

Site (Data) : EL-SMA

Stock of waste as at December 2009

Country: SWITZERLAND

Reporting Year: 2009

Site Name: EL-SMA

Full Name: Swiss repository project for low-level and short-lived intermediate-level waste

Inventory Reporting Date: December 2009 Waste Matrix Used: Nagra

Comment # 353: Project status EL-SMA

Feasibility demonstration for an EL-SMA repository (Projekt Gewähr 1985) accepted by authorities in 1988. After a site selection procedure, Wellenberg, Canton of Nidwalden, has been selected as EL-SMA site in 1993 (application for general license to Confederation in 1994). Apart from licensing according to Atomic Law, a cantonal mining concession was required in Nidwalden for repository-related excavation; this concession was subject to public referendum. Mining concession has been disapproved twice by the people of Nidwalden - 1995 (for exploratory drift and repository) and 2002 (for exploratory drift only) - despite the fact that the repository concept had been modified since 1995 to meet primary public concerns (extended monitoring, enhanced retrievability). After the 2002 vote, the project has been abandoned by the potential operator. In 2003, Nagra launched a programme to re-evaluate candidate host rocks/sites from the scratch and to reconsider alternative repository concepts. Region/site selection is going to be based on the Sectoral Plan (Sachplan) procedure, as required by the new Nuclear Energy Ordinance (KEV). Preliminary work on testing the procedure started mid 2006.

Comment # 354: Project characteristics EL-SMA

EL-SMA facility description must be considered as being open. The total capacity envisaged has been increased to 200'000 m³ in order to include wastes from potential new NPPs.

Comment # 7286: Information on Disposal Unit Capacity

The capacity numbers given are rough GUIDELINES FOR SITE SELECTION PURPOSES and refer to wastes at emplacement into disposal areas (i.e. they account for overpacking into disposal containers within repository site facilities). With the basic scenario, Swiss repositories defined below shall accommodate all Swiss radwaste (i.e. of NPP and any other origin) arisings as nowadays stored or being accumulated in future, until all of the Swiss NPP actually in operation are decommissioned. Note that these capacity data represent by definition an upper envelope for waste arisings which have been defined for safety assessment reports and engineering studies, relying on distinct scenarios. Excavation will be adjusted at construction time to meet effective needs.

Comment # 9719: Conditioning Facilities Envisaged for EL-SMA

After reception at the site, delivered waste units shall be conditioned / overpacked before transport to disposal units:

(a) Small-size packages: to be emplaced/grouted into standardized SMA disposal containers.

No Waste Data to report.