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Ensuring Safety and Sustainability for Nuclear Decommissioning in Norway

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The focus of Norway's nuclear activities is in transition, from operating research reactors to decommissioning nuclear facilities and managing the associated radioactive waste. New facilities will be needed to support decommissioning and for management of the wastes. Both the decommissioning of old facilities and development of new facilities will need to be carried out safely, but both will also lead to an increased focus on sustainability. This in turn will depend on the coordinated application of different legislation, to continue ensuring safety and environmental protection while building in sustainability from the planning stage.

This paper will elaborate on of the most important regulatory instruments for ensuring sustainability in the Norwegian regulatory framework. This includes the environmental impact assessment (EIA), which will identify significant impacts on the environment and society and ensure public participation and sufficient stakeholder involvement.

Another important regulatory instrument is the Pollution Control Act (PCA) which applies to radioactive pollution and radioactive wastes. There is a need to further examine the links between the EIA, PCA and other relevant regulatory instruments for nuclear site operation and radioactive waste disposal, such as the license/SAR. The EIA and the PCA will contribute to Norway achieving the SDGs.