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Development of Technical and Scientific Capacity & Capability for Sustainable Management and Disposal of Radioactive Waste

The long-term operation of the nuclear power plant and envisaged construction of new nuclear facilities results in production of more nuclear waste. This radioactive waste needs to be removed from the reactor site to avoid constraints on storage space and therefore limiting the on-site radioactive waste inventory. Coupled with this, the long-term operation of current nuclear plants will entail the replacement of large reactor components such as reactor pressure vessel heads and original steam generators will also increase the amount of radioactive waste produced. The management and disposal of radioactive waste needs to be done in safe and sustainable manner so as not to place a burden on future generations. In order to achieve this goal, there is a need to have suitably qualified and skilled personnel who can develop and deploy the solutions to the management and disposal of this radioactive waste. The National radioactive waste Disposal Institute has recognised the need to develop technical and scientific capacity and capabilities in order to be able to operate and maintain the nuclear installation licence for the existing low-level waste facility, as well as the capacity needed for the future projects for long-term storage and final disposal of high-level radioactive waste, e.g. centralised interim storage facility and deep geological repository, respectively. This paper presents strategies for attracting skills, developing capability as well as maintaining capacity needed in integrating safety and sustainability.

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