

# Social aspects of Radioactive Waste Management

## *The International Learning*

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“La gestion des matières et des déchets radioactifs”

SFRP

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- Les “aspets sociaux” c’est TOUT !
  
- **Présentation évocative des questions en jeux...**

## TWO KEY WORDS

- *INFORMATION*
- *PARTICIPATION*



## Information/Participation

### Information

- How well informed are you about radioactive waste?
  - Well informed: 25%

### Participation

- Who should be involved in a decision regarding underground disposal?
  - The citizens concerned: 56%
  - NGOs: 22%
  - Authorities: 15%

Sweden, Finland, Canada, France, United Kingdom, Switzerland, USA

- “Siting for nuclear waste disposal changed in a major way during the 1980’s. **Systematic technical screening using geographic data did not lead to successful siting in many applications.**”
- “**Systematic screening** did not fail to achieve desired results every time it was used since the early 1980’s, but **it failed *whenever used in a way that imposed a selection on a locality.*** Systematic technical screening has been effectively used for screening *out* unsuitable sites”
- “**Current siting strategies that appear most promising are based on public involvement, with systematic technical screening in a reduced role**”

- “Les deux députés considèrent que ce dispositif contribue utilement à un dialogue constructif entre l'administration, l'industrie et les associations...une indication des enjeux financiers et **la mise en place d'une formation à destination des représentants d'association prêts à prendre la relève des discussions techniques.**” [Janvier 2011]
- CLIS (depuis mi-90)
- Débat sur Cigéo (**2013**)

## From the mandate of the NEA international peer review of SKB's study for license application (2011)

(SSM – safety authority; SKB - Industry)

- “... Based on the statements from SSM and the Environmental Court, the Government will make its decision, after consulting the concerned municipalities (Östhammar and Oskarshamn). Both municipalities have veto right in the permissibility assessment.”
- “...SSM will also coordinate a national consultation on SKB's license application, in which society (universities, county boards, the two concerned municipalities, non-governmental organizations and others) are invited to comment on the applications. This is not required by law, but SSM considers it to be an appropriate way to broaden the societal influence and to elicit new insights and viewpoints for the review.”

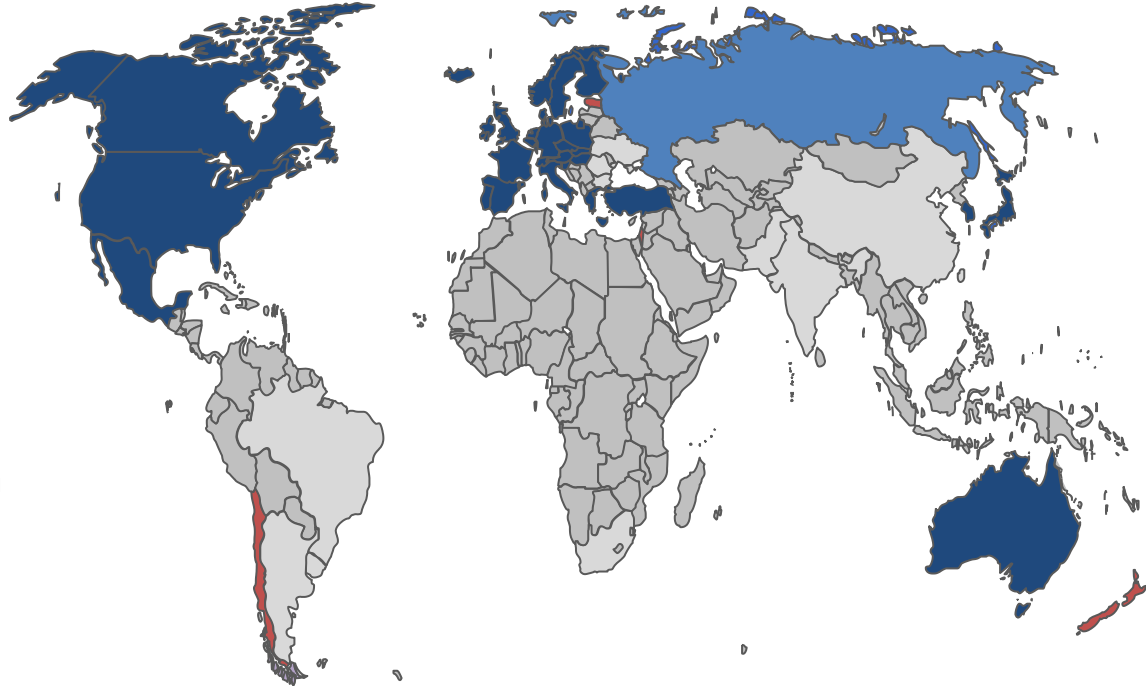
- “Experience in the United States and abroad has shown that suitable sites for deep geologic repositories for nuclear waste can be identified and developed. The knowledge and experience we need are in hand and the necessary funds have been and are being collected.
- Rather the core difficulty remains what it has always been: finding a way to site these inherently controversial facilities and to conduct the waste management program in a manner **that allows all stakeholders, but most especially host states, tribes and communities, to conclude that their interests have been adequately protected and their well-being enhanced—not merely sacrificed or overridden by the interests of the country as a whole.**”



