

## Comparing stakeholder engagement in waste disposal, decommissioning and environmental remediation

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Stakeholder engagement is now globally recognised as being an integral part of any decision-making related to nuclear activities. In addition to having stakeholders participating on national decisions whether a country should embark or not in a nuclear programme, stakeholder engagement and communication is also very important in the scope of activities related to the back-end of the nuclear cycle i.e. decommissioning, waste disposal and also in environmental remediation noting that in many circumstances these activities are intertwined. It is also important to recognize that stakeholder engagement and communication in environmental remediation may differ quite significantly when one is dealing with the remediation of a legacy site or a site affected by a nuclear or a radiological accident.

While there is a manifold of guidelines and reports on communication and stakeholder involvement in these three activities, they hold particularities that might entail the need of specific approaches while dealing with stakeholders in these projects. No comparative analysis is available so far of the extent to which the perception and concerns of the different stakeholders differ depending on whether they are involved in a project related to waste disposal, environmental remediation or decommissioning. The underlying questions is: Should the approaches to be used for communication and stakeholder engagement be the same – and if not to what extent they will differ - depending on the specific project one is dealing with?

*This session is oriented to reflect on whether the opinion and the concerns of stakeholders are different when they are faced with a decommissioning, an environmental remediation or a waste disposal project and if the methods used for communication and stakeholder engagement are/should be universal or they depend on the specific related activity.*

For this, a number of professionals with experience in the three areas – at different level i.e. policy/decision makers, researchers, implementers and regulators - will be invited to a panel discussion to reflect on the issues mentioned above, as part of a session in the RICOMET 2018 conference.