

Presentation 12 – Session 4

National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

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Biography

Rebecca is the Assistant Manager, Technical with the National Radioactive Waste Management Taskforce.

In 2018, she was responsible for the delivery of all technical input to the detailed business case for the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRMWF). In this diverse role, Rebecca contributed to the resolution of many highly complex and technical issues. In the current project phase, she is responsible for the provision of ongoing detailed expert technical advice and guidance on the NRWMF and associated nuclear issues. This includes strategic and technical input to develop the facility licence applications and continuing the development of facility design, waste acceptance criteria, inventory and the safety case. Rebecca liaises with a broad range of stakeholders, including waste holders, regulators and diverse Australian Government departments with an interest in the NRWMF.



Prior to joining the Australian Government in 2016, Rebecca gained extensive experience in mining and refining, both domestically and internationally. Undertaking process engineer, process improvement specialist and project manager roles at Rio Tinto and Zinifex, Rebecca worked across several commodities including zinc, iron and titanium, aluminium and alumina. Key career highlights included the delivery of technical advice to zinc diecasters in China; acting as the technical lead and client engineer for the customisation and commissioning of a helical ultrasonic billet inspection unit (Austria and New Zealand); and undertaking a four year posting to Quebec, Canada to pilot an alternative technology.

Rebecca holds undergraduate and post graduate engineering qualifications. She also holds journalism and management qualifications and is a keen francophone, who has studied French communication and grammar at McGill University (Canada).

Abstract

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science is responsible for the administration of the *National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012*, which sets out a legislated process for the establishment of a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility to manage radioactive waste.

The Australian Government is committed to siting the facility on voluntarily nominated land that is technically suitable and where community support can be obtained. The waste management facility is currently proposed for one of three sites in two communities in South Australia, and has been designed to permanently dispose of low level waste and temporarily store intermediate level waste.

The presentation will include an explanation of the generic concept design for the facility, which will be the first of its kind in Australia. The site layout will be explained, including how usage changes over three operational phases – years 1 to 10; years 30 to 50; and year 100, into the institutional monitoring phase.

Following the explanation of the generic concept design, the presentation will show how the site layout has been adapted to suit the specific requirements of each of the three sites under consideration.