

IAEA Project: Guidance on Practical ORP in Decommissioning of Nuclear Installations

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Since 2014, the IAEA has been conducting a project with the objective to develop guidance material in occupational radiation protection in the decommissioning of nuclear installations, to support the relevant IAEA safety standards. Decommissioning experiences in occupational radiation protection are available in some countries, but several member states have limited or no experience, and a need was identified to provide for further guidance. The project is planned to be completed by 2016 and published as an IAEA technical document.

This presentation provides an overview of the current draft content of the guidance material, and thus shows examples of important issues in the protection of workers which need to be addressed when moving from an operational phase to decommissioning of a nuclear installation.

The first section in the document covers issues on a general basis, including the change in hazards to workers when moving from operation to decommissioning, the possible change in safety culture and important radiation protection aspects that need to be considered when deciding on decommissioning strategies. The second section covers the adaptation of the radiation protection programme for decommissioning, and includes a discussion on essentials of radiation protection organization, the optimization of protection, planning for dismantlement and radioactive waste management. Third section provides information on radiological characterization, followed by issues on site preparation. The fourth section addresses considerations on non-radiological hazards.