# STAKEHOLDER CONFIDENCE WORK AT NEA

Chile, Estonia, New Zealand and Israel are OECD countries but not in NEA  
Russian Federation is NEA country, but not yet member of the OECD

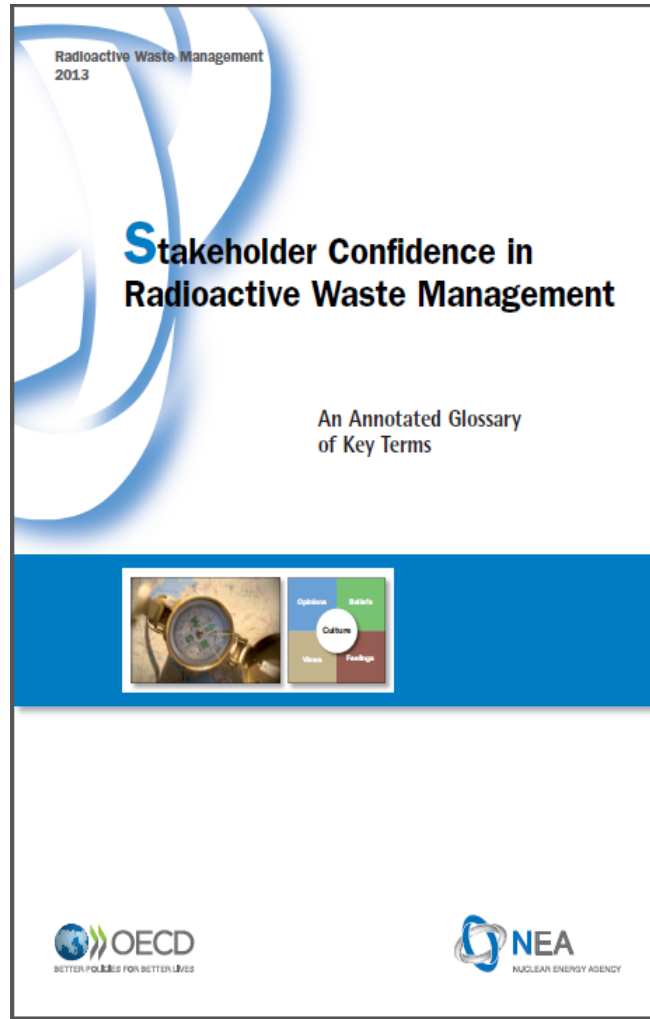
- **To assist its member countries in maintaining and further developing**, through international co-operation, the scientific, technological and legal bases required for a safe, environmentally friendly and economical **use of nuclear energy** for peaceful purposes.
- To provide authoritative assessments and to forge common understandings on key issues as **input to government decisions on nuclear energy policy** and to broader OECD policy analyses in areas such as energy and sustainable development.



