

**Advanced Conceptual and Numerical Methods for Modeling
Subsurface Processes Regarding Nuclear Waste Repository Systems**
IAEA Network of Centers of Excellence



International Development Activities for Repositories in Clay and Crystalline Rock



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Acknowledgements

Joseph Kanney/SNL Carlsbad

Frank Hansen/SNL Albuquerque

International Agencies and Investigators



Briefing Outline

- Crystalline Rock Repository Development Activities

- Sweden *
- Finland *
- Switzerland
- Japan

* Regulatory/Performance
Assessment Discussions

- Clay/Shale Repository Development Activities

- France *
- Switzerland *
- Belgium

Long-term safety for disposal
of HLW waste and spent fuel

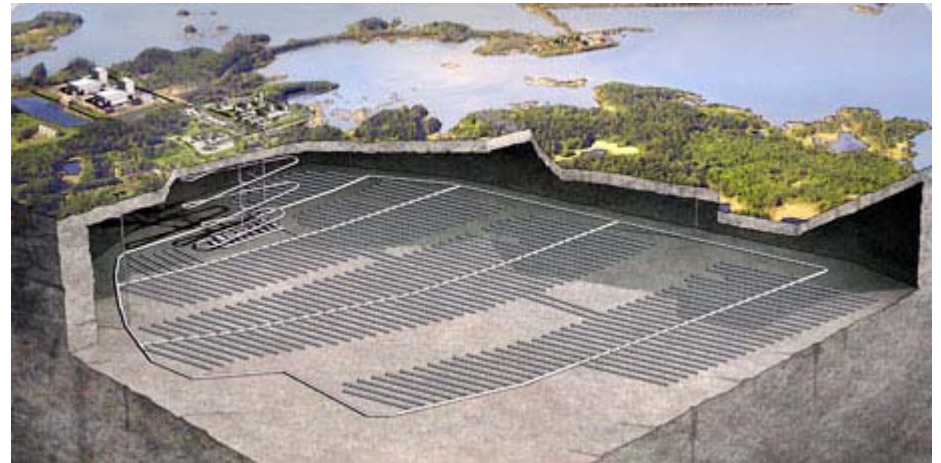
- Characterization and Siting
- URL Activities
- Regulatory Context
- Performance Assessment Results
- Important FEPs

Sweden - Nuclear Waste Management

- Sweden: 12 reactors (10 operating)
- Approximately 9,000 MTHM HLW (spent fuel) in 4,500 waste packages (6,000 analyzed)
- KBS-3 system concept (1983)
- Borehole emplacement
 - 2 MTHM/waste package
 - (Up to 10 MTHM/waste package can be achieved with larger packages and in-drift emplacement)
- Once-through LWR fuel cycle (no further reprocessing)

Sweden - Characterization and Siting

- **1985** CLAB (interim storage facility for HLW) Oskarshamn
- **1988** SFR (repository for LLW and ILW) Östhammar
- **pre-1992** site characterization (8 municipalities)
- **1992** Change to “voluntary” siting
- **1995** Äspö URL inaugurated
- **2002** Site characterization begins (Oskarshamn and Östhammar)
- **2006** Application for encapsulation facility (Oskarshamn)
- **2007** Site characterization complete
- **2009** Selected Forsmark (Östhammar) for final repository
- **2010** (planned) Application for repository permits
- **2015** (planned) Pilot-scale repository operation

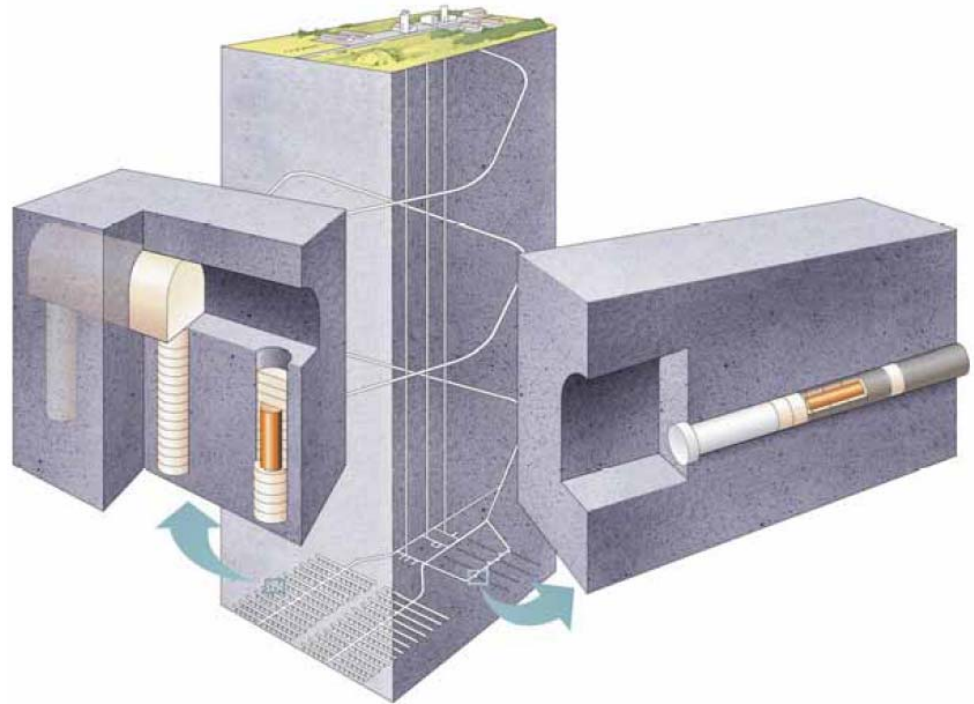


Conceptual View - Forsmark Repository, Power Station, and SFR



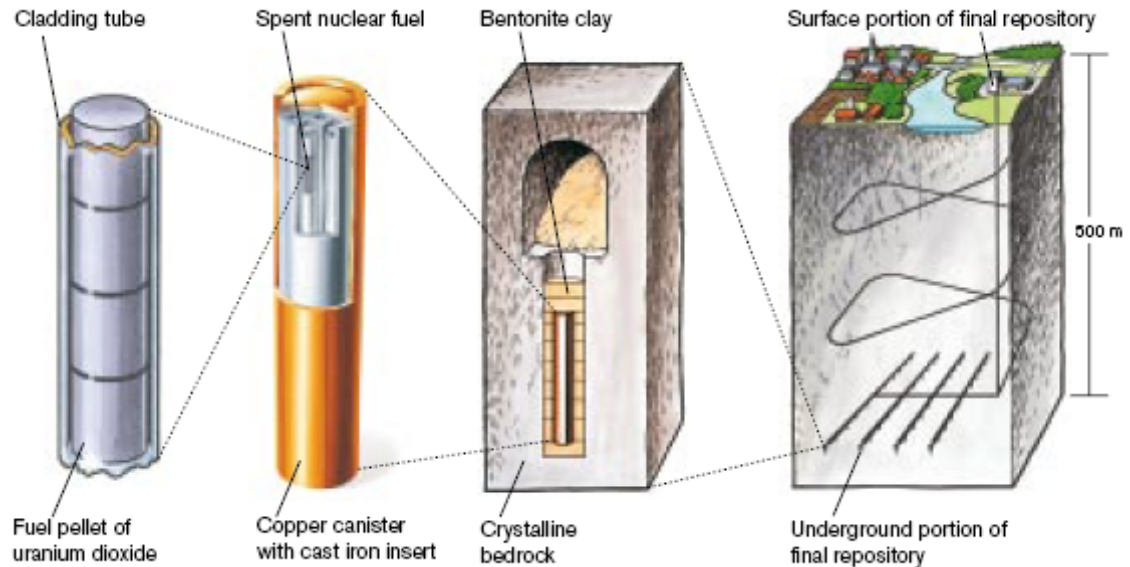
Waste Isolation in Crystalline Rock: KBS-3 Concept

- Waste packages designed for chemically reducing conditions (Fe, Cu)
- Clay-based buffer material around waste packages
- Avoid emplacing waste packages in highly conductive faults or fractures
- Engineered clay-based backfill in access tunnels
- Borehole and shaft seals
- Vertical or horizontal emplacement



Waste Isolation in Crystalline Rock: Buffer Integrity

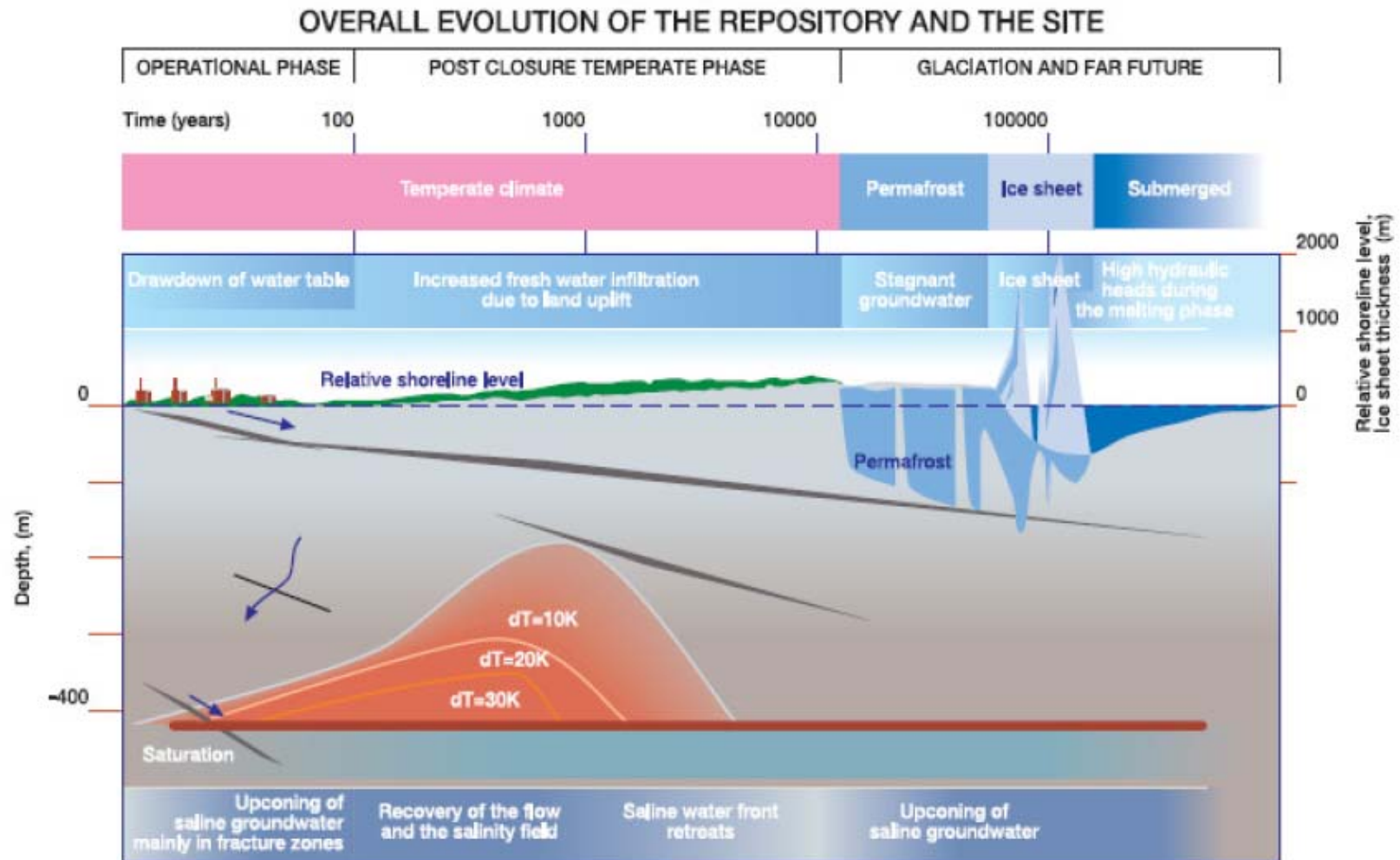
- Buffer degradation:
 - Inhomogeneous swelling
 - Piping
 - Colloidal Erosion
 - Creep
 - Liquefaction
 - Freezing



- Piping requires fracture water pressure $>$ clay swelling pressure, plus a conduit for removal of buffer material. It can occur only during initial hydration.
- Swelling will be controlled by preparing buffer material in cohesive “bricks.”
- Colloidal erosion requires divalent cation concentrations < 1 mM.
- Models show that deviatoric creep (flow) occurs slowly in 100,000 yr.
- Liquefaction will be controlled by buffer density and swelling pressure.
- Freezing will not occur in situ.

