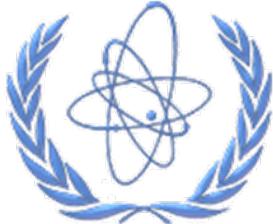


# Advanced Conceptual and Numerical Methods for Modeling Subsurface Processes Regarding Nuclear Waste Repository Systems *IAEA Network of Centers of Excellence*



Sandia  
National  
Laboratories



## International Development Activities for Repositories in Clay and Crystalline Rock



**Ernest Hardin**  
**Nuclear Waste Management Systems**  
**Sandia National Laboratories**

Sandia is a multiprogram laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a Lockheed Martin Company, for the United States Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-AC04-94AL85000. This presentation is SAND2010-XXXX X.

# 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

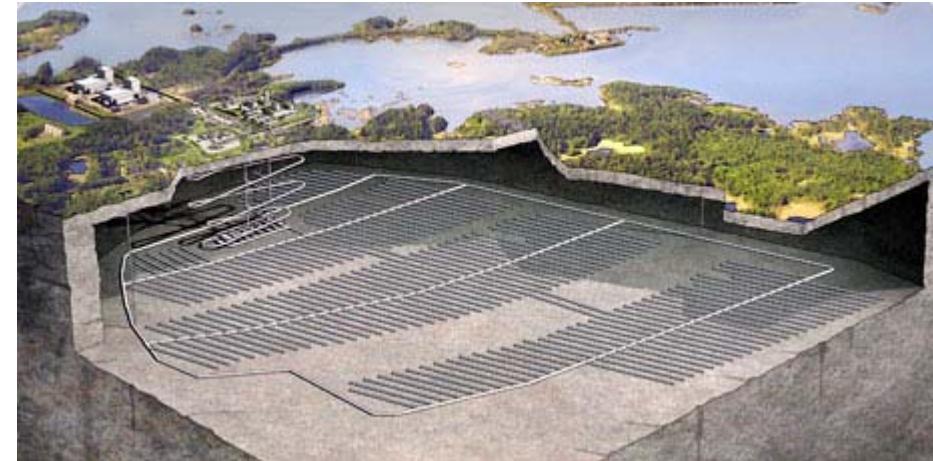
- Characterization and Siting
- URL Activities
- Regulatory Context
- Performance Assessment Results
- Important FEPs

# 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

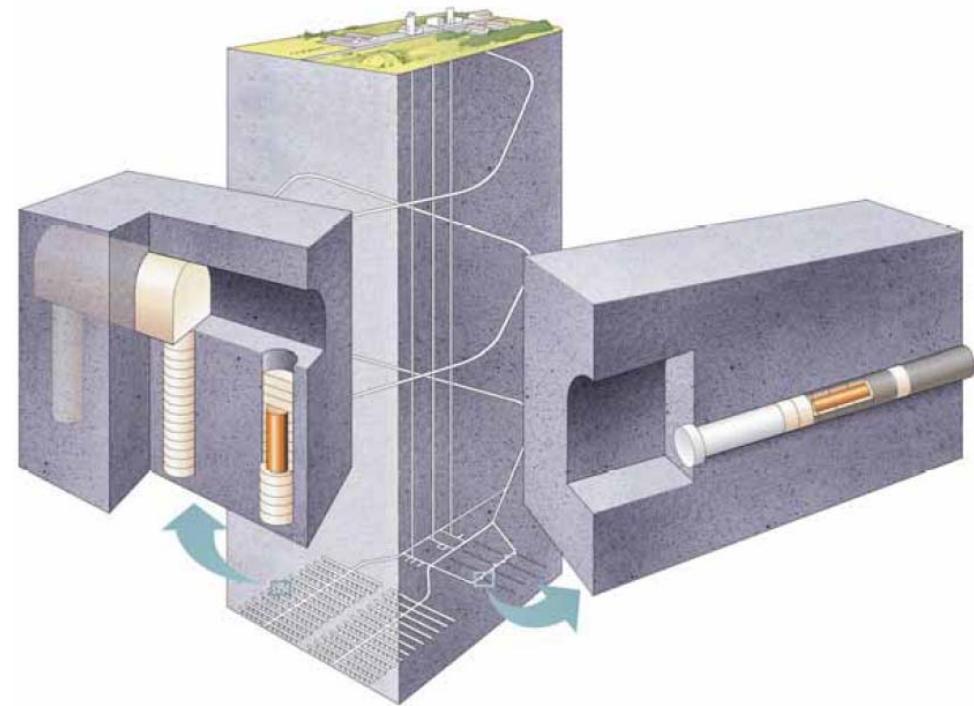


Conceptual View - Forsmark Repository, Power Station, and SFR



# Waste Isolation in Crystalline Rock: KBS-3 Concept

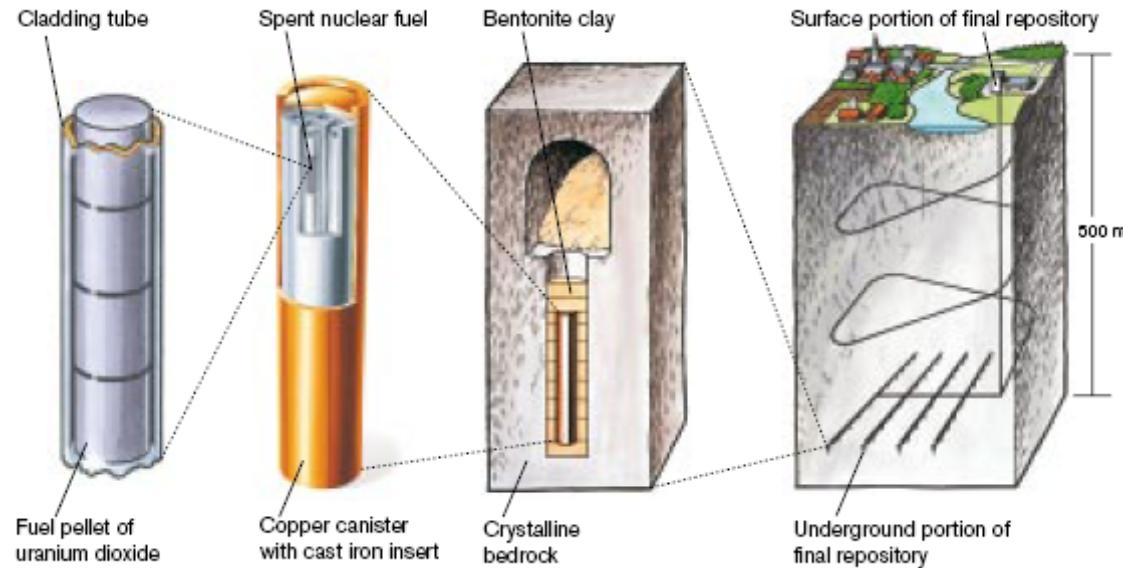
- Waste packages designed for chemically reducing conditions (Fe, Cu)
- Clay-based buffer material around waste packages
- Avoid emplacing waste packages in highly conductive faults or fractures
- Engineered clay-based backfill in access tunnels
- Borehole and shaft seals
- Vertical or horizontal emplacement



# Waste Isolation in Crystalline Rock: Buffer Integrity

- Buffer degradation:

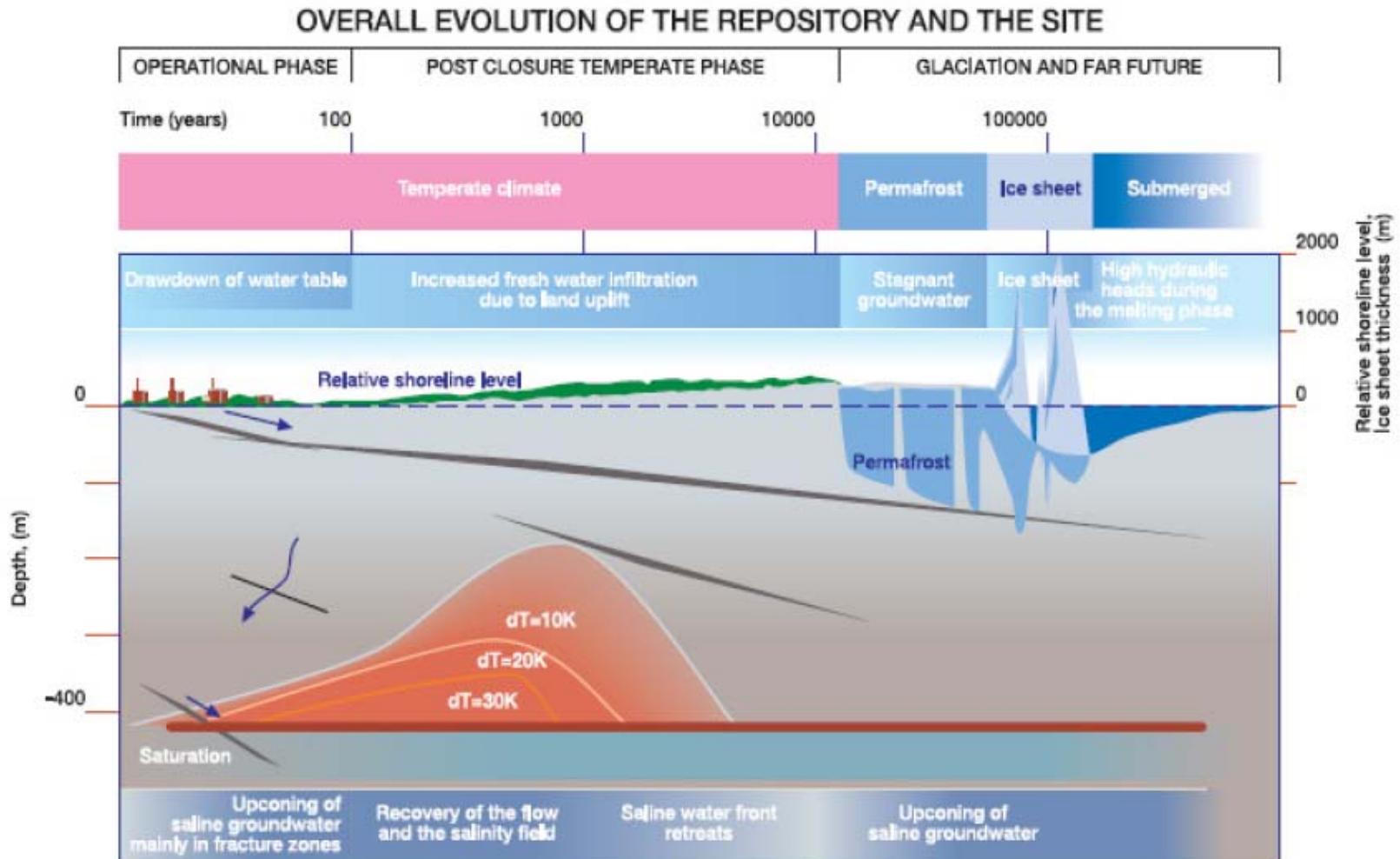
- Inhomogeneous swelling
- Piping
- Colloidal Erosion
- Creep
- Liquefaction
- Freezing



- 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  $< 1 \text{ mM}$ .
- 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.

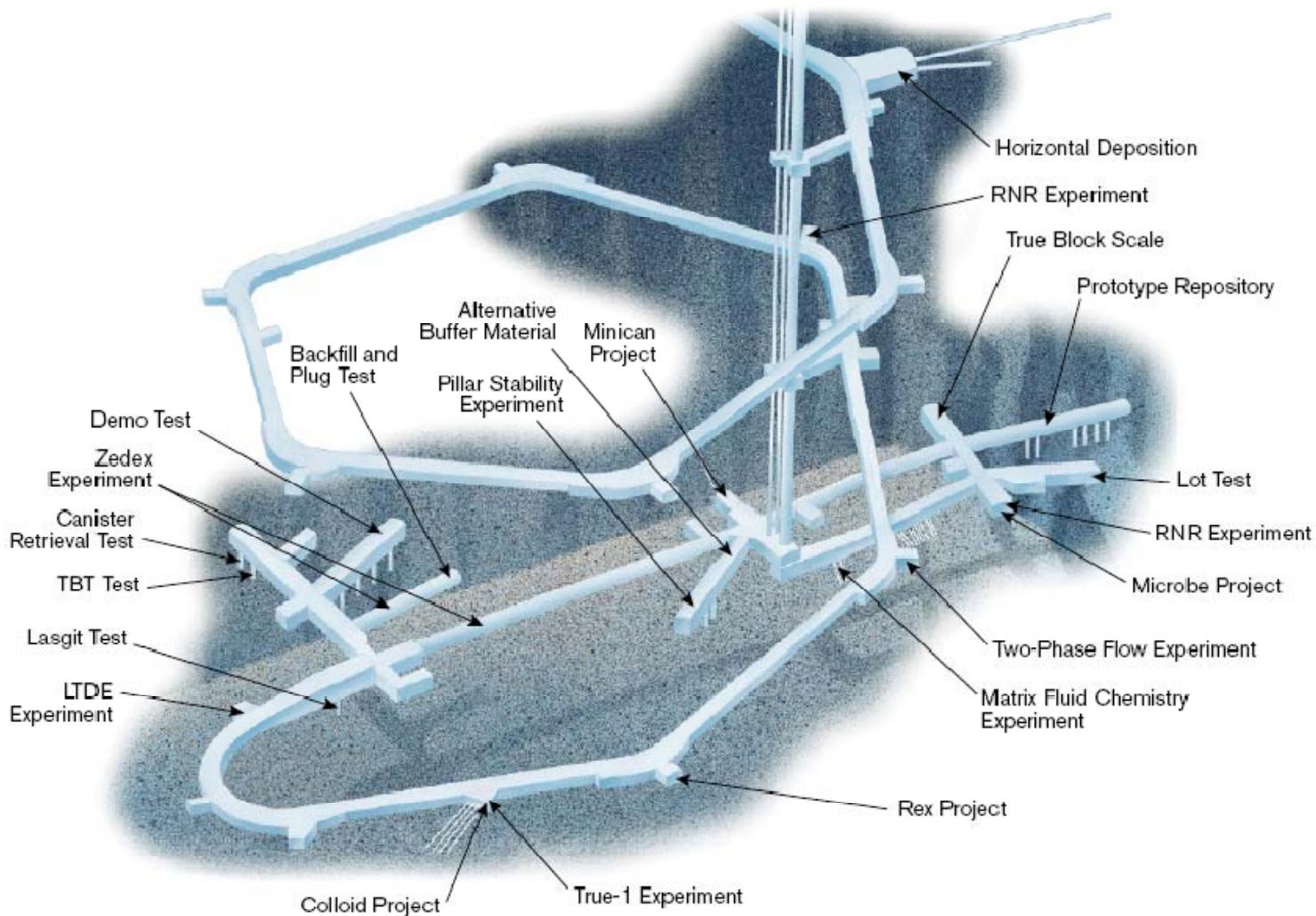
Source: SKB TR-06-09  
([http://www.skb.se/Templates/Standard\\_17139.aspx](http://www.skb.se/Templates/Standard_17139.aspx))

# 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



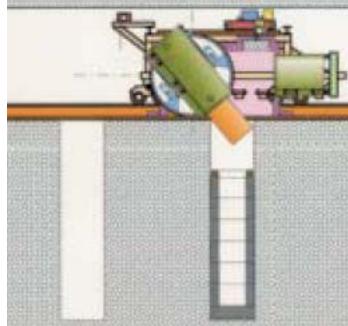
# Äspö URL Research (Cont.)

