

NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

N22 THE GOVERNANCE OF DECOMMISSIONING AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Summary

One of the principal areas of concern in the development of nuclear power is the issue of lack of public understanding of science in general, and radioactivity in particular. In terms of any proposals for the development of nuclear power, the concerns of both the lay-person, and many informed people, in terms of the problems of the disposal of radioactive wastes, are paramount. In this module, the social, economic and political aspects of international nuclear decommissioning programmes are examined, in the context of plant decommissioning and radioactive waste disposal.

The course will:

- Provide an overview of national and international legislation.
- Examine the UK, European and some international planning systems and investigate alternative strategies.
- Investigate the various methods currently used for public consultation.
- Study successes and failures in the planning/consultation processes, in the international context, for nuclear industry proposals and developments.
- Examine “The Energy Debate” in the context of new nuclear build, in conjunction with the problems of radioactive waste disposal.

Syllabus

- The Energy Debate, nuclear power and radioactive waste disposal
- Energy Policy, markets, supply and demand in the context of nuclear industry.
- UK and European Legislation related to the Nuclear Industry
- The UK Planning Process, and international examples of alternative strategies.
- Political Aspects of Nuclear Decommissioning.
- International aspects, regulation and control.
- Aspects of the Public Understanding of Science.
- Public Consultation and Public Inquiries;
- Case Histories and examples from the UK, North America and Europe.
- Involvement of Stakeholders and Stakeholder Dialogue