

INTRODUCTION TO THE 10TH ISSUE OF THE RADIOACTIVE WASTE JOURNAL

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You are holding the 10th issue of the Journal which can be considered as a small anniversary, thus, to a certain extent, requiring a brief analysis of the results achieved in 2019 and in general over its more than 2 years long publishing history.

The Journal was conceived in an attempt of addressing a number of issues:

- consolidation of articles on the topics covered by the Journal;
- engagement of a wide range of experts and scientists in the production of articles and presentation of their findings;
- creating awareness among experts and scientists on RW management issues, including:
 - activities aimed at the development of the Unified State System for Radioactive Waste Management (USS RW);
 - development of RW management equipment and technologies and building up relevant operational experience;
 - summarizing the best practices in nuclear decommissioning and remediation of contaminated territories;
 - safety of RW management activities and its demonstration, particularly at the RW disposal stage;
 - regulatory framework in the field of RW management;
- mainstreaming the Journal into bibliographic databases.

This paper intends to summarize the implementation of the above tasks providing to the extent possible unbiased assessments.

The consolidation capacity can be judged by the number of articles published in high-profile journals on the considered subject per year. Thus, in 2019, a total of 93 articles referring to various aspects of RW management were published in 33 Russian periodicals, including 41 articles published in

our Journal accounting for more than 44%. Strictly speaking, this can be considered as a mild assessment, since many of the 93 articles would not have been published in our Journal due to serious remarks on the material presented. By the number of published articles, only 4 of them were published in a journal rated next to the RW Journal. Thus, it can be argued that the task of consolidating periodical scientific literature on RW management and providing target public access to it has been basically solved.

Last year, 162 scientists and specialists (176 in 2018) took part **in article production and presentation of their findings** on the pages of the Journal, including 44 Dr. hab. and 60 PhDs (in 2018, 32 and 69, respectively). The number of industry experts decreased slightly from 75 in 2018 to 58 in 2019, which cannot be considered as a good indicator. 2020 is assumed to play a special role in this regard, since anticipating the next Review Meeting on the fulfillment of the obligations arising from the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, our common achievements and success in addressing challenging issues, such as, for example, LRW disposal, should be properly highlighted. Here the main role is played by the experts from operating organizations. It should be noted that the Journal is translated into English with several international experts having joined the editorial board, and we are looking forward to ramping up the number of articles from foreign authors.

Providing information on RW management is considered as a main goal of the Journal. Figure 1 presents the breakdown of articles by relevant sections of the Journal. Almost the same number of articles published in the main sections of the Journal in 2018 and 2019 suggests that the selection of

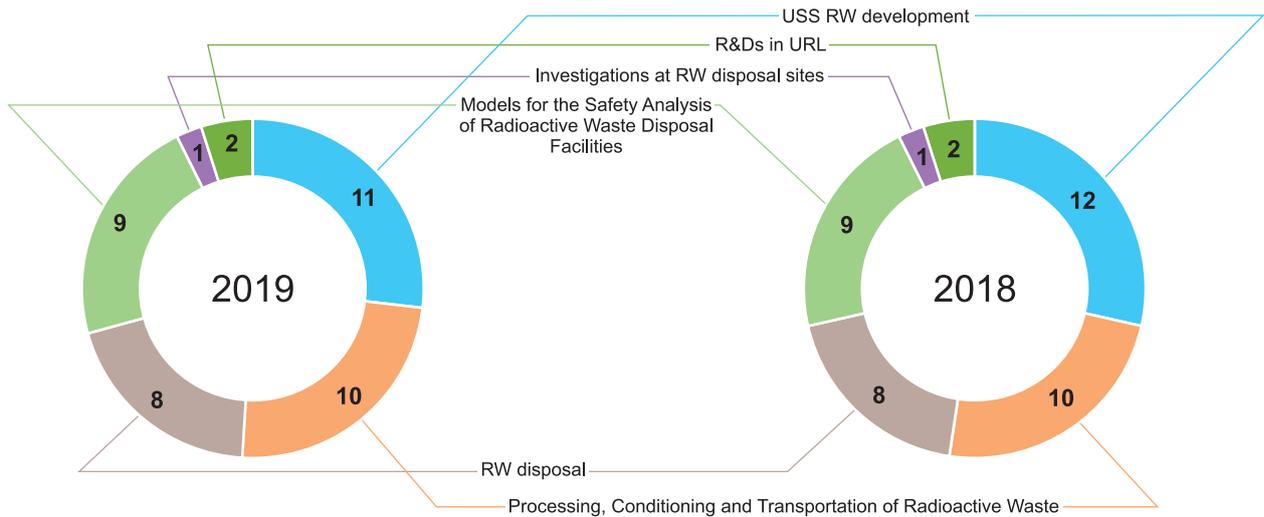


Figure 1. Number of articles published in the main section of the Journal in 2018 and 2019

topics corresponds to the most important areas of RW management.

In addition to the print edition, its electronic version in Russian and English is also available on the Journal's website. Increasing number of site sessions can be considered as an indication of the Journal's demand (Figure 2). It should be noted that in 2019, site traffic increased significantly: in 2018 it accounted for 16,688 raising to up to 27,372 in 2019 which demonstrates the increasing interest to the materials published in the Journal as it is becoming more and more popular. It can be also assumed that the number of the site visits is close to the number of specialists involved in this topic (some 3,000 people).

Currently, the Journal is mainstreamed to the bibliographic database of the RSCI; since 2019, a digital DOI identifier has been assigned to the articles published in it. Over a two-year period, the RSCI impact factor of the Journal amounted to 2.273.