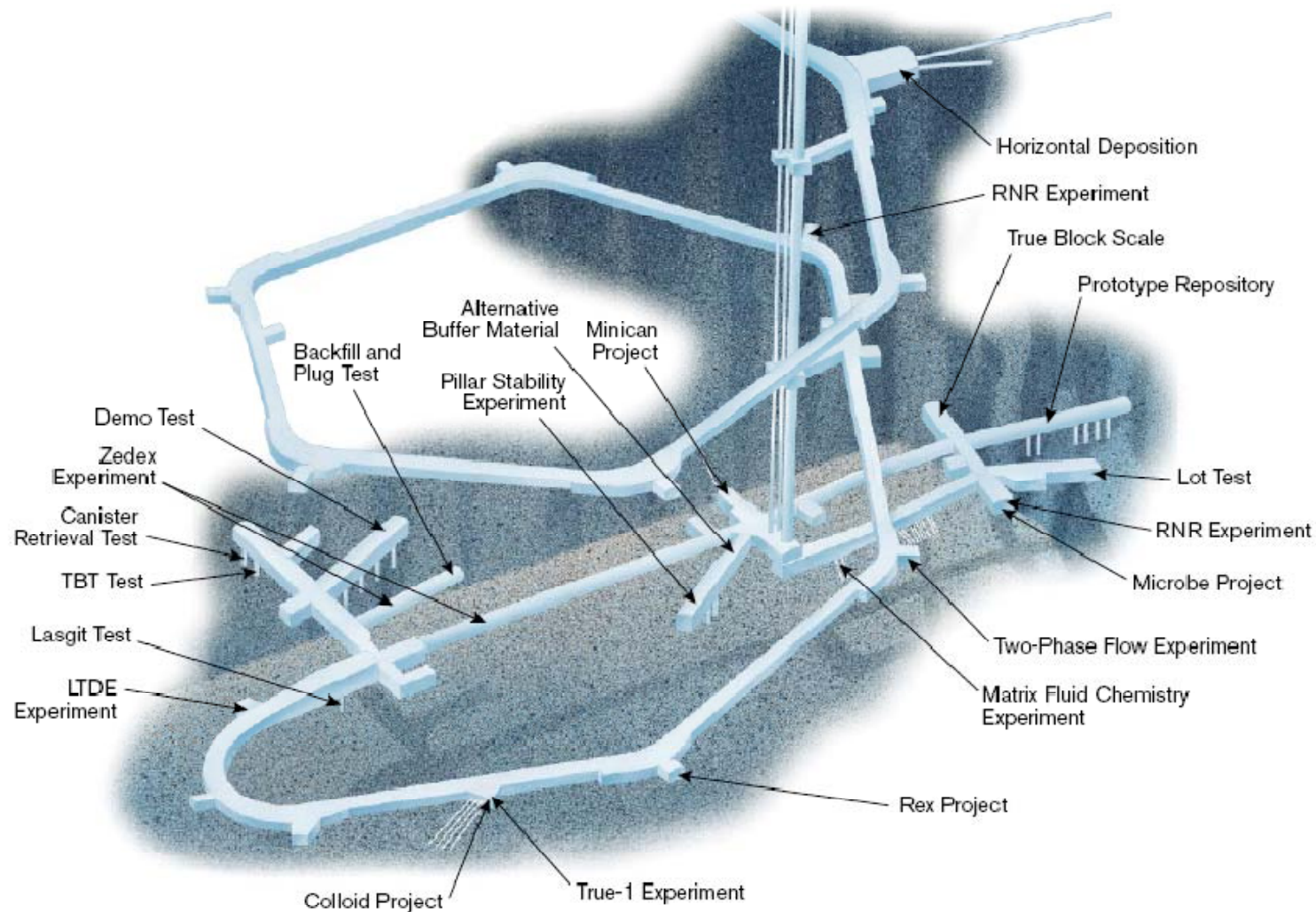
Source: SKB TR-06-09
(http://www.skb.se/Templates/Standard___17139.aspx)

Crystalline Rock Repository Postclosure Evolution



Source: Smith, P. et al. 2007. POSIVA 2007-06 (<http://www.posiva.fi/en/search?searchterms=kbs-3h>).

Äspö URL Layout



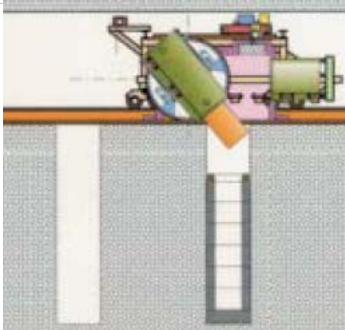
Äspö URL Research (Cont.)

- Prototype repository
 - Full-scale
 - Model testing



Äspö URL Research (Cont.)

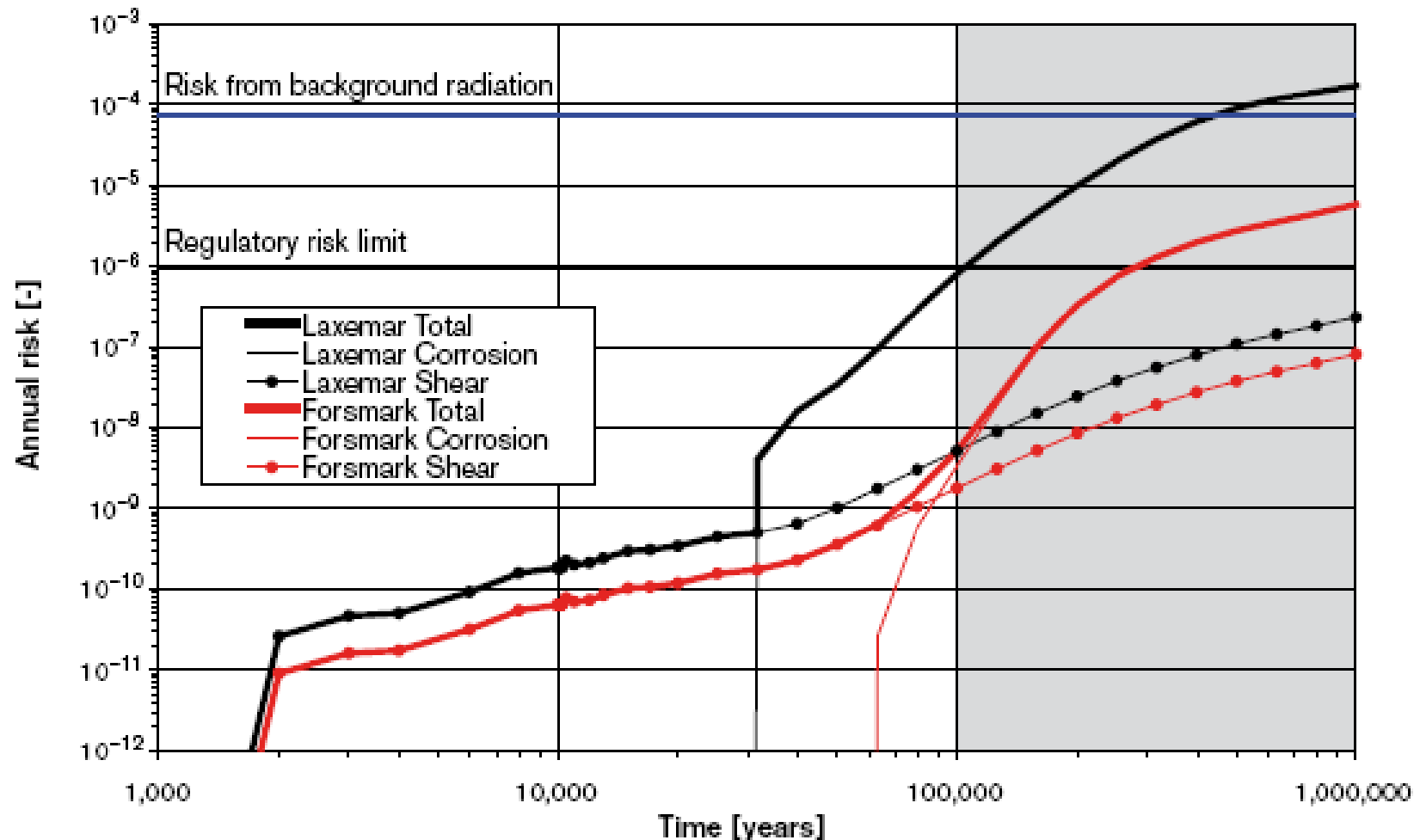
- Waste Handling
 - Horizontal emplacement
 - Vertical emplacement
 - Canister retrieval test



Sweden - Geologic Repository Regulatory Context

- Final repository dose-based standards:
 - Performance assessment with treatment of FEPs, uncertainty, sensitivity; term of assessment $\geq 10,000$ yr (SKIFS 2002:1)
 - Probability of health effects (cancer, hereditary) to the reasonably exposed individual $< 10^{-6}/\text{yr}$, corresponding dose 1.4×10^{-5} Sv/yr = 1.4 mRem/yr (SSI FS 1998:1)
 - Quantitative dose standard for 100,000 yr; “qualitative” to 1 Myr
 - Comply with Swedish Act on Nuclear Activities
- 1999 Swedish Environmental Code
 - Perform Environmental Impact Analysis and submit permit applications for the final repository, SFR, and encapsulation facility

Sweden: SR-Can Performance Assessment



Source: SKB Technical Report TR-06-09



Sweden: Important FEPs in SR-Can Assessment

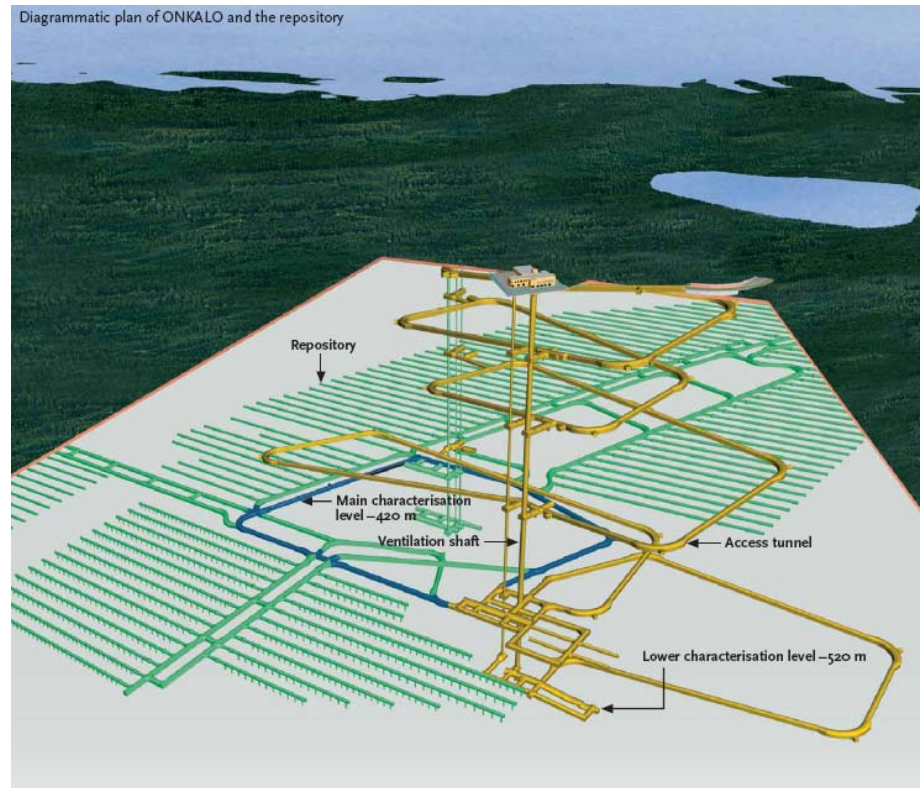
- **Relatively significant processes**
 - Buffer advection/canister corrosion
 - Future human activity
- **Insignificant processes**
 - Isostatic loading
 - Buffer freezing
 - Canister failure due to shear movement on fractures
- **Important uncertainties**
 - Buffer exposure to glacial melt waters
 - Intercepting fracture conducts glacial melt water
 - Buffer erosion
 - Mechanical response of fractures to glacial rebound
 - Ice-age biosphere

Finland - Nuclear Waste Management

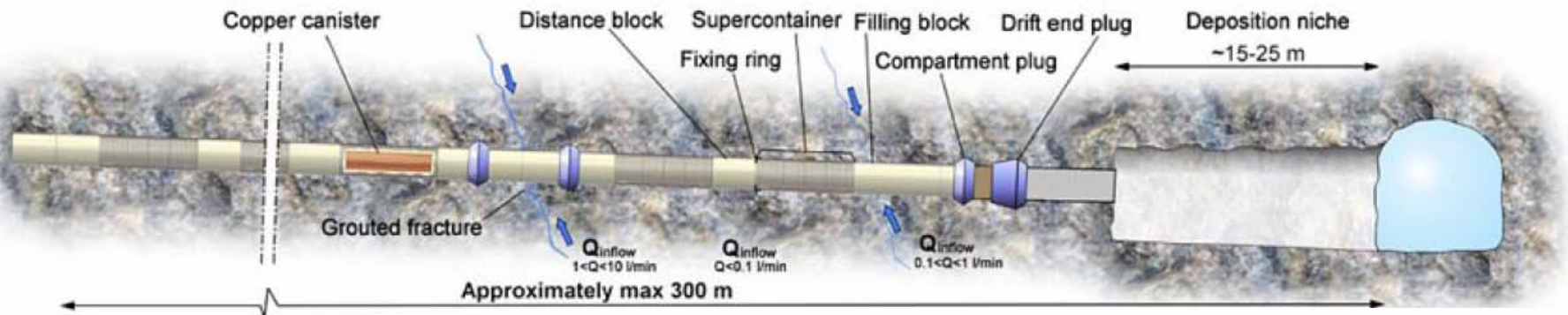
- Finland: 5 reactors (4 operating, one in construction)
- Approximately 5,500 MTHM HLW (spent fuel) in 2,800 waste packages
- KBS-3H system concept proposed (2007)
- Borehole emplacement
 - 2 MTHM/waste package
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- Once-through LWR fuel cycle (no reprocessing)

Finland - Characterization and Siting

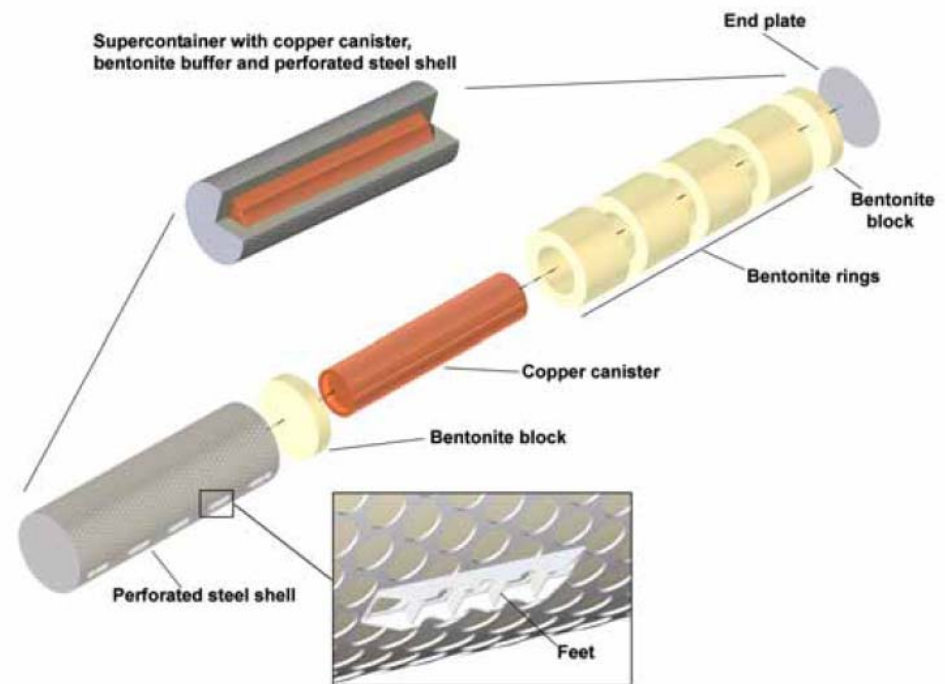
- **1985** Completed screening all of Finland
- **1986** Began preliminary site investigations
- **1992** Completed site investigations
- **1993** Began detailed site investigations (4 sites)
- **1999** Submitted application for “decision-in-principle” for a final repository at Olkiluoto
- **2000** Completed site investigations and environmental studies (4 sites)
- **2004** Begin construction of ONKALO “Characterization Facility”
- **2011** Estimated completion of ONKALO
- **2012** Scheduled submittal of repository license application



