

Andra presents the actions to be taken following the public debate on the Cigéo project.

PRESS RELEASE

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About Andra

The National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management (**Andra**) is a public industrial and commercial establishment created by the Law of 30 December 1991. Its missions were extended by the **Programme Law of 28 June 2006** on the sustainable management of radioactive materials and waste.

Andra is **independent from the producers** of radioactive waste and functions under the supervision of the ministries in charge of energy, environment and research.

Andra assists the government in finding, implementing and ensuring safe management solutions for all French radioactive waste **in order to protect present and future generations from the risks it poses.**

On Tuesday, 6 May, Andra presented the actions it intends to take following the public debate with regard to the Cigéo project. These decisions were approved unanimously by its Board of Administrators on 5 May. To take account of the opinions and expectations expressed during the debate and to maintain the stepwise approach initiated by the 1991 Law, the Agency has decided to continue the Cigéo project, implementing four new developments, clarifying its proposals on reversibility and making a number of commitments for the future.

To decide on what action to take on the Cigéo project and to present the government with proposals, Andra took the results of the public debate and the opinions expressed during the citizens' conference into account, as well as the various opinions and recommendations it received over the course of 2013 from its assessors (ASN, IRSN, CNE), the French Environmental Authority and the French High Committee for Transparency and Information on Nuclear Safety.

■ FOUR CHANGES

1. The integration of a pilot industrial phase when the facility starts up

This pilot industrial phase will make it possible to test, under real conditions, all of the disposal functions: the technical measures taken to control operating risks, the capacity to remove waste packages being disposed of, the disposal monitoring sensors, the techniques for sealing cavities and galleries, etc.

Cigéo will move into normal operation after Andra has reviewed the pilot industrial phase.

2. The establishment of a regularly revised master plan for disposal operations

Andra proposes to develop a master plan for the operation of disposal, drawn up in consultation with stakeholders. State-approved and revised regularly, this plan will be a genuine disposal management tool for the entire operational period.

3. Changes to the calendar

Andra has decided to prepare the license application to create (DAC) Cigéo in two stages:

- In 2015, the government will receive the master plan for the operation of disposal and the Nuclear Safety Authority a set of security options and technical retrievability options
- Completion of the DAC at the end of 2017 on the basis of this information and the final pre-project studies in order to obtain the license decree for construction of Cigéo in 2020.

Subject to approvals, the construction of the disposal facility could begin in 2020 and the commissioning, beginning with a pilot industrial phase, could take place in 2025.

4. The involvement of civil society in the project

To allow for greater involvement of civil society in decision-making regarding the Cigéo project, Andra has decided to conduct a consultation process to draw up and revise the master plan for operating Cigéo, to contribute to the development of pluralistic expertise on the management of radioactive waste, to explore ways of opening up the Permanent Observatory of the Environment and to set up a pluralistic committee to provide guidance on the consideration of societal issues in its activities.

▪ **A PROPOSAL REGARDING REVERSIBILITY**

To meet the demands in terms of the reversibility of disposal, the conditions for which are to be laid down by the French Parliament, Andra will use a phased approach that will allow the next generations to choose how to pursue the disposal operations, including the ability to retrieve waste packages during the hundred years of operation, if they so wish.

• **COMMITMENTS**

Andra is making three commitments for the project going forward: to ensure safe disposal, which remains the absolute top priority, to preserve and develop the local area in close collaboration with local stakeholders, and to control disposal costs, without reducing the level of safety and security.

Find the full minutes of the meeting and the press kit at:

http://www.andra.fr/download/site-principal/document/060514_deliberation-suites.pdf

http://www.andra.fr/download/site-principal/document/dossiers-de-presse/dossier-de-presse_suites-andra_060514.pdf