Application on the Journal's shortlisting as a peer-reviewed journal of the Higher Attestation Commission have been compiled and submitted. In keeping with current regulations, the shortlist involves peer-reviewed scientific publications in which main scientific findings of doctoral and PhD dissertations should be published. Topics being addressed in the published articles of the Journal were evaluated resulting in a decision on the reduction of previously proposed groups of scientific

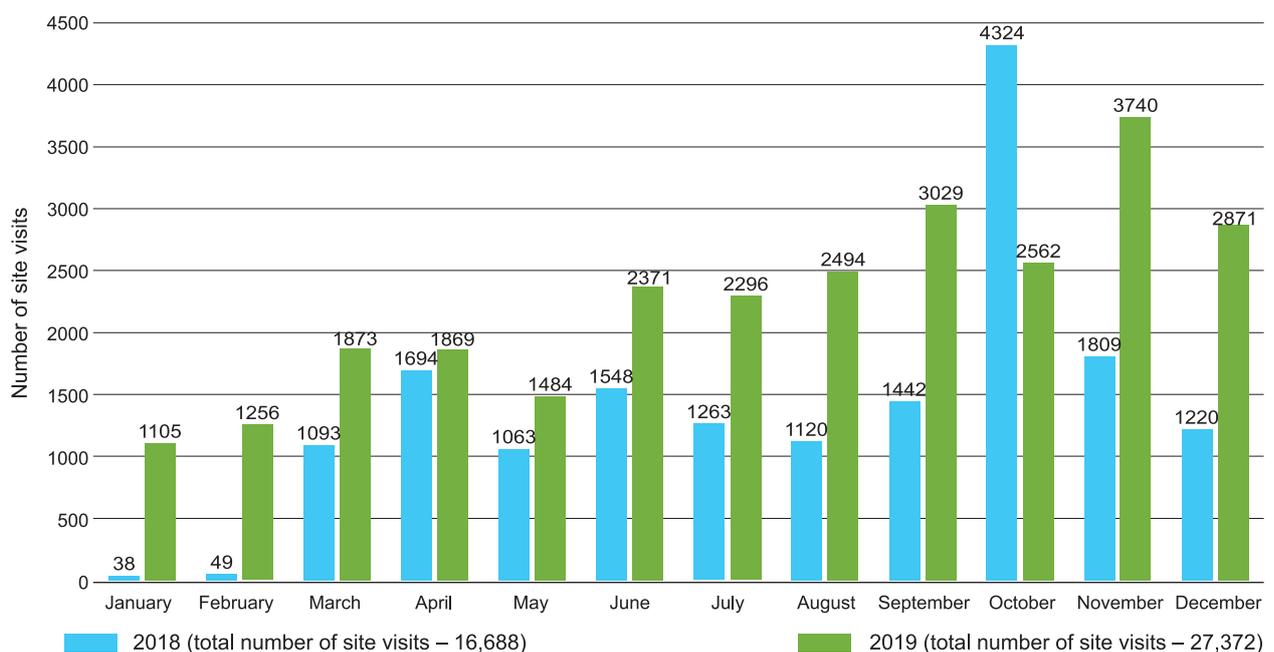


Figure 2. Journal's site traffic

specialties. The following groups of scientific specialties and scientific specialties referring to our Journal were indicated in the submitted application, according to which the main scientific findings of doctoral and PhD dissertations can be published in the Journal:

- 05.14.00 Power industry
- 05.14.03 Nuclear power plants, including design, operation and decommissioning (engineering sciences)
- 05.26.00 Safety of human activities
- 05.26.05 Nuclear and radiation safety (engineering sciences)
- 25.00.00 Earth sciences
- 25.00.07 Hydrogeology (engineering sciences)
- 25.00.09 Geochemistry, geochemical methods for minerals prospecting (engineering sciences)
- 25.00.21 Theoretical design foundations of mining and engineering systems (engineering sciences)
- 25.00.35 Geoinformatics (engineering sciences)
- 25.00.36 Geoecology (engineering sciences, geological mineralogical sciences).

In 2019, significant work was done by editors and the editorial board of the Journal. Summing up, I would like to note that my colleagues and I are generally satisfied with its results. The role of SC Rosatom's specialized units, mainly the units of the Office for the State Policy in the field of SNF and RW Management should be also noted. Articles discussing the main tasks of USS RW development are published on a regular basis in the Journal summarizing most challenging practical efforts and their results deserving proper presentation in literature.

Arranging for a discussion on the key regulations associated with USS RW development is seen as an urgent task that should be addressed by the editorial board. It's worth noting that according to the Action Plan on the Implementation of the State Policy Fundamentals in the Field of Nuclear and Radiation Safety of the Russian Federation some amendments are planned to be introduced to the Government Resolution of the Russian Federation No. 1069 On the Criteria for Assigning Solid, Liquid and Gaseous Waste to the Radioactive Waste Category, Criteria Used to Assign Radioactive Waste to the Categories of Special (Non-retrievable) and Retrievable Radioactive Waste and the Classification Criteria for Retrievable Radioactive Waste. The same Resolution calls for amending certain provisions of the Federal law No. 190 On Radioactive Waste Management and Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation in 2021. Materials of SC Rosatom's STC No. 10 on Radiation and Environmental Safety covering this topic are presented in this issue which is viewed as a first step towards such a discussion. Further developments in this area will be discussed and presented in the News section at the Journal's website.

Of course, it should be noted that not all of the intended tasks have been accomplished to date. The editorial portfolio is still not large enough, as a result, sometimes we are forced to speed up the articles' review process. We hope that thanks to the creative activity of experts and the dedication of the editorial board developmental and evolvement disorders suffered by the Journal will be successfully treated.