Finland: Horizontal Borehole Emplacement

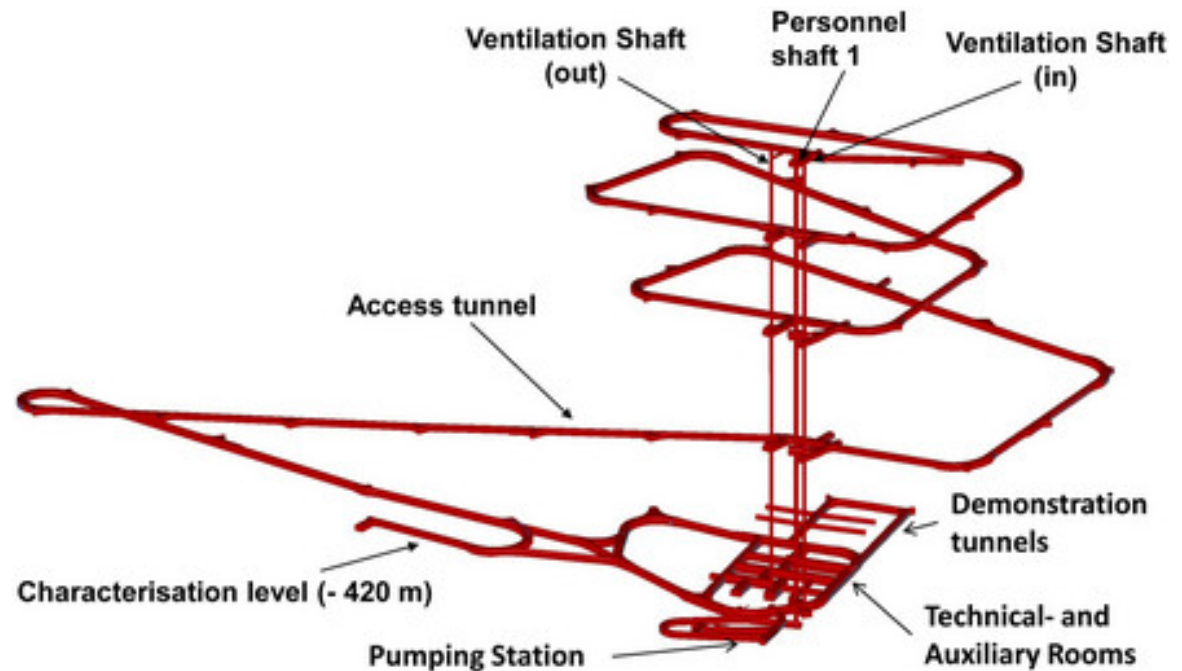


- Proposed KBS-3H concept
 - Horizontal tunnel or large-diameter borehole
 - “Supercontainer” combines canister and buffer
 - Plugs isolate conductive fractures



Finland: ONKALO Underground Characterization Facility

- Drill-and-blast excavation
- 1 access ramp
- 1 personnel shaft
- 2 ventilation shafts
- Tunnel slope 1:10
- Width 5.5 m
- Height 6.3 m
- Investigate geologic, hydrologic, geochemical, and geomechanical features of the host rock mass (ongoing)
- Develop excavation techniques and final disposal method
- Use the ONKALO facilities in the repository



Finland - Geologic Repository Regulatory Context

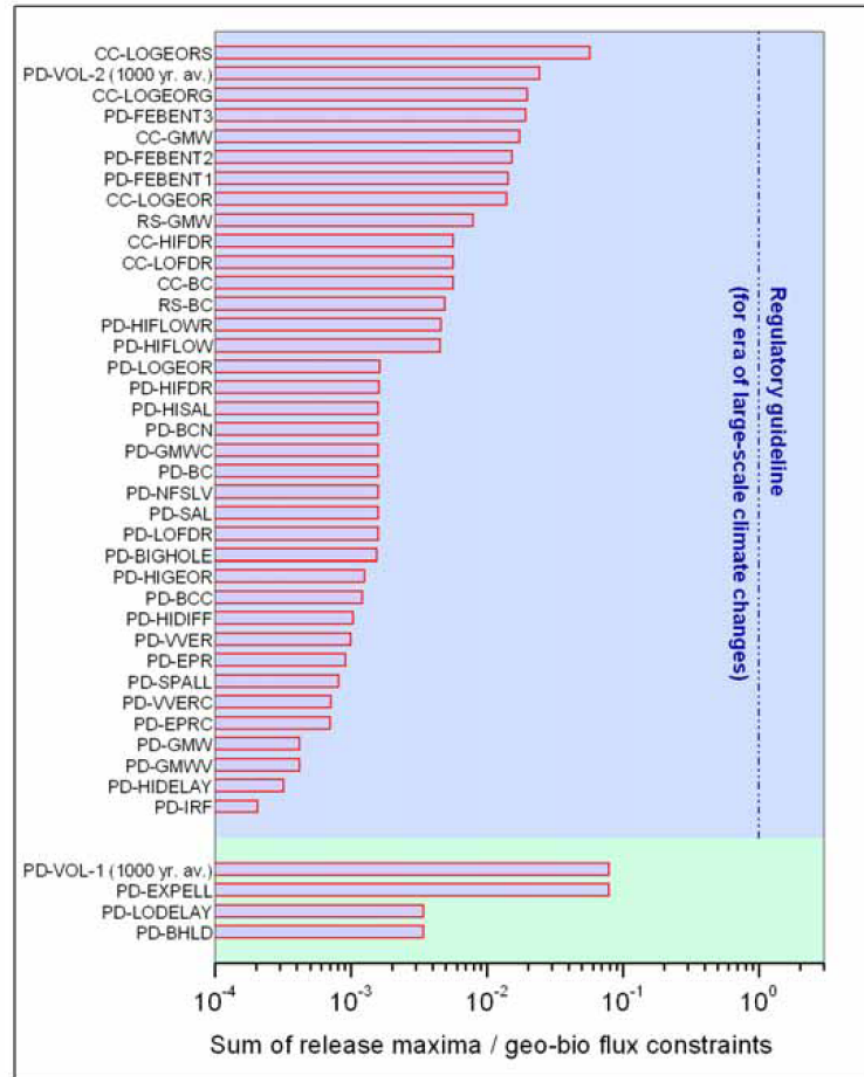
- Activity release based standards:
 - 0.03 GBq/y for long-lived α -emitting Ra, Th, Pa, Pu, Am, and Cm
 - 0.1 GBq/y for Se-79, I-129, and Np-237
 - 0.3 GBq/y for C-14, Cl-36, Cs-135, and the long-lived isotopes of U
 - 3 GBq/y for Tc-99, etc.

(Based on “reference biosphere” assessments. short-lived progeny are accounted for in parent limits.)

- Nuclear Energy Act and Decree (as amended, 1994)
- Radiation Protection Act (1991)
- Act on Environmental Impact Assessment (1994)

Finland - Safety Assessment

- KBS-3H Safety Assessment (2007)
- Release scenarios normalized to regulatory limits
- Source: Smith, P. et al. 2007. Safety Assessment for a KBS-3H Spent Nuclear Fuel Repository at Olkiluoto: Summary Report. POSIVA 2007-06 (<http://www.posiva.fi/en/search?searchterms=kbs-3h>).

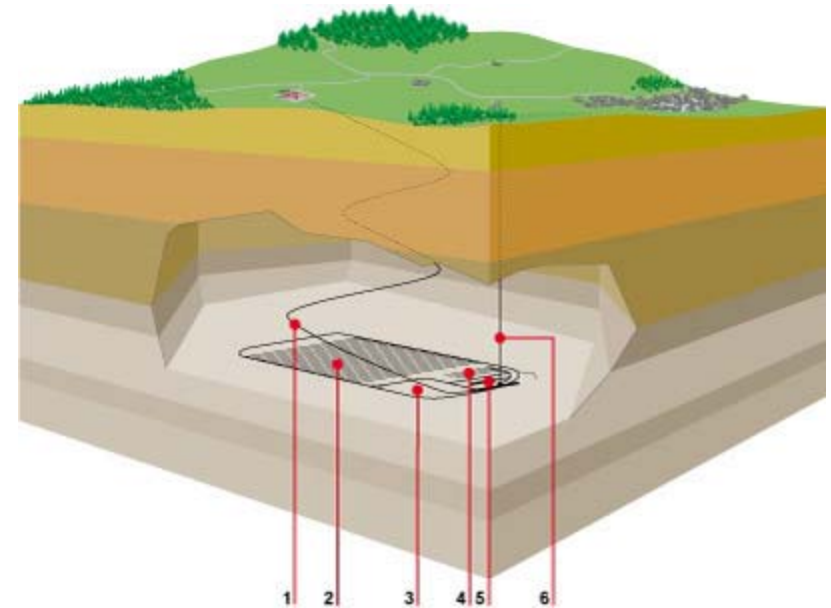


Switzerland - Nuclear Waste Management

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- **2020** Target for HLW repository operation



1. Access tunnel
2. Disposal tunnels for spent fuel and vitrified high-level waste
3. Rock laboratory
4. Pilot facility
5. Disposal tunnels for long-lived intermediate-level waste
6. Shaft



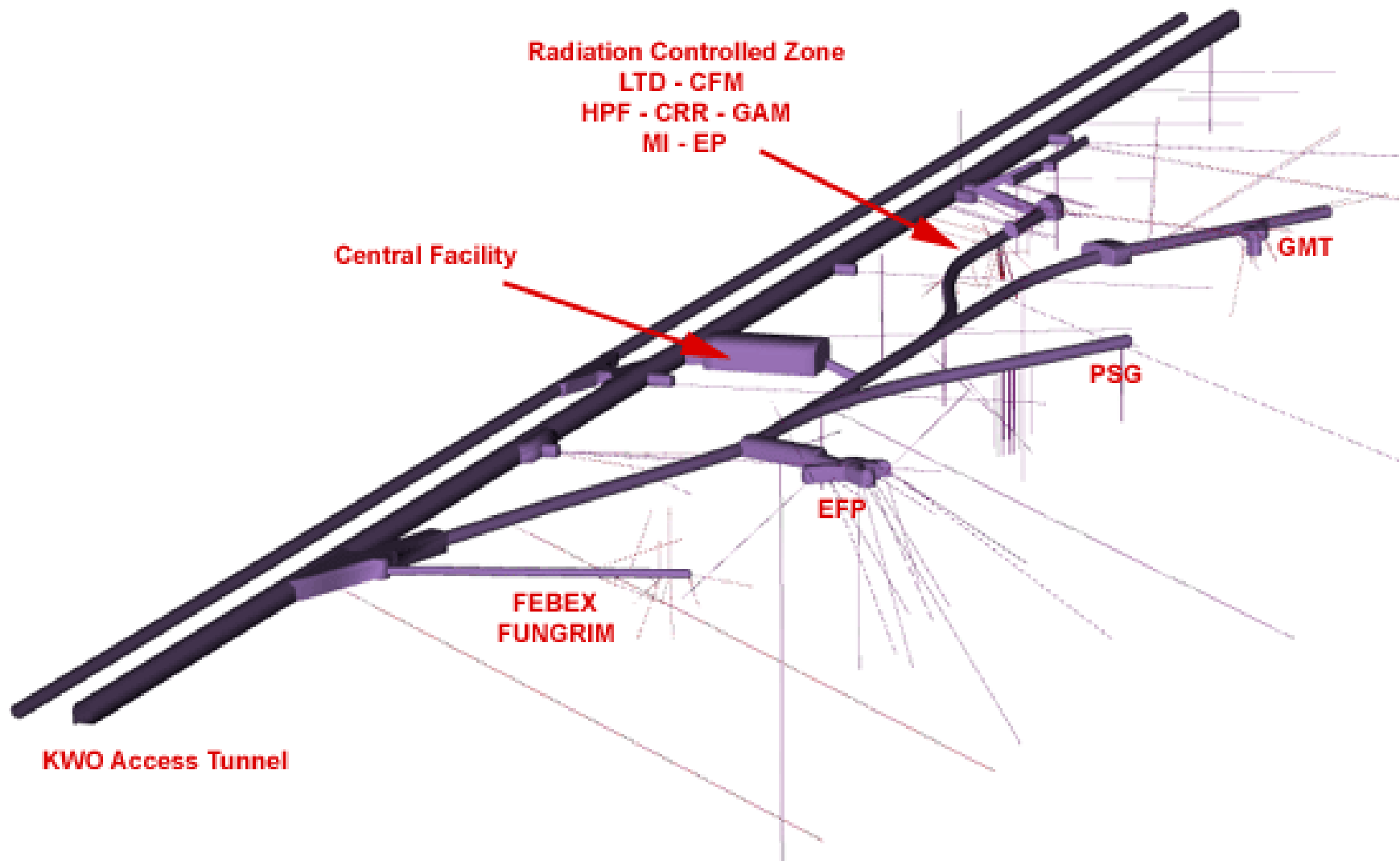
Switzerland - Grimsel Test Facility (GTS)



1. Rock laboratory Grimsel
2. Räterichsbodensee
3. Grimselsee
4. Juchlistock



GTS URL Layout



GTS URL Research

- **Phases I and II (1983 - 1990)**

- Exploratory boreholes and geological mapping
- Rock mechanics
 - Excavation effects
 - Rock stress measurements
 - Heater test
- Geophysical survey techniques
 - High frequency EM measurements
 - Underground seismic
 - Underground radar

- **Phase III (1990 - 1993)**

- Fracture flow test
- Tracer migration test
- Hydrodynamic modeling
- Unsaturated zone studies
- Ventilation test

- **Phase IV (1994 - 1996)**

- Borehole sealing
- Excavation disturbed zone studies
- Seismic tomography techniques
- Two phase flow in fracture network of the tunnel near-field
- Two phase flow in the matrix of crystalline rocks



GTS URL Research (Cont.)

