

## Vision for the Reims conference (15-17 December 2010)

### **Title:**

Reversibility and Retrievability– A Conference and Dialogue in Planning for Geological Repositories of Radioactive Wastes

### **Under the Aegis of:**

The Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD

### **In cooperation<sup>1</sup> with:**

EC DG-TREN, EDRAM, IAEA, WENRA

### **With the support<sup>2</sup> of:**

CLIS, OPECST, EdM, NuLeaf, KASAM, etc.

### **Aims:**

- To allow as many viewpoints to be expressed as possible and to record them
- To discuss and better understand commonalities and differences
- To test and refine the findings of the NEA R&R project
- To refine the international R-scale tool for dialogue.

### **Audience:**

*Five reference communities:* Implementers and RD&D; Regulators; Policy Makers (from ministries); Social Sciences Experts (academics, etc.); Stakeholders (representatives of local publics, mayors, etc.)

Representatives of the above communities from as many countries (and others) as possible will be welcome

### **Size:**

Up to 250 attendees

### **Language:**

The working language will be English with translation into and from French

### **Programme Committee:**

The members of the NEA R&R project<sup>3</sup>.

The programme committee proposes the programme of the conference, including speakers, making some of the contacts.

### **Organizing Committee:**

NEA Secretariat and Andra

The organizing committee implements the suggestions of the programme committee and takes care of the practical details.

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<sup>1</sup> Contacts will be made by the NEA. Confirmation received from DG-TREN.

<sup>2</sup> Organizations to be identified by PC and then contacted officially by NEA

<sup>3</sup> The current programme was approved by the R&R group in December 2009. Next meeting in Paris, June 2010.

**E-mail address:**

Two e-mail addresses will be created regarding logistics and programme issues, respectively.

**Venue:**

Reims, France, December 15-17, 2010 at the “Centre de congrès”

(see also [http://www.reims-evenements.fr/spip.php?page=organiser&id\\_rubrique=1&id\\_mot=5&lang=en](http://www.reims-evenements.fr/spip.php?page=organiser&id_rubrique=1&id_mot=5&lang=en))

Registrants are invited to stay for all three days of the conference, so that there will be a stable number of participants at the round tables (see modus operandi).

**Conference fee:**

A fee is to be established for the three days of the conference to cover for coffee breaks and lunches and for the final published proceedings.

**Support of some attendees:**

Travel expenses for non-institutional participants are borne by sponsors in each individual country.

A few speakers may be offered a honorarium, via the NEA or national delegations, in view of their contribution to the conference. A budget will be allocated to this in due course.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Conference proceedings documenting discussions and view points.
- Improved collective understanding of the issues and increased awareness of the viewpoints of others.
- Collection of comments on the NEA R&R draft project report, which will be discussion document for the conference, leading to its updating and eventual publication.
- Feedback on the international R-scale

**Optional technical visits:**

**Andra** - on 14<sup>th</sup>:December, Bure site

**Other** - Colleagues from neighbouring countries are welcome to suggest potential visits on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

**Optional side events:**

- Visit of Reims in the afternoon of 14<sup>th</sup> ending with ice-breaker and registration
- Social dinner on 16<sup>th</sup>
- Tour of the Champagne region, of which Reims is the capital, on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Modus operandi:**

### *Support materials*

The draft report collecting the main findings of the R&R project (2008-2010) will be distributed to all participants as a discussion document supporting the conference. The leaflet on the international R-scale will also be distributed. Both drafts will be in English and French

A collection of abstracts of the conference talks may be made available.

### *Round table discussions*

The table session approach used by the FSC and RF, which works well for smaller groups, will be adapted to work with the larger expected audience. Intention is to have in-depth involvement of all participants, not just of a few individuals.

