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Radioactive Waste Management System in Georgia

Georgia is small country situated on territory of south Caucuses. The country takes active steps for establishing of radioactive waste management system. During the soviet time only one “Radon” type disposal was operated, which was shut down at 1988. Only in beginning of 2000’s new storage facility was put in operation. At the first years of its independence Georgia had great problems with s.c. orphan radioactive sources. More than 300 such sources were found and recovered. The big amount of radioactive waste consists of waste generated during the nuclear research reactor decommissioning, which is going still.

Generally speaking radioactive management system should contain four major elements:

1. Legal basement –Laws and regulations defining main requirements for safe handling with radioactive waste;
2. Administrative structure –Governmental institutions (Regulatory body, Radioactive Waste Management Agency and others), which conduct state regulation and handling with radioactive waste;
3. Infrastructure for handling with radioactive waste - Facilities (storage facility, disposal and others) and means, using of what handling with radioactive waste should be conducted;
4. Financial system –financial mechanism for handling with radioactive waste

The country is developing legislative base: New law “Radioactive Waste” is just adopted. New regulation “On Rules for Radioactive Waste Management” is elaborated and will be adopted soon. The country specialists works hardly to elaborate national strategy for radioactive waste management which should be adopted at the end of current year. It is also planned to elaborate the action plan defining new future task to be fulfilled to reach goals defined by the strategy.

The strategic investigation of Georgian radioactive waste management facilities were conducted within EU project. On the base of the investigation Safety Assessment were carried out by EU specialists and corresponded reports were issued.

Georgia performed special reform to establish one operator, which should operate on behalf of the state storage and disposal facilities.

The country established system for classification of Radioactive waste based on IAEA GSG-1.

Based on IAEA support the primitive radioactive waste processing facility was established as the first step for radioactive processing facility. The country takes all measures to enhance its capability for waste treatment and conditioning - new IAEA TC project considers establishment of technology to treat liquid radioactive waste.

Country or International Organization

Georgia

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