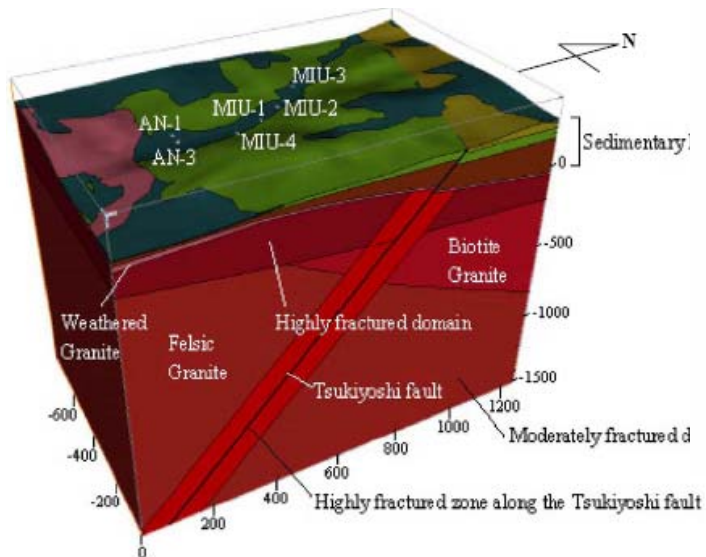
- **Phase V (1996-2004)**
 - **Colloid and radionuclide retardation experiments**
 - Effective field parameters
 - Full-scale HLW engineered barriers experiments
 - Fiber optic monitoring
 - Gas migration in shear zones
 - Gas migration in the engineered barriers
 - Hyperalkaline plume in fractured rocks
- **Phase VI (2003 -)**
 - Pore space geometry
 - Colloid formation and migration
 - **Long-term diffusion**
 - Long-term cement studies
 - Waste handling techniques and equipment
 - Material testing facility



Japan - Mizunami URL

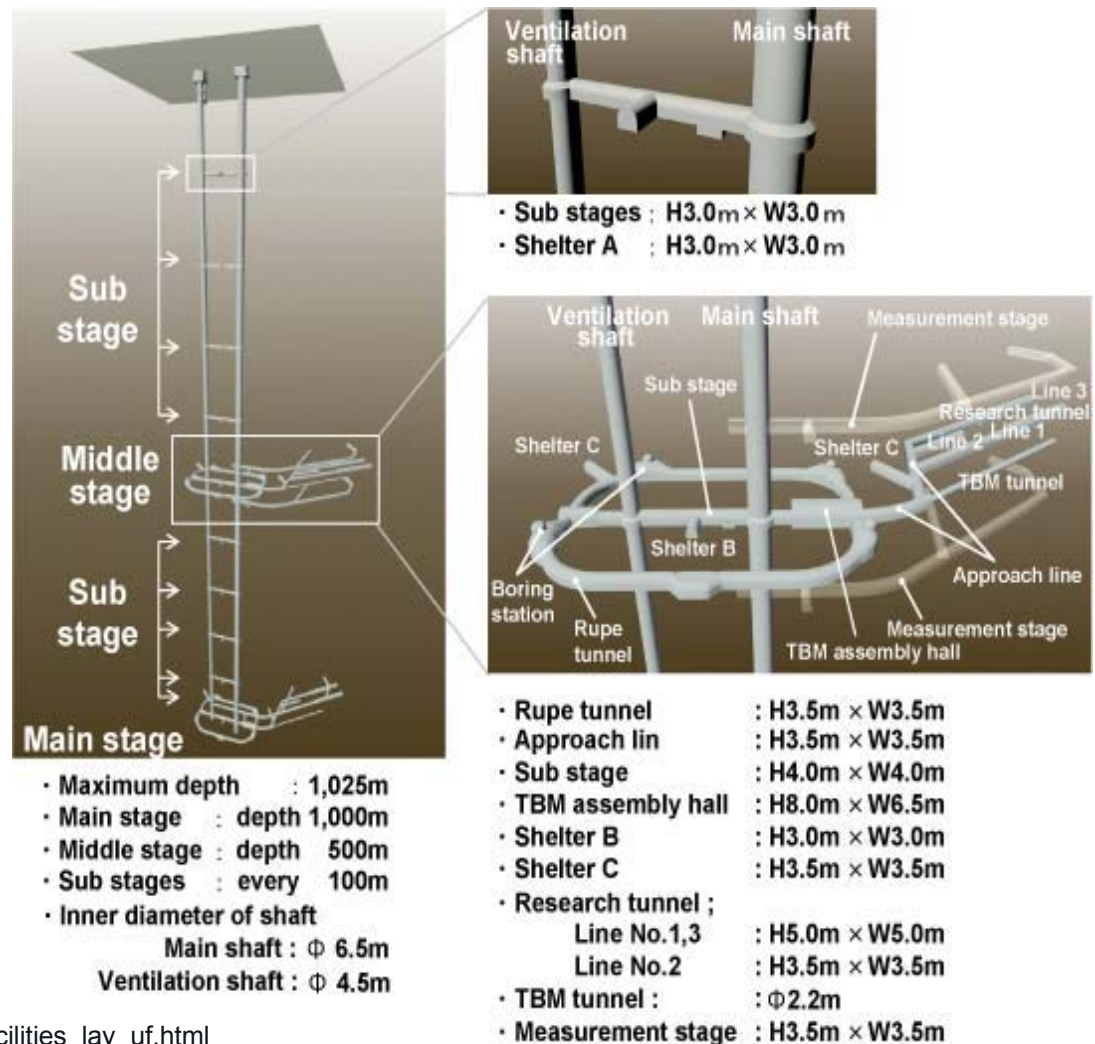
- **May 2010** Shafts at 1000 m (final)
- **2004-2010** Shaft construction
- **2007** Middle stage construction
- **2010-2015** Main stage construction
- **1996-2004** Phase 1 R&D
- **2001-2009** Phase 2
- **2010-2015** Phase 3

Site is leased from the local government, and proximal to Shobasama site, on land controlled by JNC.



Mizunami - Layout of Underground Facilities

- Compare and reconcile surface-based borehole and underground in situ observations
 - Lithology/petrography
 - Geophysics
 - Flow tests
 - Physical/chemical character of ground water
 - Rock mechanics



http://www.jaea.go.jp/jnc/ztounou/miu_e/project/facilities_lay_uf.html

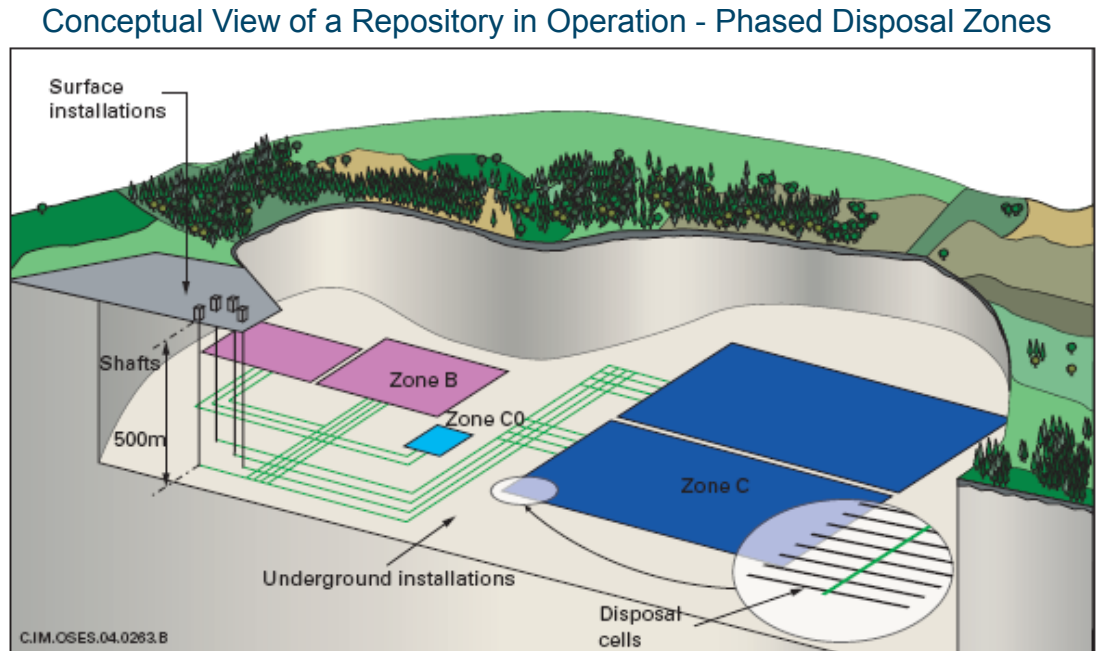
France - Nuclear Waste Management

- France: 59 reactors (plus 2 inoperative sodium-cooled fast reactors)
- In 2030: approximately 5,060 m³ HLW glass (plus 74 m³ spent fuel) in pour canisters containing ~0.15 m³ each.
- “Dossier 2005” disposal concept (argillite)
- Multiple-recycle U-Pu MOX fuel cycle
 - 30% of output is currently from reprocessed fuel
 - Additional reprocessing facilities and greater throughput capacities are planned
 - Extensive spent fuel storage (pools, dry-cask)
 - Fast-reactor transmutation demonstration targeted for 2020



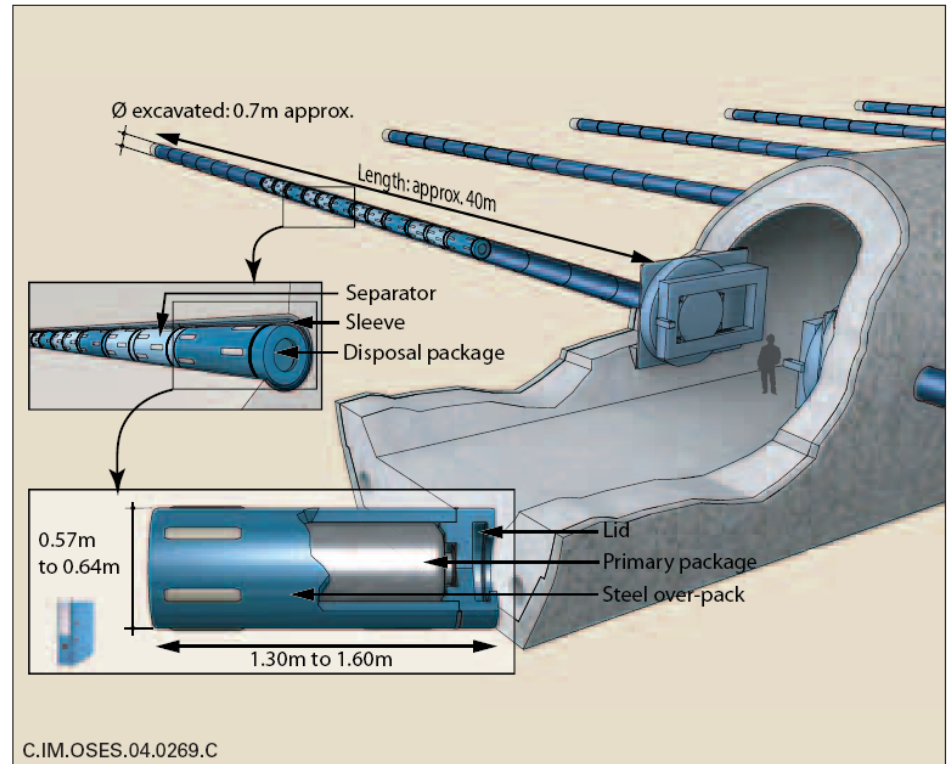
France - Characterization and Siting

- **1991(2006)** Waste Management Act
- **1993** Callovo-Oxfordian argillite (Bure locality)
- **1994-1996** Surface investigations at Meuse/Haute-Marne and other localities
- **1998** Meuse/Haute-Marne URL created to study Callovo-Oxfordian formation
- **1999-2005** URL construction
- **2005** “Dossier 2005” report on feasibility of permanent geologic disposal
- **2006** Nuclear Materials and Waste Management Program Act (15 years)
- **2010** ANDRA receives government approval to site repository within 200 km² “transposition” zone
- **2015** Target date for licensing a repository
- **2025** Target date for repository operation



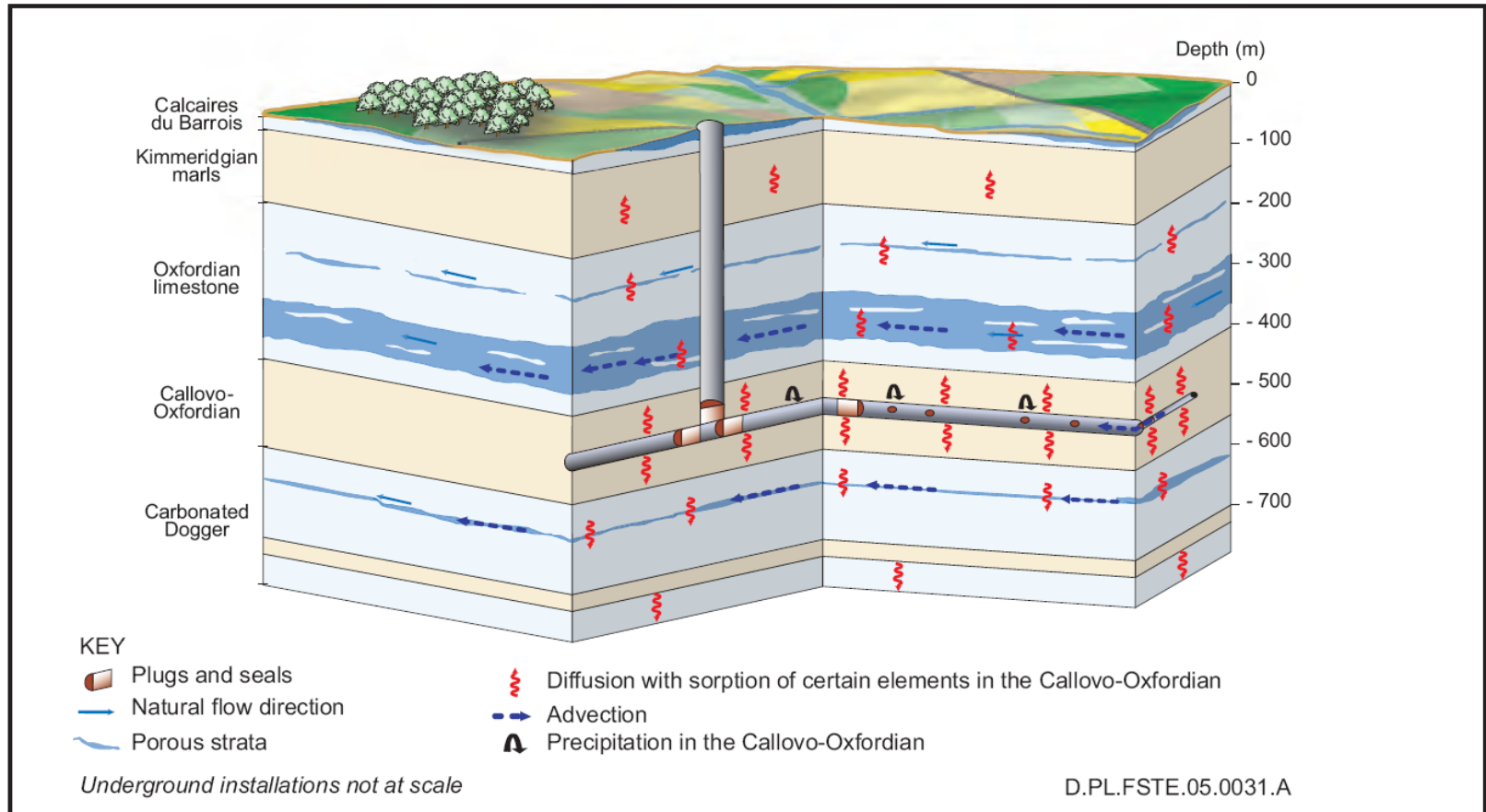
Reference Concept for HLW Disposal in Clay/Shale Media