At this stage it is proposed to have, for some of the sessions, round tables of 20 people, say. The PC will identify a number of questions (from the report) that can be answered relatively briefly, i.e. without requiring a long explanation (e.g. closed questions rather than open ones – but questions have to be chosen so that there can be interesting discussions behind the brief answers). The initial questions for the sessions will be apportioned to each round table, so that each table discusses only a subset of questions

Round tables discuss for an hour. A *facilitator* at each table leads the discussion and reports in plenary the table's brief answers to the questions, not the details of why. The table facilitator is expected to write a brief account of the discussion (on the "why" behind the answers), and give drafts of their reports to the *session rapporteurs* in time for the final session.

### *Overall*

There are a total of 14 plenary sessions in sequence. Most sessions are by invited speakers; one session is fully an open-call session.

There are also have 2 poster sessions, one on Wednesday and one on Thursday to be displayed, e.g., in the coffee area.

# Proposed Topics/Programme:

## Tuesday 14 December

Optional: Technical visit to Andra's Meuse/Haute Marne URL and CTe (starting early morning from Reims), or visits of one of the neighbouring countries installations, or optional tourist walk in Reims in the afternoon.

**6:00 PM: Icebreaker and registration**

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## Wednesday 15 December

**8:30 AM: Session 1 – Welcoming addresses**

NEA, Co-operating International organizations, Host Organisation

**9:00 AM: Session 2 - Setting the scene:**

French politician, in view of importance of R&R for political process in France (up to 30 minutes). *Mr. Birraux*<sup>4</sup>

The NEA on the outcomes of the R&R project so far. The talk will start with an historical overview and on which are the significant questions that were addressed and the ones that continue to be topical. (up to 30 minutes)

The above talks are to set the scene for the policy and other sessions to follow.

**10:00 AM: Break**

**10:30 AM: Session 3 - Country positions at the policy level**

Government representatives (high-level civil-servants) deliver 10-15 minute talks

For this session, it would be interesting to understand what reversibility and retrievability may mean in different countries and the main drivers in policy approaches (e.g. legal requirement, government policy, optional but included by the implementer, no R&R at all). In each country: How are R&R defined and introduced, if at all? What has influenced the policy most strongly? Local stakeholders? Politicians? International safety principles? Discussions on ethics? Has there been evolution in policy? It is important to realize that there is spectrum of viewpoints and approaches possible.

*Tentative invited countries:*

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<sup>4</sup> Mr. Birraux may be asked to serve as the chair of the conference ?

1. ...*Finland*
2. ...*Canada*
3. ...*Switzerland*
4. ...*Germany*
5. ...*USA*
6. ....*Belgium*

**12:30 PM: Lunch**

**2:00 AM: Session 4 - Main findings from the social and political sciences**

Invited + contributed papers (10-15 mn)

*Tentative invited speakers:*

1. *École des Mines (Callon/Barthe).....*
2. *Swedish Nuclear Waste Council (Bråkenhielm on ethics) ...*
3. *Perceptions of safety (Vàri)*
4. *Economic theory considerations (...)*
5. *Symbolic dimension (O'Connor or FSC)*

This session covers a wide-ranging set of topics, several of which may be new to many of the attendees. Look for fresh ideas, different angles on the topic.

**3:30 PM: Break**

**4:00 PM: Session 5 - Table discussion** on Main findings from the social and political sciences (see *modus operandi* above).

**5:30 PM: Adjourn**

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## **Thursday 16 December**

**8:30 AM: Reports on Day 1 sessions**

Brief reports from each table facilitator of Session 5 on their table discussions

*Possibly* a report on Session 3

**9:00 PM: Session 6 - Expectations on R&R expressed by local stakeholders**

*Tentative invited speakers*, 10 minutes each:

1. ....*The Bure CLIS (France)*
2. ....*NuLeaf or West Cumbria Partnership (UK)*
3. *Östhammar Mayor or LKOr (Sweden)*
4. *to be determined (USA)*
5. ...*Asse Stakeholder group (Germany)*
- 6... *Local stakeholders from Finland and/or Hungary*

Compare these “real-life” expectations both on R&R and on the related role of the institutional players with the arguments pro and con from the report and with other preliminary conclusions on meeting expectations. Have we missed something important or misinterpreted what the local stakeholders want?

**10:30 AM: Break**

**10:50 AM: Session 7 - Table discussions** (expectations on R&R expressed by local stakeholders, see modus operandi above).

**12:15 PM: Lunch**

**1:30 PM: Session 8 - Implementation Issues**

*Invited + contributed papers. 10 minutes each*

1. *Experience of retrieval at WIPP*
2. *EC work (e.g., ESDRED) or SKB*
3. *EDRAM presentation on technical solutions and limits towards implement R & R; demonstration of feasibility, retrieval (costs & impacts; pluses and minuses)*
4. *Presentation of the IAEA’s Retrievability study report.*
5. *“Meaning of closure” of the final repository, and of the role of post-closure institutional control (NEA Regulators’ Forum)*

Some questions: Is retrievability an impossible or very difficult requirement to meet? Over what time scales? Can it be an add-on or does it need to be taken into account from the beginning? What kind of organizational structure does reversibility imply? What are EDRAM’s views on the report findings?

**2:30 PM: Session 9 - Table discussions** (implementation issues, see modus operandi above).

**3:30 PM: Break**

**3:50 PM: Session 10 - How to reconcile freedom of choice for future generations and safety concerns?**

*Contributed papers, 15 minutes each + 5 minute discussion*  
For instance: R&R vs Safety (Andra)

This session serves as an introduction to the next day’s panel

**5:30 PM:** Reports from the facilitators on the table discussions of sessions 7

**6:10 PM :** Adjourn

**6:30 PM: Depart for Social dinner**

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**Friday 17 December**

### **8:30 AM: Reports on Day 2 sessions**

Reports from the facilitators on the table discussions of session 9

### **9:00 AM: Session 11 - Panel on “The Place of R&R in Regulatory Policy”**

A panel discussion spurred by a presentation on what the report says regarding regulation and safety and by the presentations in session 10.

Panel is approximately half regulators, half non-regulators (Suggestions for panelists:

Dan Schultheisz (EPA),

Walter Blommaert (FANC),

Carl-Magnus Larsson (SSM) or Esko Ruokola (STUK),

Prof. Tochiyama (Advisory Committee to NISA),

Pierre Berest (CNE member),

Prof. R. Packard (CoRWM),

Michael Sailer (Öko-Institut and ESK).

There are two aspects to regulation: the process (which overlaps to some extent with policy), and safety requirements. Process: How does the stepwise regulatory process relate to the overall stepwise decision making process? Are they the same, or distinct? Is a stepwise regulatory process sufficient? Safety: some regulators may say that they are indifferent to whether R or R is present (unless, of course, it is a legislated requirement) as long as the basic safety requirements are still met. Is this really true? Are the current regulatory (safety) requirements predisposed in one way or the other, i.e. do they bias the discussion? Are regulators' views similar to society's, or to implementers, or distinct from both?

### **10:45 AM: *Break***

### **11:15 AM: Session 12 – The International R-Scale**

A presentation on the R-scale followed by plenary discussion. The leaflet would have been distributed to participants in advance. This is an opportunity to get feedback from a wider audience, further refine the scale and the leaflet.

### **12:00 PM: *Lunch***

### **1:30 PM: Session 13 – Wrap-up session**

*Session rapporteurs* present recaps of their sessions.

*Conference chair* recaps the discussions, key points made, and the most important areas where answers revealed either consensus or divergence (model: Arens wrap-up at Tokyo). Since the questions will be based on the draft report, this will also serve as a summary of comments on the draft (attendees will also be welcome to send additional comments during the following weeks).

### **2:45 PM: Session 14 - Closing of the Conference**

**3:00 PM: *Adjourn***

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**Saturday 17 December:** Optional tour of Champagne region