



Technical Meeting on the International WWER Radioactive Waste Operations Benchmarking System

IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria
and virtual participation via Cisco Webex

13-17 July 2026

Ref. No.: EVT2503797

Information Sheet

Introduction

The web-based International WWER Radioactive Waste Operations Benchmarking System (BMS) provides a platform for collecting, analysing and comparing operational waste management data from WWER-type nuclear power plants. It supports Member States in improving radioactive waste management performance and identifying opportunities for waste minimization through benchmarking.

Benchmarking encourages plant operators to pursue continuous improvement by comparing performance with peers and sharing good practices. The application of benchmarking principles has proven effective in reducing waste generation, improving segregation and processing efficiency, and enhancing overall operational safety.

The BMS database (<https://nucleus.iaea.org/wwer/>) enables participating organizations to submit and access data, generate benchmarking reports and evaluate trends in key parameters. Annual data collection

allows users to assess performance, identify deviations, and recognize achievements, thereby promoting evidence-based decision-making and cooperation among organizations operating WWER-type reactors.

In parallel with this, there is a growing global interest in nuclear power, with several Member States considering, constructing or commissioning new reactors — including WWER designs — as part of their energy strategies. Revitalizing the BMS at this stage provides an opportunity to strengthen collaboration between established operators and these emerging programmes, ensuring that waste management experience and good practices are shared from the outset.

Objectives

The purpose of the event is to discuss good practices and opportunities for enhancing radioactive waste management in WWER-type reactors. The meeting will provide a forum for participating Member States to review progress in the use of the BMS, exchange operational experience and lessons learned, and discuss approaches to waste minimization and optimization. It will also consider how benchmarking results can inform management decisions, investment planning and regulatory dialogue. In addition, the meeting will identify options for enhancing cooperation and ensuring that the BMS continues to provide practical value for both existing and prospective WWER programmes.

The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- Present and discuss updated national or plant-level data submitted to the BMS;
- Review trends in radioactive waste generation and key performance indicators;
- Share experience in waste minimization, treatment, conditioning and storage practices;
- Identify practical examples where benchmarking results have supported operational or strategic decisions;
- Discuss possible improvements to BMS functionality and reporting; and
- Strengthen collaboration among utilities, regulators and technical support organizations involved in waste management at WWER reactors.

Target Audience

Participation is open to current and prospective users of the WWER Radioactive Waste Operations Benchmarking System, including representatives of utilities, regulatory bodies, research institutions and technical support organizations from IAEA Member States operating, constructing or planning WWER-type reactors.

In addition to established users, participation is encouraged from Member States actively engaged in developing or licensing WWER reactors, or where such projects are under construction or commissioning. Participation should be limited to professionals directly involved in waste management or related regulatory, operational or technical responsibilities.

Working Language(s)

English.

Expected Outputs

- A summary report describing the current status, usage and value of the BMS, including user feedback and identified enhancements;
- Consolidated information on waste generation trends and optimization practices at WWER-type plants;
- Practical examples showing how benchmarking results support managerial or policy decisions; and
- Reinforced collaboration and shared understanding among participating organizations and Member States.

Structure

The meeting will include contributions from participants representing organizations operating or planning WWER-type nuclear power plants.

WWER BMS Plant Administrators are expected to have updated their data in the system prior to the meeting and to prepare a presentation summarizing key results from their NPP(s) and the corresponding WWER BMS report. A presentation template will be provided to guide the content, but participants may also include additional information such as recent challenges, innovative practices, or planned improvements in waste management.

In addition to BMS Plant Administrators, other participants from Member States operating WWER reactors, such as representatives of regulatory authorities or technical support organizations, are encouraged to contribute to discussions, particularly on the application of benchmarking results in national programmes. Representatives from Member States planning or constructing WWER reactors may also be invited to present their operational radioactive waste management strategies and the associated infrastructure under development.

Topics

The meeting will address:

- Presentation and discussion of national (or plant) BMS reports and data consistency;
- Review of waste streams generated during operation and maintenance of WWER plants, including trends and influencing factors;
- Methods and technologies for waste optimization and minimization;
- Use of benchmarking reports and performance indicators for planning and decision-making; and
- Opportunities for enhancing collaboration and long-term sustainability of the BMS.

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 **11 May 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 **11 May 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 2 pages (including figures and tables) and should not exceed 1000 words. It should be sent electronically to Rebecca Robbins, the Scientific Secretary of the event (see contact details below), not later than **11 May 2026**. Authors will be notified of the acceptance of their proposed presentations by **18 May 2026**.

Submission of a paper should be confirmed, together with the submission of the main application via the InTouch+ platform, by **11 May 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 **11 May 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

Scientific Secretary:

Ms Marcela Blazsekova

Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology
Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 1 2600 21535

Email: M.Blazsekova@iaea.org

Co-Scientific Secretary:

Ms Rebecca Robbins

Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology
Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 1 2600 22659

Email: R.A.Robbins@iaea.org

Administrative Secretary:

Ms Marina Tolstenkova

Division of Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology
Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna International Centre
PO Box 100
1400 VIENNA
AUSTRIA

Tel.: +43 1 2600 26108

Email: M.Tolstenkova@iaea.org

Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.

Event Web Page

www.iaea.org/events/EVT2503797