- Horizontal emplacement
- Limited engineered barriers
 - Stainless steel pour canister
 - Single-canister overpack
 - Clay-based borehole seals
 - Access drift backfill
 - Zone and shaft seals
- Waste isolation strategy
 - Low permeability host rock
 - Re-sealing fractures in EDZ
 - Chemically reducing conditions inhibit oxidative degradation, and radionuclide solubility (pyrite, natural organic matter in host clay)
 - Limited sources of groundwater inflow/outflow



France: Dossier 2005 Performance Assessment

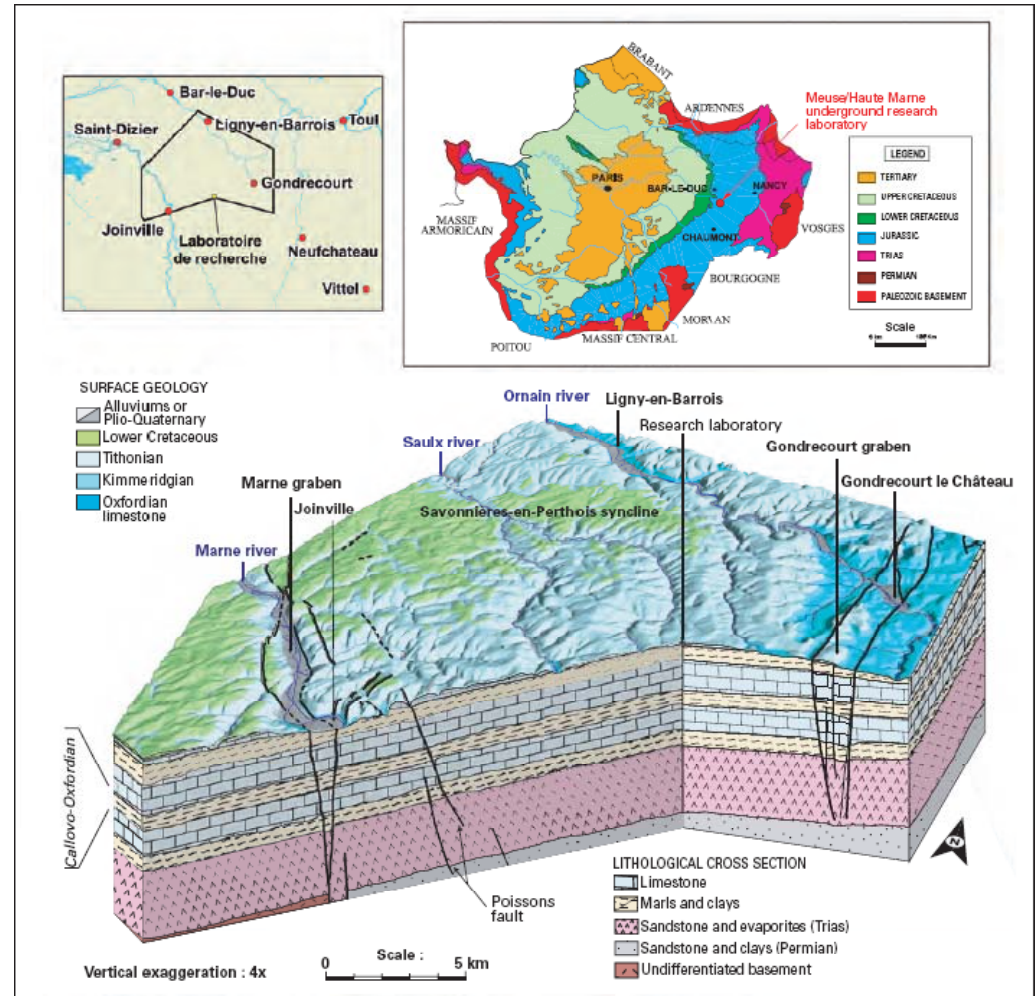
Processes Affecting Waste Radionuclide Fate and Transport



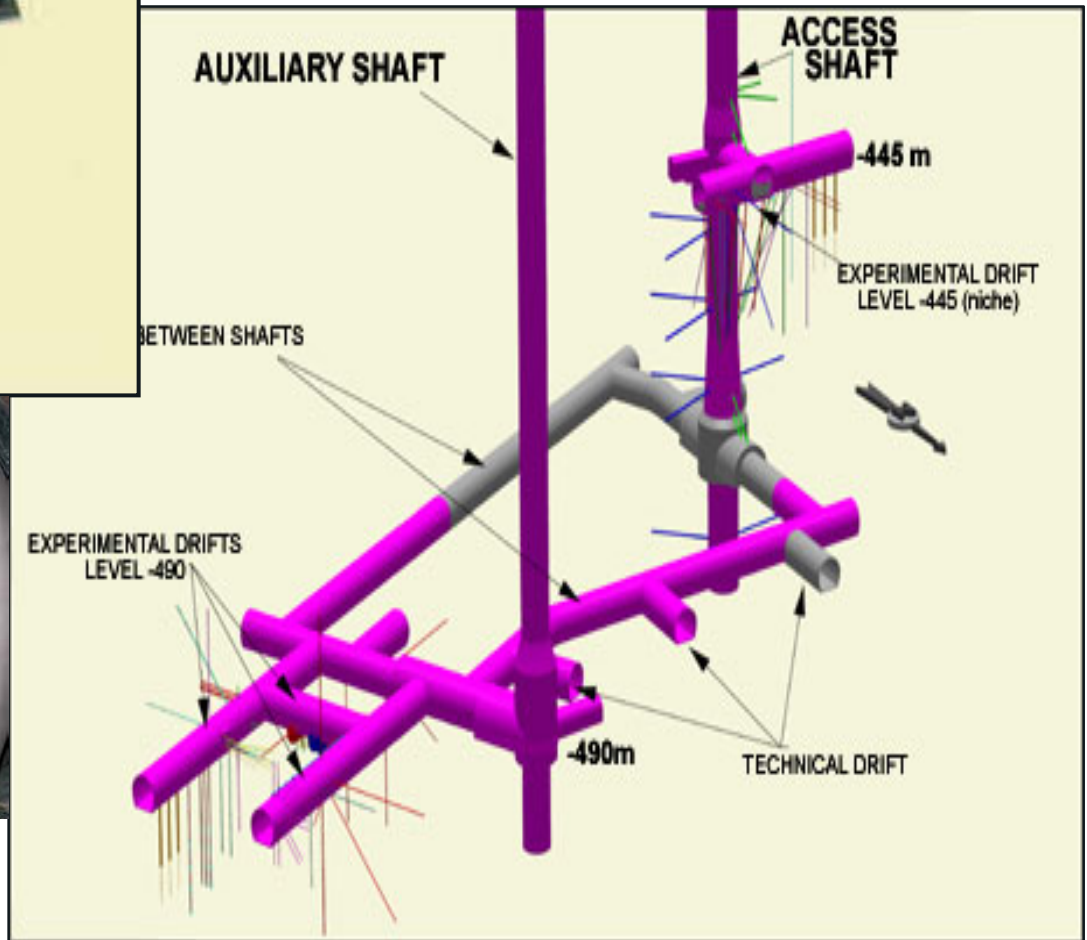
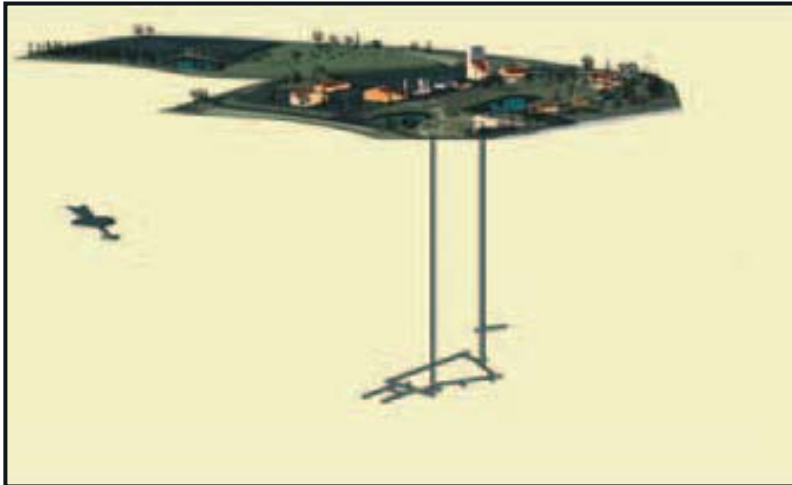
Source: ANDRA Dossier 2005 Argile Synthesis

Meuse/Haute-Marne URL (Bure, France)

- Study conditions for HLW disposal in argillite
- Slightly dipping ($\sim 1^\circ$ NW) Paris Basin sediments
- 155 Myr age
- Sequence of limestone, clay, marl, sandstone, evaporites



Meuse/Haute-Marne URL Layout



Meuse/Haute-Marne URL Research

- **Surface-Based Studies**

- Borehole measurement of mechanical properties, permeability, and diffusion properties
- 2D and 3D geophysical surveys
- Hydrogeological monitoring
- Seismic (earthquake) monitoring network

- **Underground Studies During Shaft Sinking**

- Detailed geology
- Water collection and flow-rate measurements in overlying strata
- Monitoring rock mechanical behavior including EDZ

- **Underground Studies at -500 m**

- Permeability and radionuclide diffusion measurements
- Investigation of rock mechanical behavior including EDZ
- Monitoring of pore water chemistry
- Performance tests on grooves filled with swelling clay
- Thermal conductivity measurements
- Heater tests for coupled THM response
- Large diameter borings

France - Geologic Repository Regulatory Context

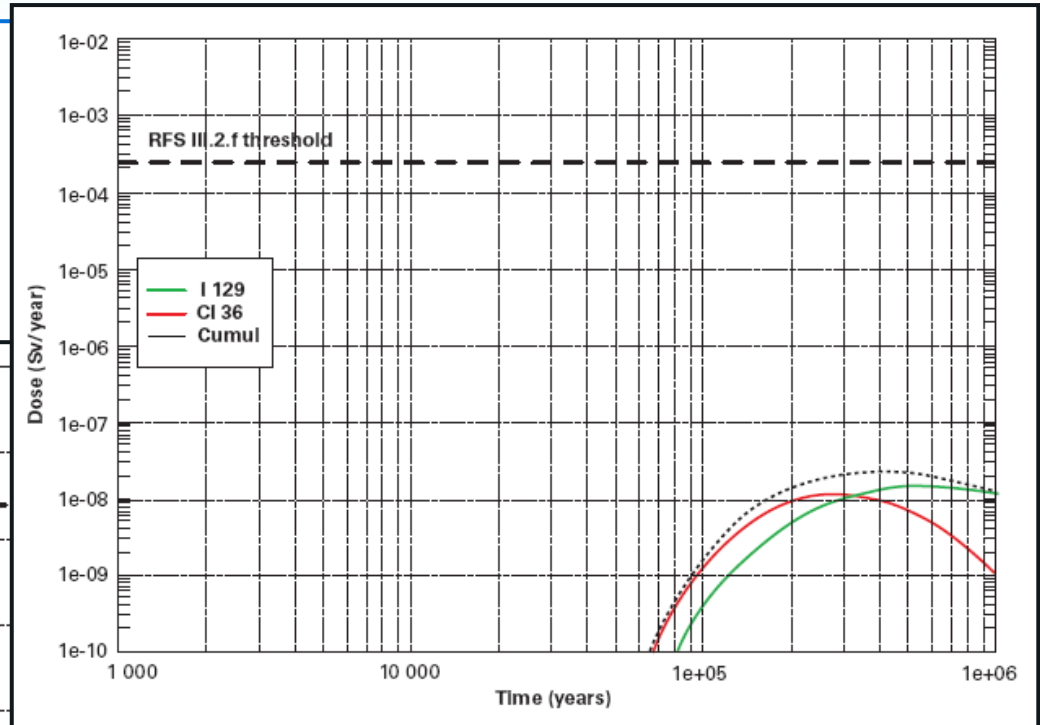
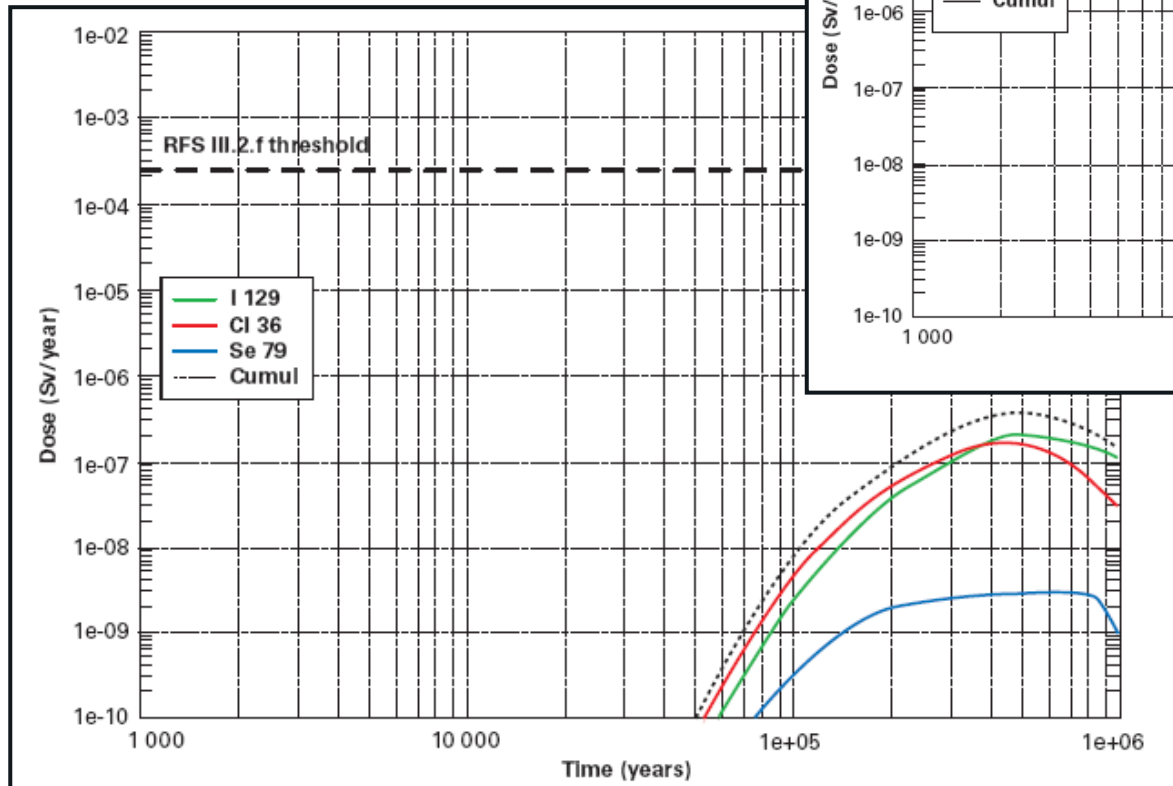
Final repository dose-based standards:

