

Risks in countries' strong safekeeping of future decommissioning funds

Polluter pays is the crucial principle in addressing financial needs of future nuclear facilities' decommissioning, including management and disposal of their spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste. Following this principle, along with the countries' commitment to bear the ultimate responsibility for ensuring the safety of spent fuel and radioactive waste management as per the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, each country has setup a system for collection and appreciation of the collected funds.

In principle, there are two major approaches countries take in this regard: either there is a strong state's presence in collecting, safeguarding and investing all of the future decommissioning and radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel management funds, or, the operators are allowed to accumulate the decommissioning funds in their own internal bookkeeping.

The key challenge in both approaches remains the same –how to safely grow the collected funds over time, so the money are effectively safeguarded, while also financially appreciated and the systems operate enough funds for these future liabilities.

System with strong countries' oversight on both decommissioning and spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste management seems to have many benefits, but inherent dangers exist to their effective appreciation. This paper will present these risks, as well as some of the options suited to mitigate them.

Speaker's email address

macasek@centrum.cz

Speaker's Affiliation

Slovak Nuclear Society

Member State or IGO

Slovak Republic, United Arab Emirates

Speaker's Title

Mr

Author: Dr MACASEK, Martin (Independent expert)

Presenter: Dr MACASEK, Martin (Independent expert)

Session Classification: SESSION 3: POLICY, LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Track Classification: SESSION 3: POLICY, LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK