The French Approach for the geological repository

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Legislative and organisational frameworks:
decision-making steps, transparency and civil society participation relation with the public
Overview of the geological repository project for HLW

Phase 1: 1991 - 1998, search for sites

Phase 2: 1999 – 2005, research for feasibility demonstration

Phase 3: 2006 – 2015, project development
A *political* leap forward

- Development of Three Research areas for HLW
- Independence of Andra from the CEA
- Mobilisation of the overall scientific community
- A process for identifying sites to perform research programmes
- Creation of the National Review Board (CNE)
- Assessment of Research Programs in 2006
- Future Draft Law in 2006
Phase 1: 1991-1998, siting for an underground laboratory

A MP committed for a consultation mission

• 1993
  - over 30 candidates
  - 3 sites selected from available geological data

• 1996
  - applications for constructing 3 underground laboratories

• 1998
  - Government decision for constructing a laboratory in Meuse / Haute-Marne

Phase 1 is dominated by a political process, based on scientific information
Phase 2: research, construction and operation of the underground laboratory in Meuse/Haute-Marne (Bure)
Phase 2: main achievements

Implementation and operation of an URL (ANDRA)

Scientific research phase with demonstration of the feasibility of a reversible repository in a clay formation (ANDRA)

Dossier 2005
http://www.andra.fr

Information & Evaluation setting-up at the national and the local level

Support to local development, with the waste generators

Investigation of alternative solutions to disposal

Phase 2 is characterized by its high scientific value
Phase 2: 1999-2005 conclusion, definition of a transposition zone

- 250 km²
- 30 municipalities (villages)
- ~ 4000 inhabitants
Phase 3: 2006-2015 – Planning Act, a roadmap for a geological repository

2006 Planning Act

Licensing

A stepped-up timetable for the geological repository

- 2014: Application
- 2015: Reports
  - Parliamentary Office for Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Options (OPECST)
  - National Review Board (CNE)
  - Nuclear Safety Authority
  - Territorial Communities
- >2015: Draft law to set reversibility conditions
- 2025: Commissioning

Funding

- Research: financed through a tax
- Construction of new facilities for storage and disposal financed through contracts
Phase 3 is characterized by a scientific, technologic and territorial balanced approach.
Phase 3: 2006-2015, project development (2/2)
Transposition zone of the Laboratory (250 km²)

2006 – 2013: siting for a repository

Exchanges and dialogue

Proposal by Andra of an implementation site

2010-2011: Comprehensive survey of the interest zone and development studies on implementation scenarios of surface facilities

Surface: 2 or 3 implementation scenarios

Underground: 1 area 30-km² interest zone

2005

2009

2012

2013

Public Debate

Site selection

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AGENCE NATIONALE POUR LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS RADIOACTIFS
A radioactive waste repository project concerns all citizens

- It must be implemented with the involvement at all levels
  - The national one, with an oversight by the Parliament, and with the information provided by the National Review Board (CNE)
  - The local one, with a direct participation of the stakeholders and of elected people, and especially through the Local Information and Oversight Committee

There is no universal rule except that

- a framework must define responsibilities of each of the parties
- a progressive approach is required

Clarity and transparency are the key elements for implementing a geological repository