- RFS III.2.f Safety Rule (issued 1991)
 - Impact of a repository to a level **as low as reasonably achievable**
 - Individual long-term dose limit: **0.25 mSv/yr** (normal conditions)
 - Necessitates a **multi-barrier** disposal concept, i.e., waste packages, the engineered barrier, and the geological medium itself.
 - Major expectations with respect to a potential site:
 - Long-term geodynamic stability (esp. no significant earthquake risk)
 - No important water circulation in the geological medium
 - Adequate mechanical properties of the rocks to allow excavation
 - Radionuclide isolation properties of the geological medium
 - Sufficient depth
 - No exploitable outstanding natural resources in the vicinity

France: Dossier 2005 Performance Assessment

Worst case outlet (Saulx River).
Scenario S1b (single-recycle MOX);
42,300 MTHM reprocessed.

Reference Bitumized Waste
(Type B packages) >>>



<<< Reference HLW glass
(Type C1+C2 packages)

Source: ANDRA Dossier 2005
Argile Synthesis

France: Important FEPs in Clay Repository Assessment

- **Relatively significant processes**
 - Robust radionuclide attenuation processes (radioactive decay, precipitation, sorption)
- **Insignificant processes**
 - Thermal effects
 - Early container failure
 - Colloidal transport
 - Non-performing seals
- **Important uncertainties**
 - Transport along repository drifts and EDZ
 - Effectiveness of plugs and seals, “dead-end” repository architecture
 - Advective-diffusive (Peclet) transport along intersecting discontinuities (if any)

Switzerland - Nuclear Waste Management

(previous slide)

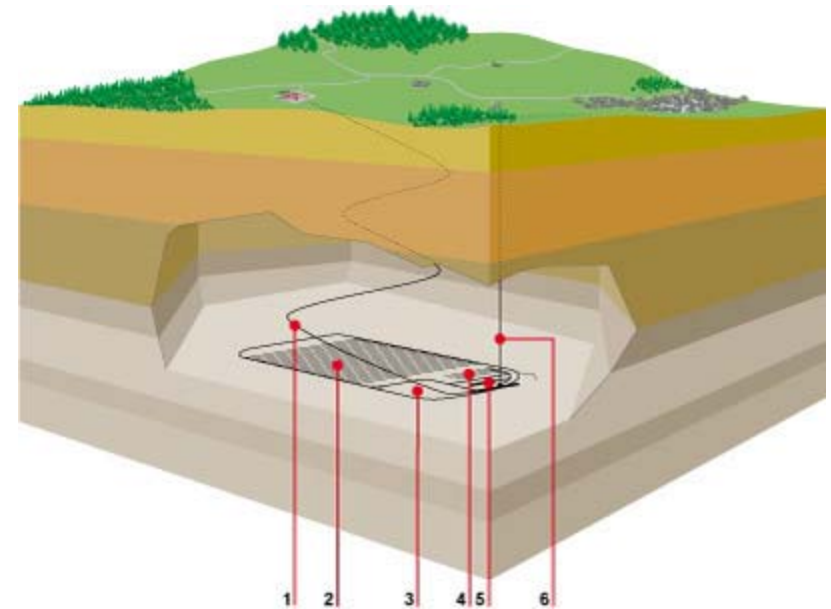
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(previous slide)

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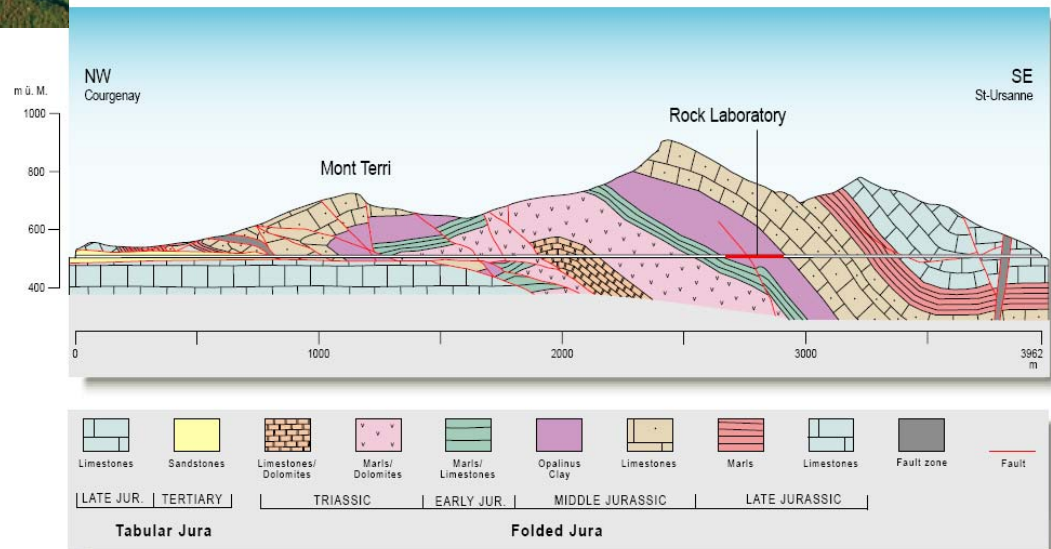


Mont Terri Rock Laboratory (Switzerland)



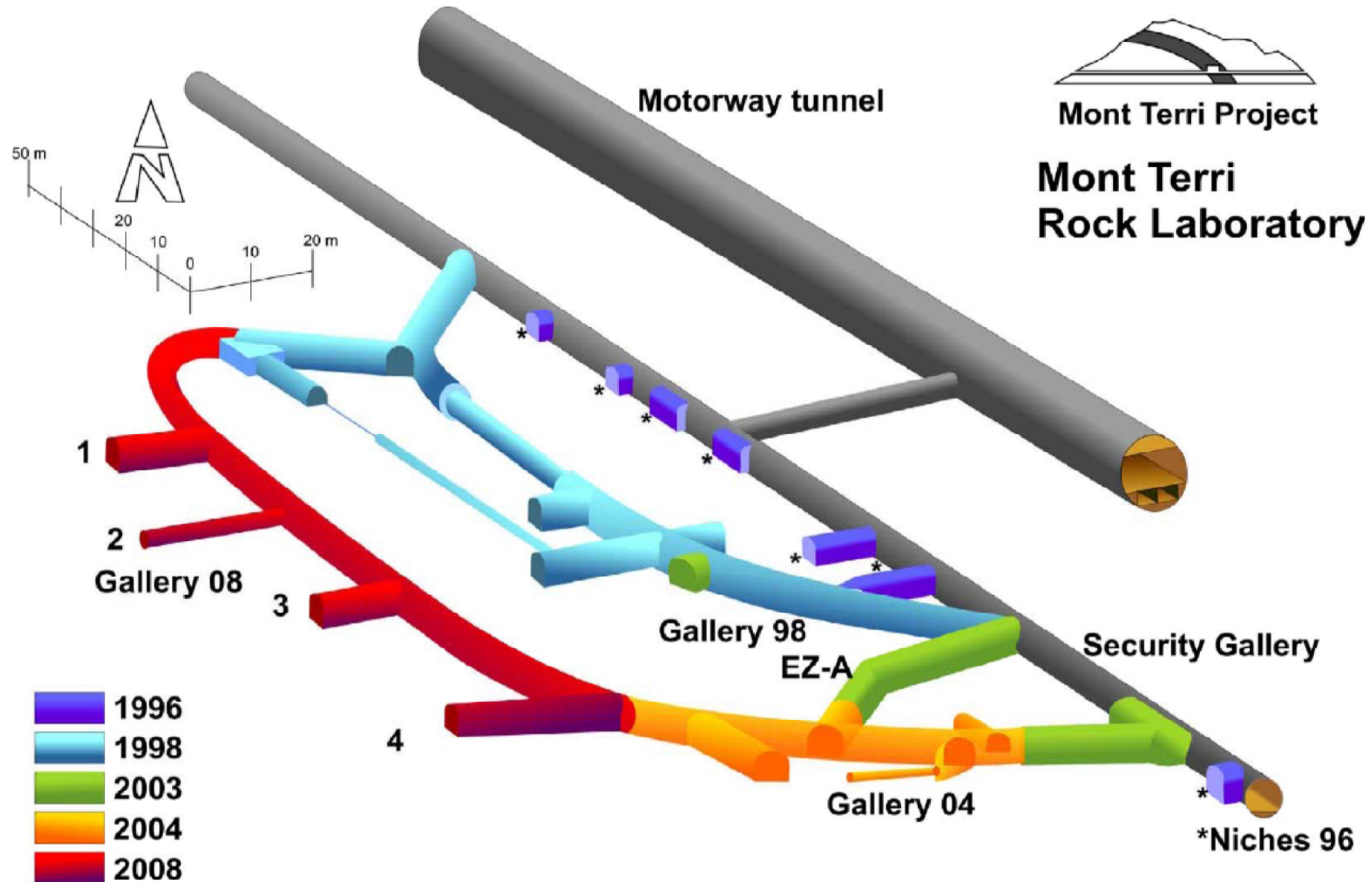
- Project timeline
 - **1989** Excavation of reconnaissance gallery from motorway tunnel.
 - **1996** Mont Terri rock laboratory construction initiated
 - **1996-present** International collaborations/experiments

- Project Opalinus Clay
- Investigate clay lithology
- Simpler geologic structure to the west (tabular Jura)



Michael Freivogel (2001, University of Basel)

Mont Terri URL Layout



Mont Terri URL Research Program

- **Characterization of Opalinus Clay**
 - Fluid/gas advective transport properties
 - Diffusion properties
 - Geomechanical stress conditions and deformability
 - Geochemical properties (pore water, sorption)
- **Investigate excavation disturbed zone (EDZ)**
 - Evolution of EDZ (formation of fractures, changes in pore water pressure, hydraulic conductivities, stress distribution, chemistry, mineralogy)
 - Thermal-hydrologic-mechanical coupling
- **Evaluate characterization methods**
 - Pore pressure
 - Pore water sampling
 - Hydraulic and gas permeability testing
 - EDZ characterization
 - Stress and deformation measurements
 - Advective and diffusive transport studies
- **Repository engineering demonstrations**

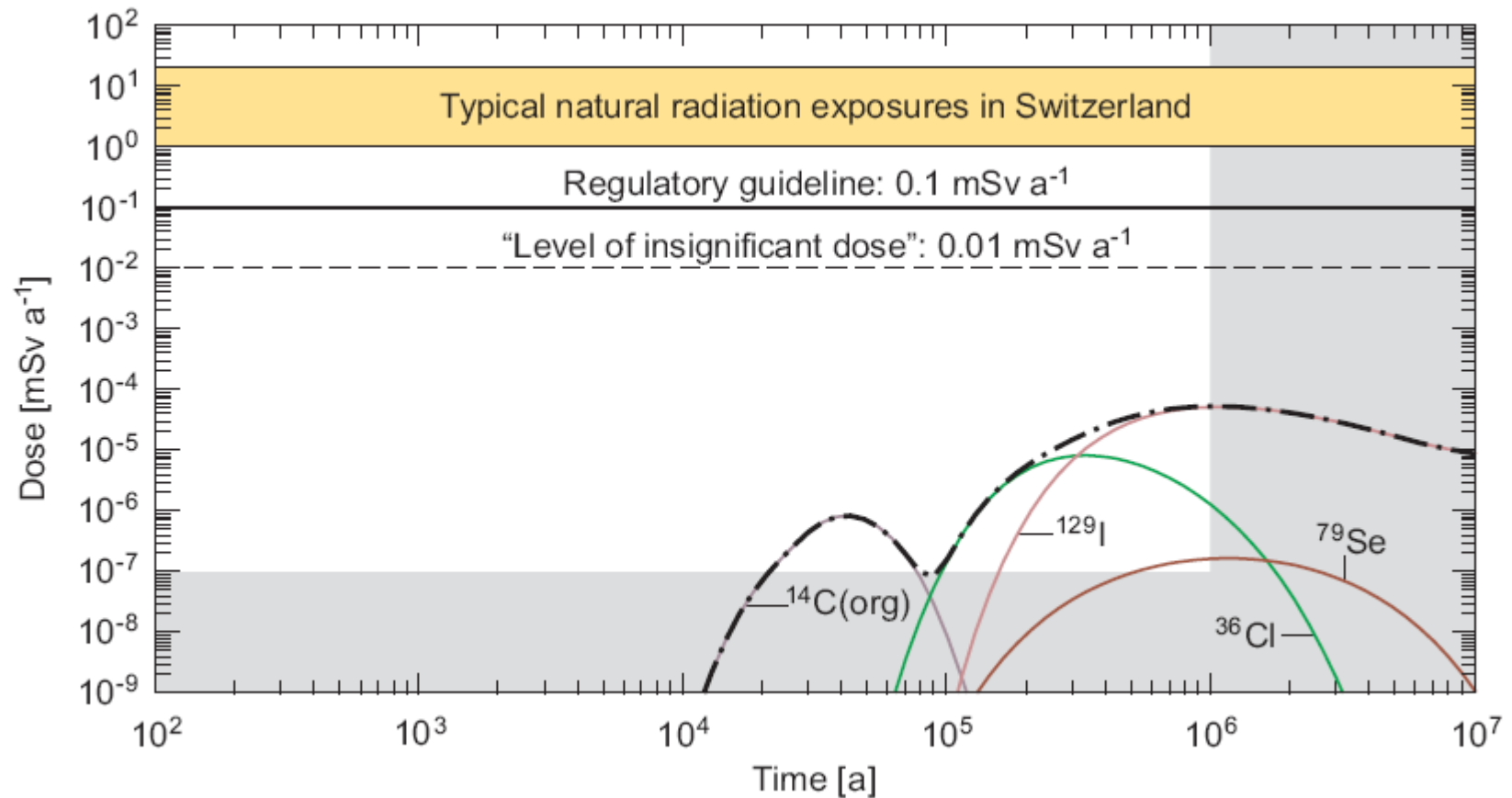
Guideline ENSI-G03: Protection Objectives for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste

- Individual Radiological Protection
 - Dose limit: 0.1 mSv/yr
 - Performance for “less likely” conditions (e.g., disturbed, must be defined) : risk of fatality $< 10^{-6}/\text{yr}$
- Risks may not be greater in other countries than are permissible in Switzerland
- Staged, passively functioning (multiple) natural and engineered barriers
- Future use of natural resources must not be unnecessarily restricted by the presence of a repository
- Biodiversity may not be put at risk by geological disposal.
- Alternatives are to be considered with a view to **optimising** operational and long-term safety



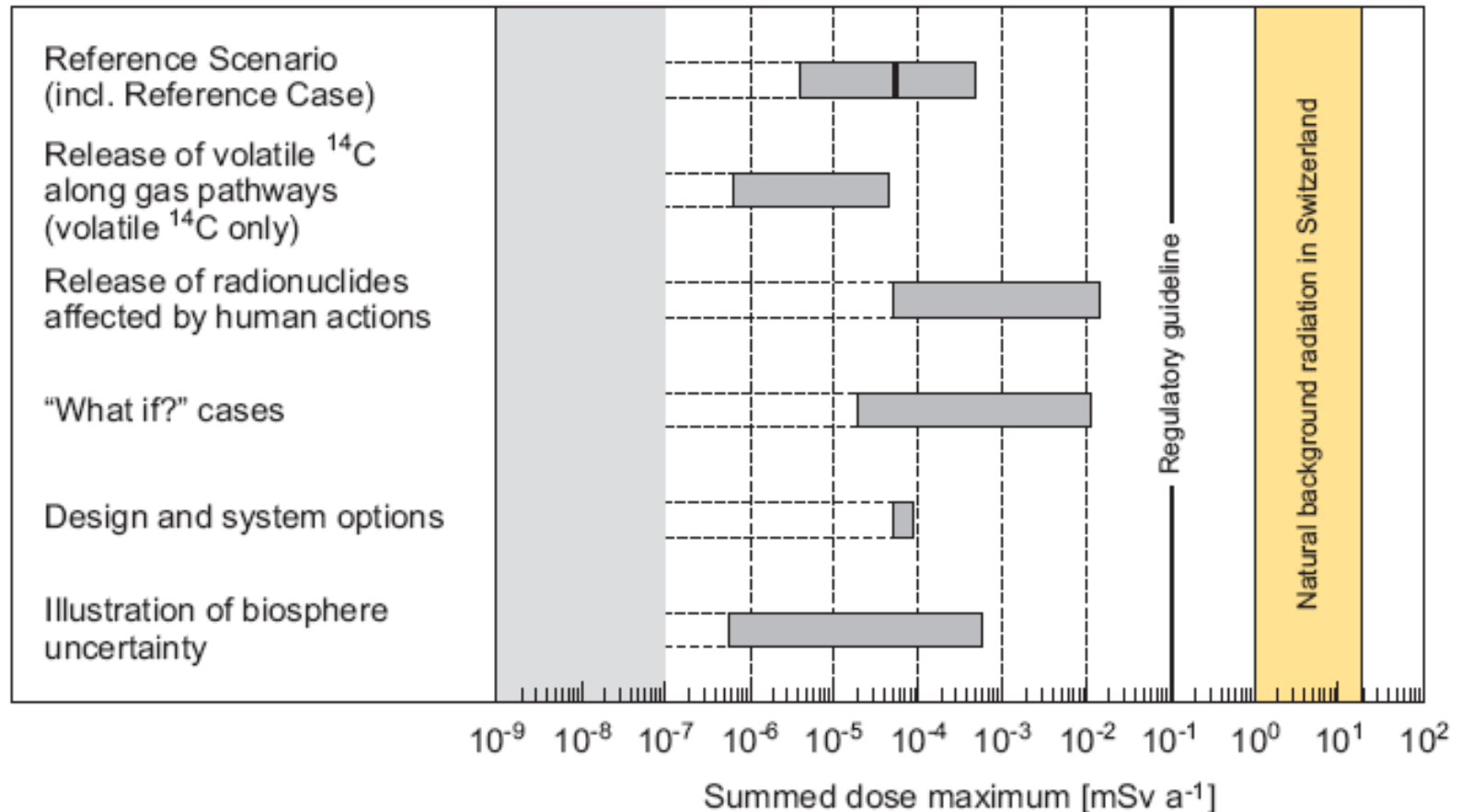
Switzerland: 2002 Performance Assessment

Generic assessment, nominal scenario, combining ILW, HLW, spent fuel.



Source: NAGRA NTB 02-05 Project Opalinus Clay

Switzerland: Important FEPs in Clay Repository Assessment



Source: NAGRA NTB 02-05 Project Opalinus Clay

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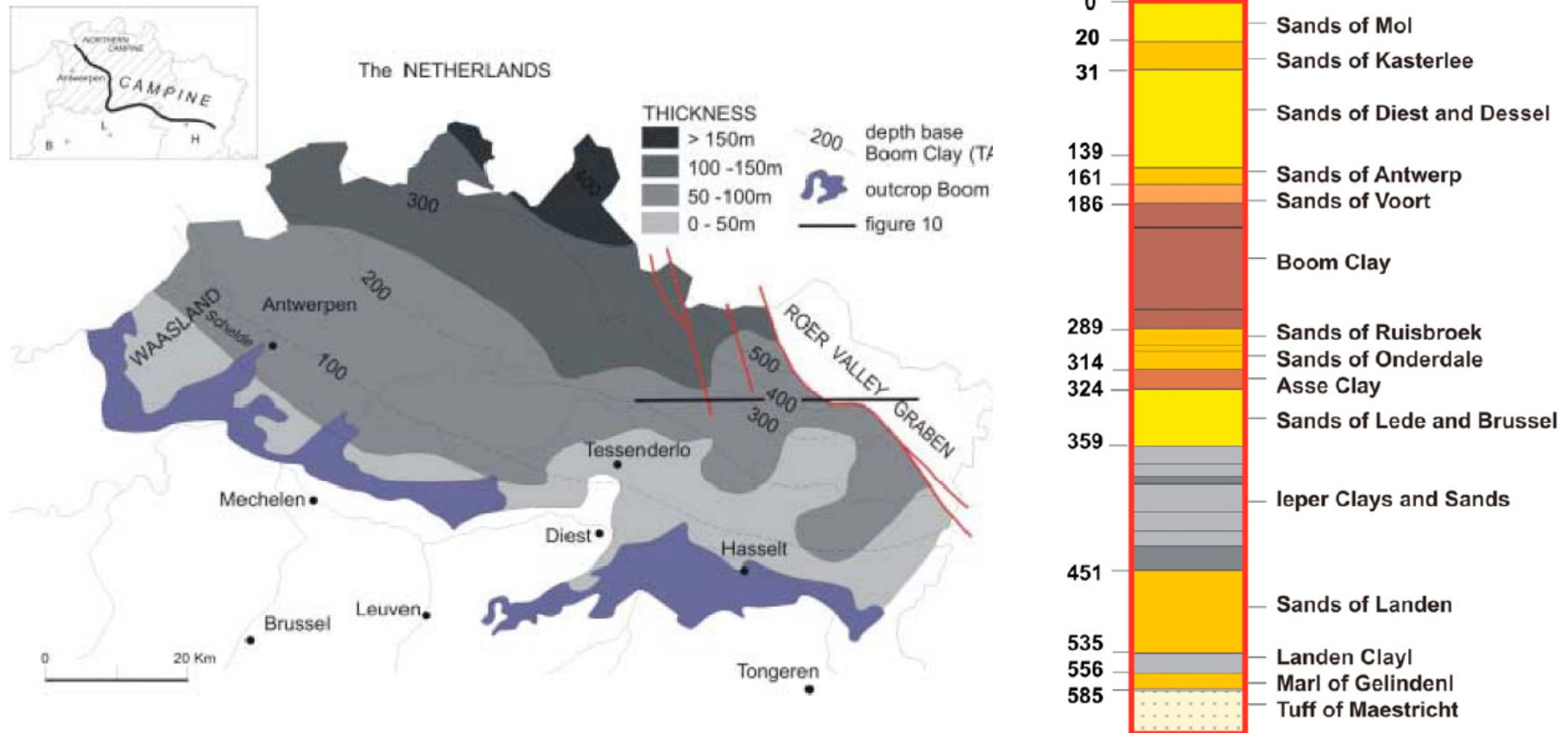


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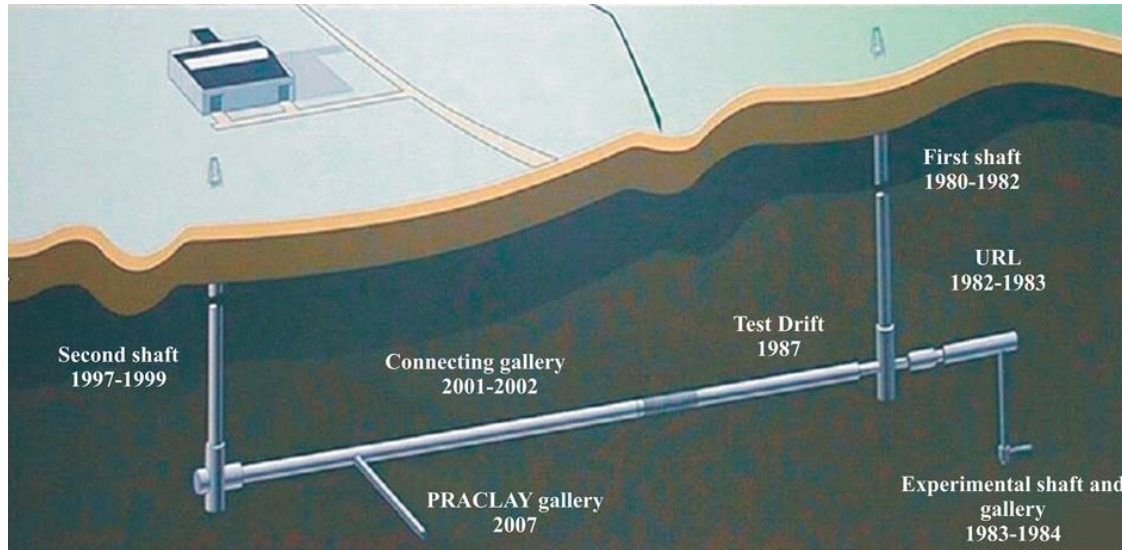
Belgium: High-Activity Disposal Experiment Site (HADES) URL

- Study radioactive waste disposal in Boom Clay Formation
- Project timeline
 - 1952 - Belgian Nuclear Research Center (SCK-CEN) established
 - 1974 - SCK-CEN begins study of Boom Clay formation beneath Mol-Dessel nuclear zone
 - 1980 - Belgian Agency for Radioactive Waste and Fissile Materials (ONDRAF/NIRAS) established
 - 1980 -1987 Construction of HADES URL
 - 1989 - Safety Assessment and Interim Feasibility Report (SAFIR)
 - 2003 - SAFIR2 report

Boom Clay Formation



HADES Underground Research Facility (Mol)



- Plastic Boom Clay
- Thickness ~100 m
- URL depth ~ 225 m
- 30 Myr geologic age
- Hydraulic conductivity ($k \sim 10^{-12}$ m/s)
- Anisotropy ($k_h \sim 2 \times k_v$)
- 25% water content
- 1 to 5% organic matter

Summary of URL Investigations

- Identify/characterize discontinuities (fractures, faults) and lithologic heterogeneity, of the Boom Clay
- Measure the effects from discontinuities and heterogeneities on the migration of radionuclides
- Characterize coupled thermo-hydro-mechanical behavior in response to excavation and heating
- Support modeling of regional and local hydrogeology

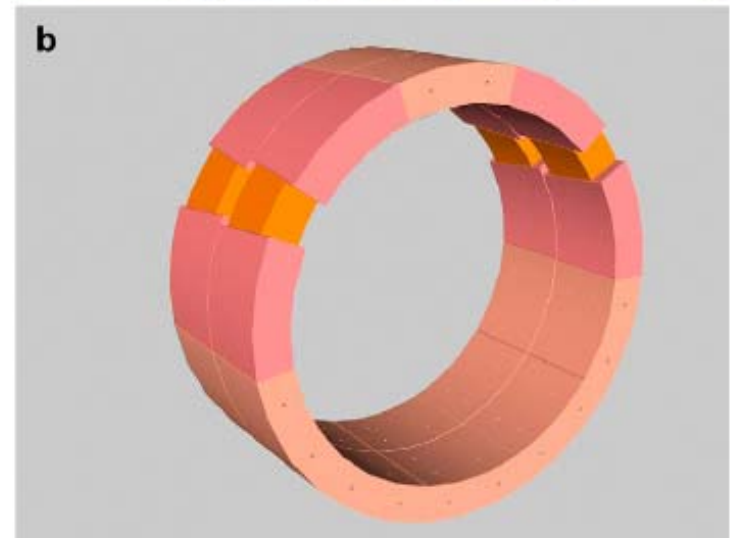


HADES URL - Boom Clay



Photos from HADES URL, Boom Clay

Source: van Marcke &
Bastien 2010. *J. Struct.
Geol.* 1-8.