- Prototype repository
  - Full-scale
  - Model testing



# Äspö URL Research (Cont.)

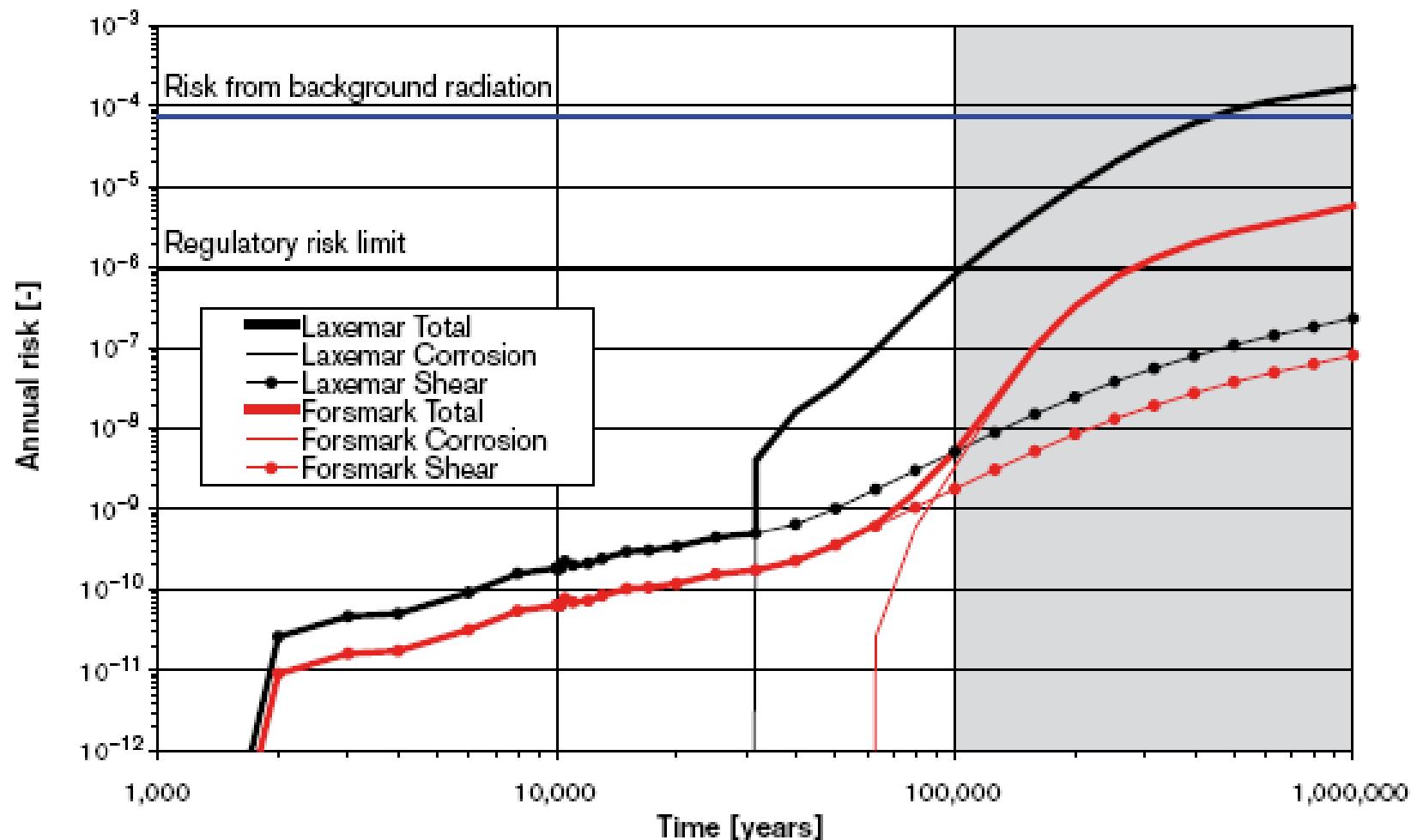
- Waste Handling
  - Horizontal emplacement
  - Vertical emplacement
  - Canister retrieval test



# 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  $1.4 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Sv/yr} = 1.4 \text{ mRem/yr}$  (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

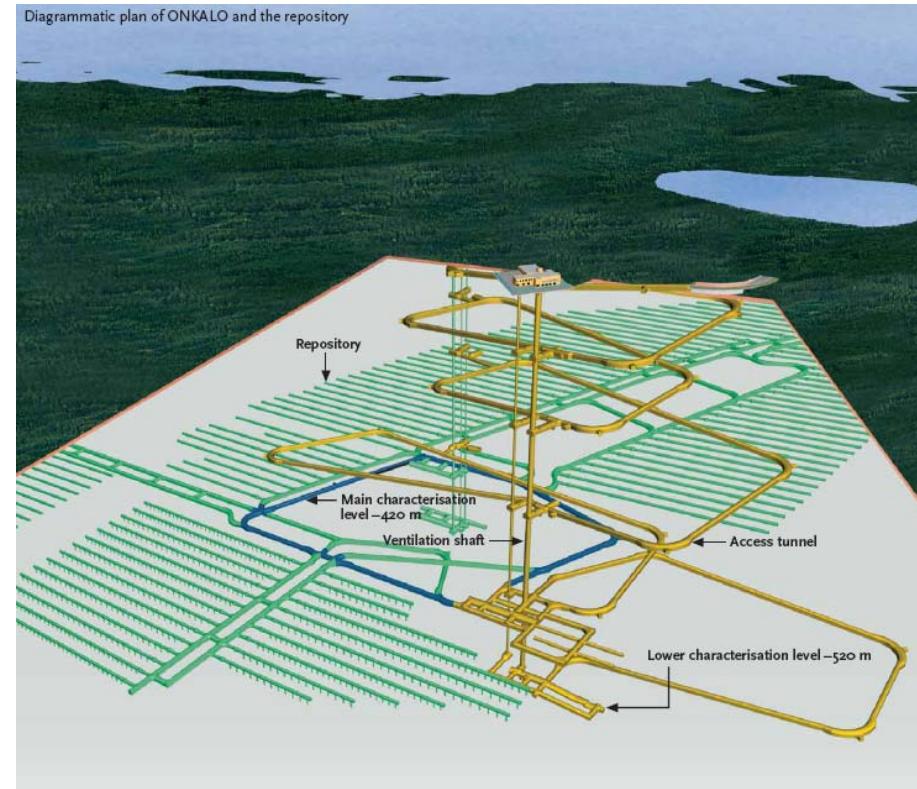
- **Relatively significant processes**
  - Buffer advection/canister corrosion
  - Future human activity
- **Insignificant processes**
  - Isostatic loading
  - Buffer freezing
  - Canister failure due to shear movement on fractures
- **Important uncertainties**
  - Buffer exposure to glacial melt waters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

