title of presentation(s):				

Form for Submission of a Presentation

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Title of the presentation:		
Family name(s) and initial(s) of author(s)	Scientific establishment(s) in which the work has been carried out	City/Country
1.		
2.		
3.		
Family name of author who will give the presentation:		Mailing address:
Initial(s):		
Mr/Ms		
For urgent communications please indicate		Tel.:
Email:		Fax:
<p>I hereby agree to assign to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the copyright or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> the non-exclusive, royalty-free licence (this option is only for those authors whose parent institution does not allow them to transfer the copyright for work carried out in that institution) to publish the above-mentioned presentation,</p> <p>and certify that no other rights have been granted which could conflict with the right hereby given to the IAEA.</p>		
Date:		Signature of main author:

Grant Application Form

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To be completed only by participants from developing countries on whose behalf a grant is requested

Deadline for receipt by IAEA through official channels: 15 April 2016

Full name:	Mr/Ms:
Postal address:	Phone:
	Fax:
	Email:
Date of birth (year/month/day):	Nationality:

1. EDUCATION (Post-secondary)

Name and place of institution	Field of study	Diploma or Degree	Years studied from to	

2. RECENT EMPLOYMENT RECORD (Starting with your present post)

Name and place of employer/ organization	Title of your position	Type of work	Years worked from to	

3. DESCRIPTION OF WORK performed over the last three years:

4. INSTITUTE'S/MEMBER STATE'S PROGRAMME IN FIELD OF MEETING

..... Date Signature of applicant
..... Date Name and title (printed) and signature of responsible Government official