(above)

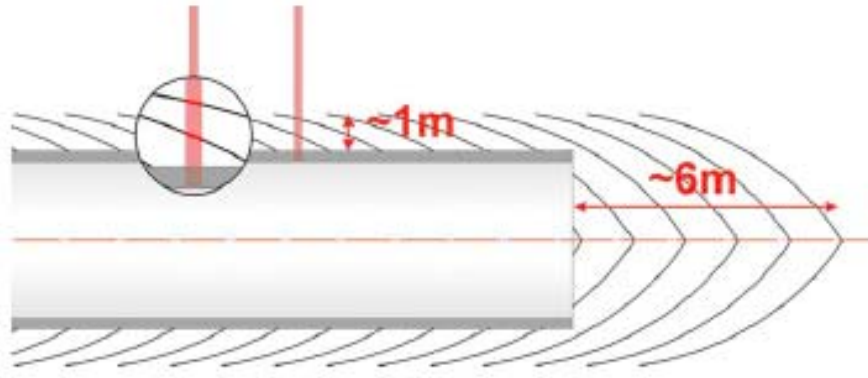
Fully shielded tunnel boring machine, road
header

(right)

(a) Completed Connecting Gallery

(b) Pre-cast concrete liner schematic

HADES URL - Boom Clay



Excavation Induced Fracturing, Boom Clay

(above)

Conjugate fracture pattern

(a) Fractures observed in tunnel wall.

(b) Fractures observed on excavation face.



Source: van Marcke & Bastiens 2010. *J. Struct. Geol.* 1-8.

Summary

- Repository development in crystalline rock
 - Sweden, Finland plan pilot-scale repository operations in 2015-2020 time frame
 - Engineered barrier strategies emphasizing clay buffer behaviors
- Repository development in clay/shale media
 - France plans pilot-scale repository operations in 2020 time frame
 - Natural barrier strategy emphasizing diffusion dominated transport
- Strong international collaborations
- Siting methods have changed since mid-1990s
- Important differences in long-term safety criteria

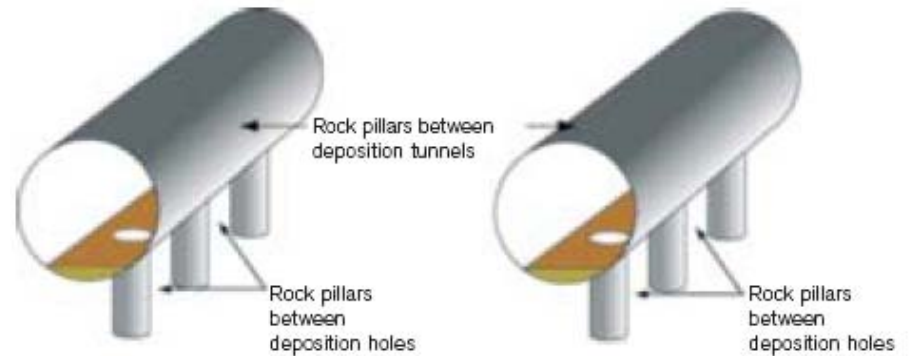
“Lessons Learned”

- Voluntary siting
 - Programs in Sweden, Finland, France, and Switzerland have adapted to political constraints
- Public access to all information (Internet)
- Flexible safety regulations
 - Dose vs. release criteria
 - Normal vs. “less likely” or disturbed conditions
 - Retain flexibility as program advances
- Phased development
 - URLs, then pilot-scale repository facilities are proposed
 - Organization size should be appropriate for each phase
 - Use international collaboration to control costs

Backup Slides

Äspö URL Research (Cont.)

- Rock Mechanics
 - Zone of excavation disturbance experiment (ZEDEX)
 - Pillar stability experiment



The fractures around the tunnel were a few centimetres deep.



The fractures around a drilled-and-blasted tunnel are much deeper. They were around 30 centimetres in the walls.

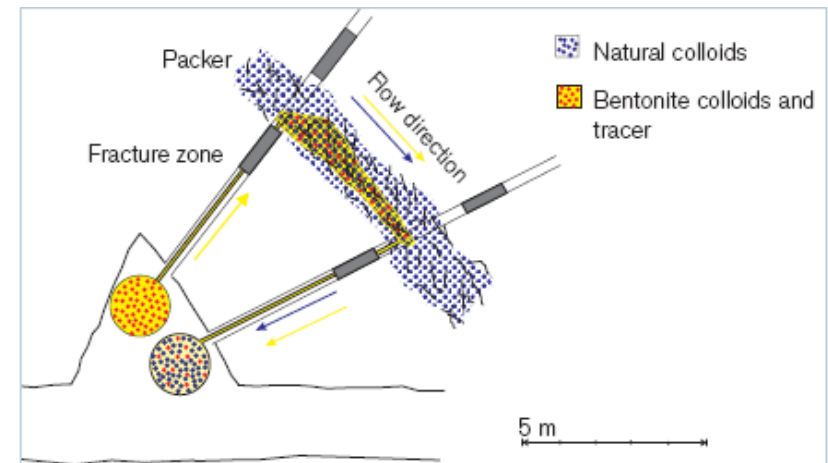
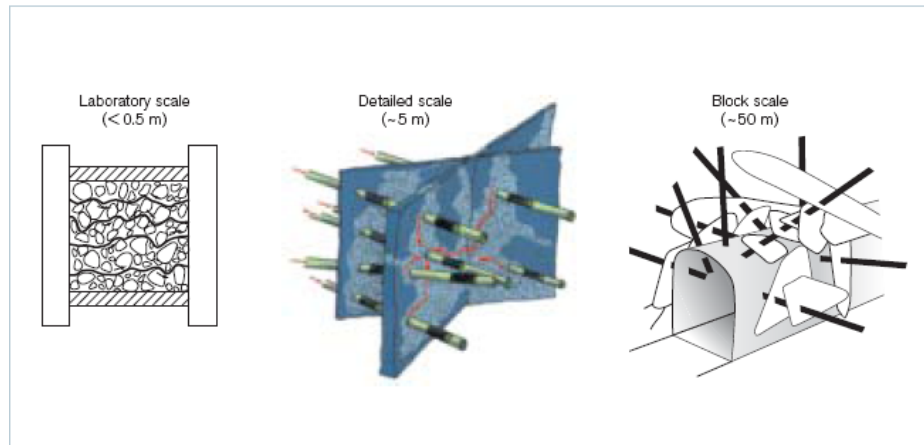
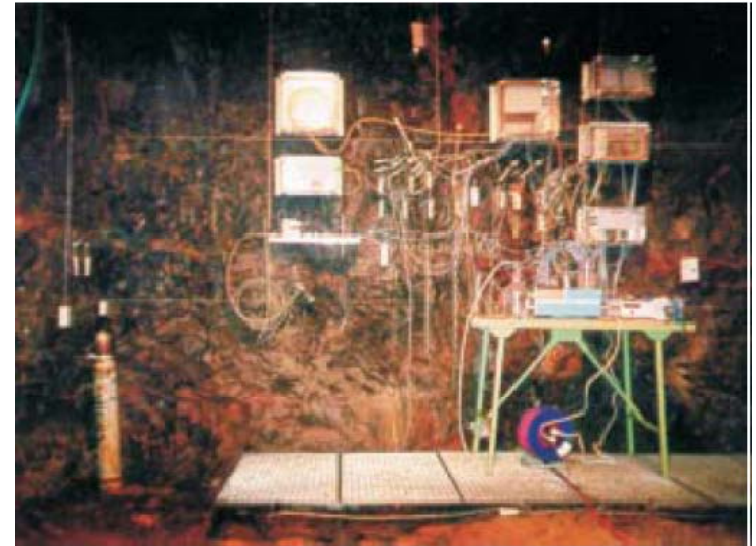


Fractured rock mass in rock pillar.



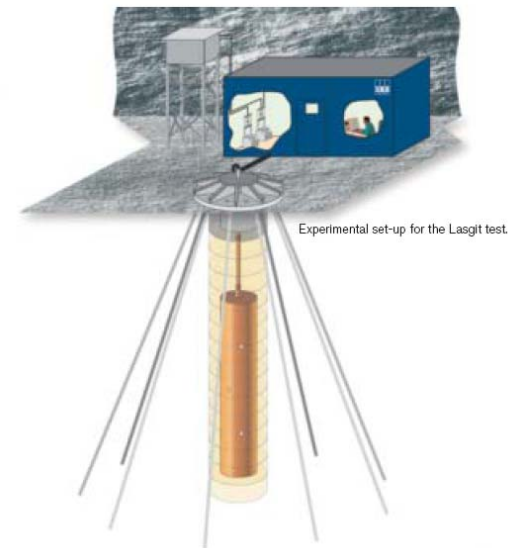
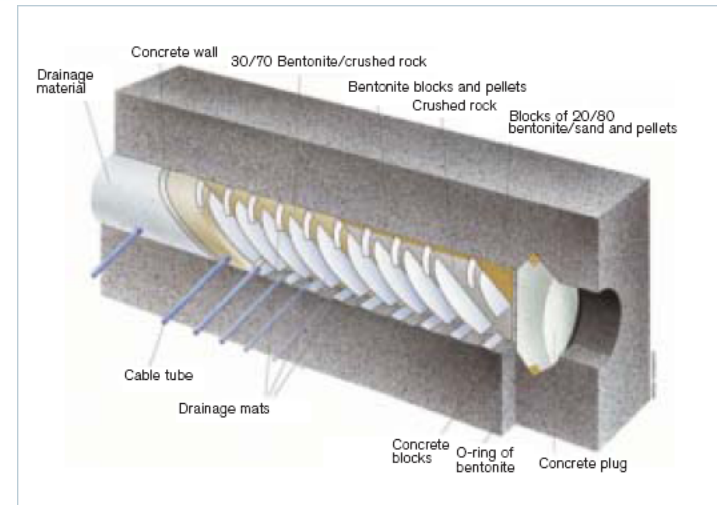
Äspö URL Research

- Groundwater Flow and Radionuclide Transport
 - Two-phase flow project
 - Colloid project
 - Radionuclide retention experiment (RNR)
 - Tracer retention understanding experiments (TRUE)
 - Long-term diffusion experiment (LTDE)
 - Matrix fluid chemistry experiment
 - Redox experiment in detailed scale (Rex)
 - Microbe project



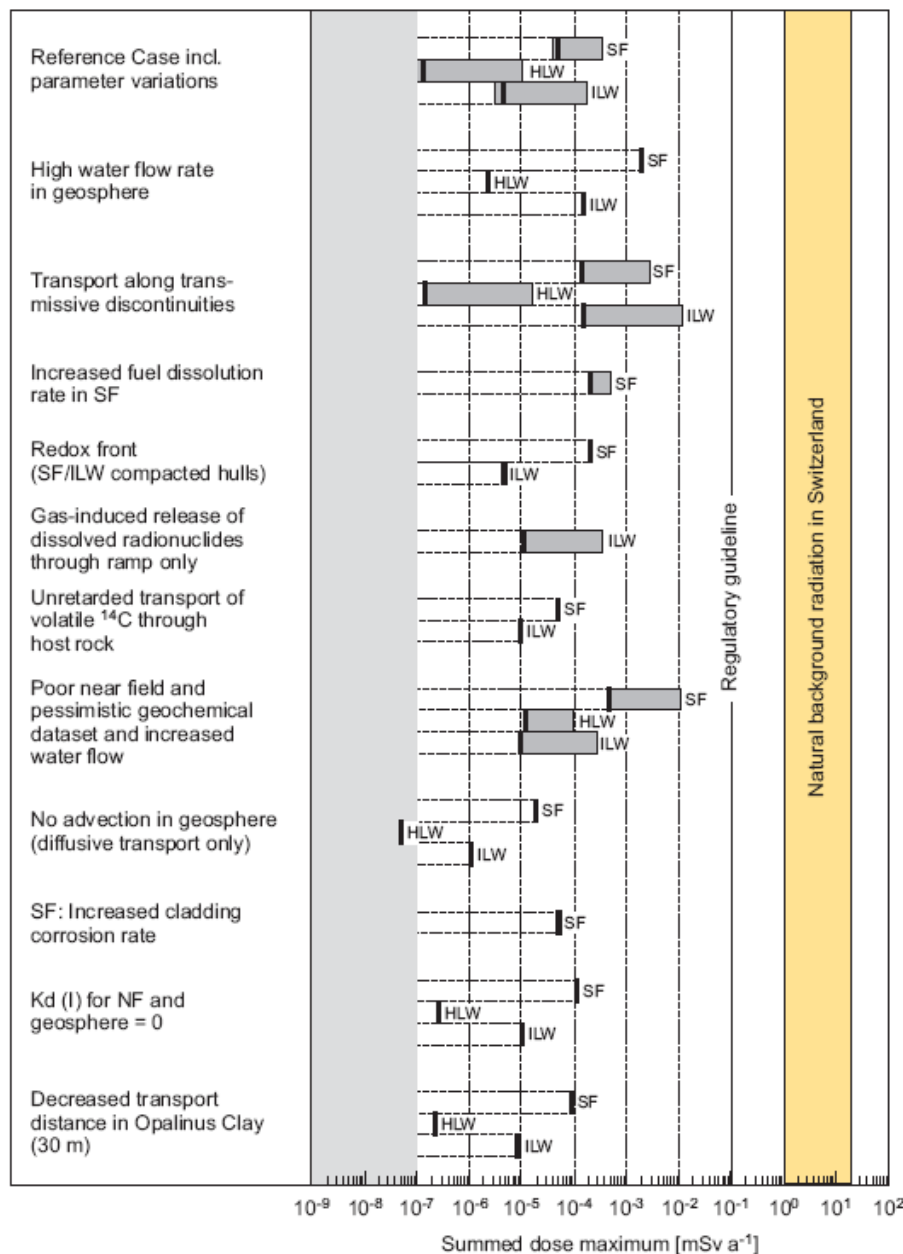
Äspö URL Research (Cont.)

- Engineered Barriers
 - Backfill and plugging test
 - Long-Term test of buffer materials (LOT)
 - Temperature buffer test
 - Large-scale gas injection test (Lasgit)



URLs in Sedimentary Rock

- France
 - Meuse/Haute Marne (Callovo-Oxfordian argillite)
 - Amelie (salt)
 - Tournemire (clay)
- Switzerland
 - Mont Terri (Opalinus claystone)
- Belgium
 - HADES (clay)
- Hungary
 - Pécs (shale)
- Germany
 - Asse, Gorleben (salt)
 - Konrad (limestone)
- Japan
 - Horonobe (mudstone)
 - Tono (sandstone)



- NAGRA 2002 Project Opalinus generic safety assessment
- Compare “what if?” cases
- Combined ILW, HLW, SF