

Milestones

Country: NETHERLANDS

Reporting Year: 2009

Start Year or Reference Year:	2008	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
<p>At the PIME (Public Information Materials Exchange) 2008 conference in Prague, organised by the European Nuclear Society, COVRA received the PIME Award for communication in the nuclear industry. The HLW storage building of COVRA is not only a technical storage facility but also a piece of art, developed by the artist William Verstraeten. The visual appeal of the building and its nature as a talking point have lead to a great number of visitors. Because of this succes COVRA continued to use its facilities also for other needs in society such as depot storage for cultural heritage items. In the unused space of the LILW storage building museum artifacts are stored. This is a good starting point for discussions with members of the public on radioactive waste management and the time management involved.</p>			
Start Year or Reference Year:	2006	End Year:	2034
Description of Milestone:			
<p>The nuclear power plant Borssele started its operational life in 1973. Originally a lifetime of 30 year was foreseen. After technical improvements and evaluation it has been decided to extend the lifetime to 60 years. In 2006 an agreement was signed with the government that approves operation of the npp till 2033. Included in this agreement is the decision for direct dismantling at the end of the operational life.</p>			
Start Year or Reference Year:	2003	End Year:	2130
Description of Milestone:			
<p>Between 2003 and 2015 the HABOG building will receive HLW, this is the active phase of the facility. Between 2015 and 2130 HABOG will be in a passive storage phase. From 2130 all LILW, HLW and SF will be placed in a disposal facility, where the waste will be retrievable untill the decision is taken for permanent closure.</p>			
Start Year or Reference Year:	2002	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
<p>In April 2002 all shares within COVRA were transferred from the largest waste producers to the State. All shares were transferred to the State because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the n.p.p. Dodewaard stopped the production of electricity in 1997; - the Energy Research Foundation (ECN) placed its nuclear activities in a special business unit (NRG) together with the nuclear activities of KEMA and therefore ECN was no longer interested to hold shares in COVRA; - liberalisation of the electricity market and therefore the n.p.p. Borsele focussed on core-business activities; - no important nuclear activities are expected in the foreseeable future. <p>As only shareholder acts the Ministry of Finance. This Ministry keeps close contacts with the Ministry of Environment, which is responsible for the general policy of the Netherlands with respect to radioactive waste.</p>			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1994	End Year:	2003
Description of Milestone:			
<p>In 1994 the preparations were started to obtain a license for the storage building for HLW and SF (HABOG building). After a long legal process, the granted license could be used in 1999. Construction of HABOG started in 1999 and was finished in 2003. In September 2003 the facility was officially inaugurated by HM the Queen Beatrix. The first HLW was stored in the building in November of that year.</p>			

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Reporting Year: 2009

Start Year or Reference Year:	1984	End Year:	1992
Description of Milestone:			
<p>Between 1984 and 1987 a site selection procedure was followed to find a site where treatment and long term storage of all the nations radioactive waste could be established. In 1987 COVRA applied for a license (Nuclear Energy Act) for the present site at the Harbour and Industrial Area Vlissingen-Oost. The license was granted in 1989. Construction of waste treatment and storage facilities for LILW took place between 1989 and 1992. All LILW temporarily stored at the Petten site was transferred to the new site between 1992 and 1994.</p>			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1982	End Year:	1992
Description of Milestone:			
<p>Seadumping was abandoned. COVRA was established as national waste management organisation. COVRA started as private company with limited liability (Naamloze Vennootschap or N.V. in Dutch). Shareholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30% n.p.p. Borssele (EPZ) - 30% n.p.p. Dodewaard (GKN) - 30% Energy Research Foundation (ECN) - 10% the State of the Netherlands. <p>The structure changed in 2002 (see milestone 2002) As an interim solution all LILW was conditioned and stored at the site of the Energy Research Foundation at Petten (Noord-Holland). This ended in 1992, because a new site was opened at the Harbour and Industrial Area Vlissingen-Oost.</p>			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1950	End Year:	1982
Description of Milestone:			
Seadumping was used as disposal for LILW.			