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Interaction of nuclear safeguards and safety requirements when planning for waste disposal

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Waste conditioning is an important step in minimising and controlling the migration of radionuclides from disposed wastes into the environment. However, when nuclear materials are present, consideration of nuclear safeguards is also needed. Safeguards is the set of tools and techniques used to ensure nuclear materials are only used for peaceful purposes. As part of a safeguards system, nuclear materials need to be available for verification or rendered inaccessible in accordance with International Atomic Energy Agency requirements. Inaccessibility requirements are not driven by environmental degradation factors, but on preventing recovery by motivated state actors. This presentation looks at the overlap between safety and safeguards requirements in Australia as well as safeguards-specific requirements when conditioning or disposing of nuclear materials.

Primary author: Ms STOHR, Rebecca (Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office)

Presenter: Ms STOHR, Rebecca (Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office)

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