ADS Andra Disposal Solutions

Andra Newsletter

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EDITO

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Public hearings will be held before the filing, in 2015, of the request for authorization to create Cigéo, the reversible geological disposal facility for High and Long-Lived Intermediate Level Waste in the Meuse / Haute-Marne districts. This debate will allow Andra to present the progress of the project since 2006, in particular aspects of Cigéo industrial design, its safety, reversibility, implementation and monitoring. The process of public debate in France was created in 1995 to provide information and participation of citizens before decisions on development projects or equipment of national interest that may have a significant impact on the environment or on land-use planning. It is managed by a public authority. The public debate is a real opportunity for Andra to listen and interact with the public prior to the finalization of the application for the authorization and while the project is still evolving.

Preliminary Design of the Wolsong LILW Surface Disposal Center (Rep. of Korea)

In January 2006, The Republic of Korea launched a project for the implementation of a LILW disposal center in Gyeongju near the NPP of Wolsong. The project contemplates a total capacity of 800.000 steel drums (200 l) with several development stages. The first stage which is nearing completion includes 6 large underground silos (cap. 100.000 drums) and surface installations. In 2012, the Korea Radioactive Waste Management Corporation (KRMC) launched the second stage of the project consisting of provision of additional capacity for 125.000 drums in surface vaults with, as a conceptual reference, the Centre de l'Aube (the surface disposal facility for LILW designed and operated by Andra since 1992).,

Andra was contracted to assist in the initial design options review of the second stage. The assistance provided by Andra consisted of the proposal of various design options and technical support on disposal operations of surface disposal facilities. From these inputs, a multi-criteria comparison was conducted to select a reference solution to feed the currently undergoing initial safety assessment of the second stage and the development plan of the Wolsong LILW Disposal Center. Next phase for Andra will be to assist KRMC in the safety analysis of the selected option

Poles take a close look at French treatment and disposal solutions

A workshop was held in Warsaw for the various concerned Polish parties (Ministry, regulator, waste management agency, R&D organizations) on the "radioactive waste disposal routes in France", to present an overview of the waste types produced by an electronuclear reactor, at different stages of its lifetime, their management in terms of technical solutions, volumes and characteristics, cost and financing schedule. Following this event, a 5-day training session was organized in October 2012 in France with the participation of EdF and AREVA including visits of facilities, focused on radioactive waste generation, treatment & disposal, according to the waste category. Surface disposal facilities operations and closure were presented. The deep geological research laboratory in Bure was also visited.

A cooperation agreement signed between Andra and the China National Nuclear Corporation

Mr Sun Qin, President of the CNNC, responsible for the development of Chinese civil and military nuclear programmes, and Marie-Claude Dupuis, CEO of Andra, signed a cooperation agreement covering the management of radioactive waste, and in particular studies and research regarding geological disposal.

Disposal of non-standard size, uncontainerized waste items

Last November, Andra has accepted for disposal 2 steam generators from the decommissioning of the Chooz nuclear power plant A (France). The steam generators will be disposed of on the Very low Level Waste disposal site, CIRES, located in Morvilliers.

After three years of collaboration and exchange, Andra and the French utility EDF were able to offer a disposal solution adapted and tailored to the large, uncontainerized waste items.

The proposed solution has significant advantages over conventional size reduction followed by packaging for this type of waste, including significantly lower dose intake for operators, optimization of disposal volume (a limited resource!), and reduced volumes transported to the disposal site. Andra already proposes solutions for large Low Level Waste items in its centre de l'Aube, with specific disposal cells allocated.

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