The NEA's current membership consists of 31 countries in Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region.  
Together they account for approximately 90% of the world's installed nuclear capacity.

- 13 years of collaborative work on the societal dimension of RWM, especially disposal
  - Practitioners from 16 countries (at least 100 individuals across time)
  - 9 workshops in 9 countries to dialogue with national and local stakeholders (600-700 people) plus academics
    - Distill and document lessons with the help of practitioners, social scientists and a number of (local) stakeholders
    - Create a record of “where we were” and of “where we stand”.
- [www.oecd-nea.org/fsc](http://www.oecd-nea.org/fsc)
- Probably the largest publicly accessible library on RWM governance

**FSC**  
*Forum on Stakeholder  
Confidence*



- **Confidence and Trust**
- **Dialogue**
- **Local Community**
- **Local Partnership**
- **Ownership of a societal project vs acceptance**
- **Retrievability of waste**
- **Reversibility of decisions**
- **Safety and stakeholder confidence**
- **Siting**
- **Stakeholder**
- **Stepwise approach to decision making**
- **Transparency**

## **–LEARNING FROM OTHERS**

- **SITING OF (PERMANENT) HAZARDOUS or UNWANTED FACILITIES**

## Resistance to “locally unwanted land uses” (LULU) is similar across the board

- **Radwaste repositories are not alone in the LULU category**
  - A **1995**-“Fairness and Siting” Symposium observed that, in 1981, only one land-disposal had been found (in Last Chance, Co), and fewer than ten, new hazardous-waste treatment and incinerators built out of 100 such facilities needed in the USA
- **What complicates RWM, when deliberating on a disposal facility, people feel they face the difficult issue of **radioactivity** and, also, must deliberate on “siding with” or “opposing” **nuclear power**.**
- **Also, the debate quickly moves on to how trustworthy the various actors are, etc. Hence the importance of a strong democratic tradition**



- **....for successfully siting a hazardous waste facility - or not siting a facility - but some of the critical ingredients are known:** (Linnerooth-Bayer & E. Löfstedt, 1995)
  - *A facility should certainly **not** be **sited** if it is not **needed**, or if it is not perceived as acceptably **safe**.*
  - *Even for a facility for which a consensus exists that it is needed, it will not be "siteable" if a **process** is not in place that is viewed as fair and trustworthy.*
  - *Since the public holds different and conflicting notions of what is fair, it will be necessary to **negotiate** a **process** that appeals to all or most of the interested parties.*
  - *The notion of "taking responsibility for **ones' own wastes**," whether by the individual generator, a region or a country, appears to be an important element for a fair outcome.*



## Therefore according to the sociology of siting

**1995**

- **Establish need**
- **Establish safety**
- **Establish fair and trustworthy decision process.**
  - Process must be negotiated
  - Process must appeal to most interested parties
  - The process outcome should not be constrained
- **People are willing to take responsibility for the country's waste**

# SITING in the FSC annotated glossary ...

**2013**

- **A goal of continued ownership**
- **Safety, familiarity, control**
- **A stepwise (decision making) process**
- **A voluntary siting process**
- **A partnering approach**
- **Trust and confidence over time**
  
- **Careful about the symbolic dimensions**
  - **Landscape ; “Regional development schemes”**

**There is no alternative to dialogue and participation. They are the foundation for trust towards institutions and organizations.**

## ANOTHER KEY WORD

- **TRANSPARENCY**

“La transparence est fondamentale. Il y a dix ans, quand j’ai pris ce poste, Cogema était un bunker. On a dû le dynamiter.”

Anne Lauvergeon, 8 mars 2011

## Amongst the main messages of the FSC, three stand out:

- **Stakeholders must have access to understandable information about what is happening and why (Transparency)**
- **Technical soundness and procedural fairness are of comparable importance. They need to be visible and verifiable (Transparency)**
- **Stakeholder confidence is never be established “once and for all,” and it must be earned on a continual basis. (More transparency)**