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STRATEGIES FOR OPTIMISATION OF THE RADIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISATION OF A NUCLEAR FACILITY

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Radiological characterisation plays an important role in the process of decommissioning shut-down nuclear facilities in order to ensure protection of the environment and radiation safety. It is a key element for planning, controlling and optimising the decommissioning and dismantling including the residual materials and waste management.
At all stages of a decommissioning programme or project, adequate radiological characterisation is crucial. Experience has shown that data and information from the operational phase of a nuclear facility can - beside data and information collected and analysed for related decommissioning activities - be fundamental for decisions on waste management and for characterisation of radioactive waste. Some information may be hard, costly or even impossible to obtain at later stages in the waste management process once the dismantling has taken place.
This was the reason why the Working Party on Decommissioning and Dismantling (WPDD) of the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) has decided to establish a Task Group on Radiological Characterisation and Decommissioning (TGRCD). The Task Group has completed a first phase that was focused on overall strategies of radiological characterisation in decommissioning and is in the middle of its second phase with the focus on nuclear facility characterisation from a waste and material end-state perspectives.
This paper summarises the activities performed and to be performed by the Task Group.

Country or International Organization

OECD/NEA

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