# **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:** DEVELOPING A RADIOACTIVE WASTE ADVISERS SCHEME

Chris Englefield<sup>1</sup>, Angela Wright<sup>2</sup>, Adam Stackhouse<sup>2</sup>, Linda Peake<sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>Environment Agency, <sup>2</sup>Scottish Environment Protection Agency, <sup>3</sup>Northern Ireland Environment Agency Contact: rwa@sepa.org.uk

### **Introduction**

UK environmental regulators (Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Northern Ireland Environment Agency) have implemented a scheme for recognising the competence of advisers to employers who accumulate and dispose of radioactive waste. This function has been performed by members of the radiation protection (RP) profession for many years without a formal competence scheme in place so it was important to involve them in the development of the scheme to ensure their engagement with it.

## **Background**

The European Basic Safety Standards Directive (96/29/EURATOM) requires employers to appoint "qualified experts" to advise about work with radioactivity that may affect people and the environment. In the UK qualified experts advising on radioactive waste management are now called "Radioactive Waste Advisers" (RWAs).

The environmental regulators implement the requirement for qualified experts through appropriate conditions in permits issued under their radioactive waste legislation. However, each regulator used different conditions and provided different advice and guidance on compliance with requirements for qualified experts. Regulators worked with stakeholders to create a UK-wide system to recognise the competence of RWAs that is run by the profession and overseen by the regulators.

## **Stakeholder Engagement**

 Leading up to the formal consultation process, the regulators had many interactions with members of the RP profession and other stakeholders to hear their thoughts on if a UK-wide scheme was desirable and how it might work

Pre-

• This included a workshop with representatives from industry

#### START

 Liaison with industry groups: Nuclear Industry Liaison Group (NILG), Scottish Non-Nuclear Liaison Group (SNNILG) and England & Wales Small Users Liaison Group (SULG) (presentations and discussions

 Interaction with the UK professional societies such as the Society for Radiological Protection (SRP)

• Presentations at other professional meetings, specialist groups and conferences

#### END

• The regulators produce a bi-monthly *RWA Update* to keep stakeholders informed on the development of the RWA scheme

• *RWA Update* is published on the RWA website and distributed to approximately 500 stakeholders who have an interest in the topic

Liaison with radiological profession RWA Update RWA Update RWA website

• A 3-month formal consultation made 20 specific propositions for an RWA competence scheme for the UK

• 51 responses were received from all sectors of the UK nuclear and non-nuclear industries

 Responses were analysed and future actions identified and published in a Consultation Response Document

• Before the Consultation Response Document was published, the regulators held a postconsultation workshop for stakeholders

• Purpose of the workshop - for the regulators to present a summary of the responses to the consultation and share their responses with stakeholders

• Enabled the formulation of a robust and acceptable statement on RWAs

 50 nuclear and non-nuclear stakeholders participated





• Dedicated RWA web pages to provide a central point for stakeholders to find information and provide feedback. Pages include:

• RWA Statement and Guidance, *RWA Updates*, how we developed the scheme, Q and A, and information on the administration of the new scheme



# May 2011: UK environmental regulators published a Statement to provide information on expectations of Radioactive Waste Advisers and how a UK-wide scheme will be implemented for the recognition of RWAs.

- Statement includes an RWA Syllabus of required competences.
- Level of stakeholder engagement of the process welcomed and commended by the RP profession, radiation employers and others who have been involved.

More at:

Conclusion

www.sepa.org.uk/radioactive\_substances/radioactive\_waste\_advisers.aspx

