Nagra, Switzerland: Status, responsibilities and missions

Thomas Ernst, CEO

Nagra’s organisation

- **Swiss National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste**
- Founded in 1972 by radioactive waste producers
- Financed by 5 NPP operators (97%) and the Federal Government (3% - for waste from medicine, industry & research)
- Legal mandate through nuclear legislation (Nuclear Energy Act, entered into force in 2005)
- Staff: currently ~80
- Based in Wettingen (region Zurich), research carried out at two Underground research facilities in Switzerland (Grimsel and Mont Terri)
- Formal collaboration agreements with 9 countries
- Budget: EUR ~ 30 million / year
Organisation of radioactive waste management

Nagra’s mission

To prepare and implement solutions for waste management and disposal that ensure the long-term safety of man and the environment
Nagra’s responsibilities

- Maintaining inventories of all radioactive wastes arising in Switzerland
- Planning deep geological repositories for all categories of waste
- Carrying out geological investigations
- Demonstrating the safety of potential sites for geological repositories
- Providing open and transparent information to the public
- Promoting international collaboration in key areas of research
- Providing services for third parties
- Specific activities (on behalf of the waste producers)
  - Preparation of waste management programme
  - Preparation of cost estimates for disposal

Specific responsibilities: Site selection phase

- Site selection follows „sectoral plan“ procedure: Stepwise approach with clear definition of the roles of the various stakeholders
- Nagra’s role:
  - Prepare repository concepts and all the necessary geological materials and data
  - In stage 1, propose geological siting regions for HLW and L / ILW based on criteria relating to safety and technical feasibility
  - In stage 2, propose at least two sites each for the HLW and L / ILW repository
  - In stage 3, select the site and prepare the general licence application
Thank you for your interest

nagra.