# Finland - Nuclear Waste Management

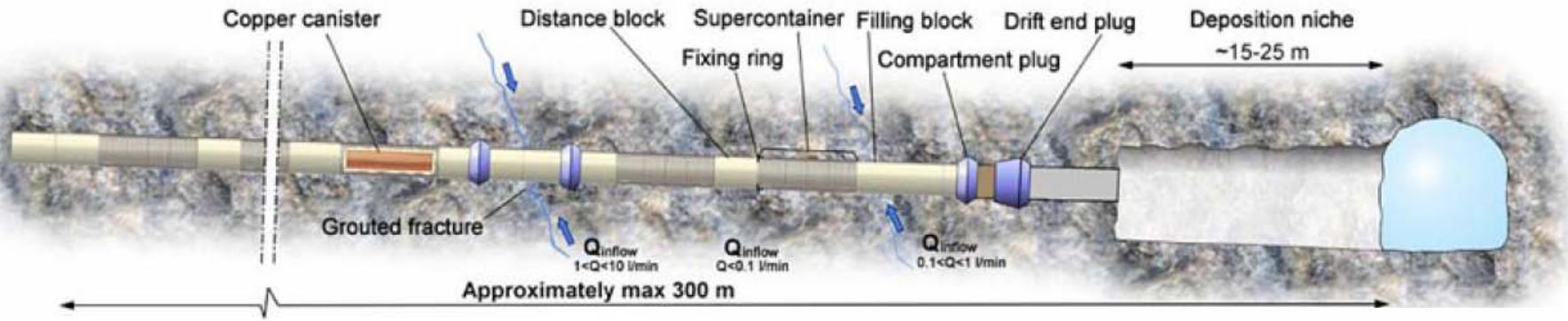
- Finland: 5 reactors (4 operating, one in construction)
- Approximately 5,500 MTHM HLW (spent fuel) in 2,800 waste packages
- KBS-3H system concept proposed (2007)
- Borehole emplacement
  - 2 MTHM/waste package
  - (Up to 10 MTHM/waste package can be achieved with larger packages and in-drift emplacement)
- 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

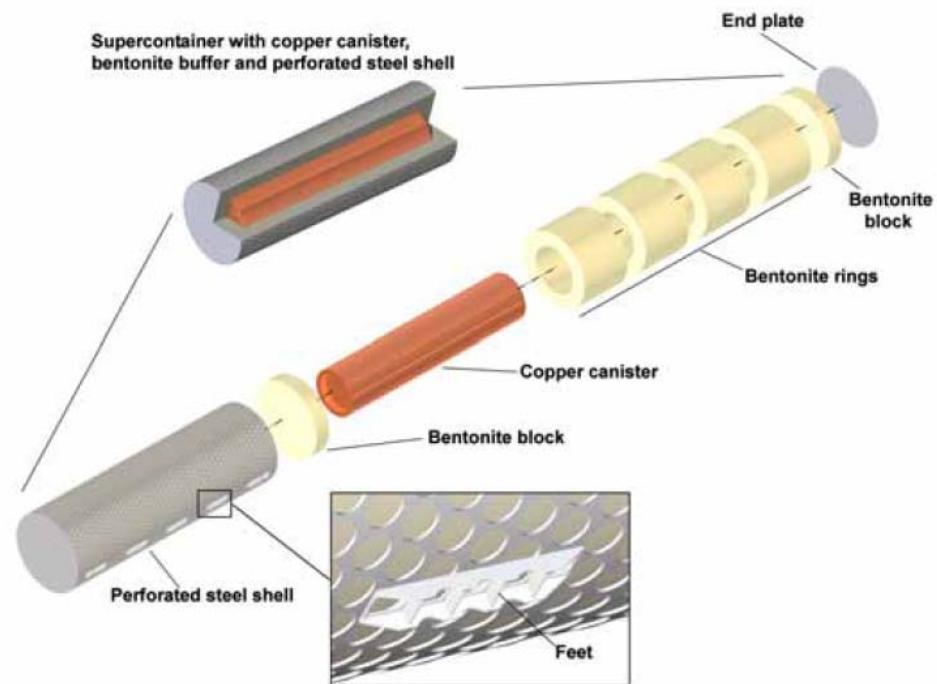


# Finland: Horizontal Borehole Emplacement



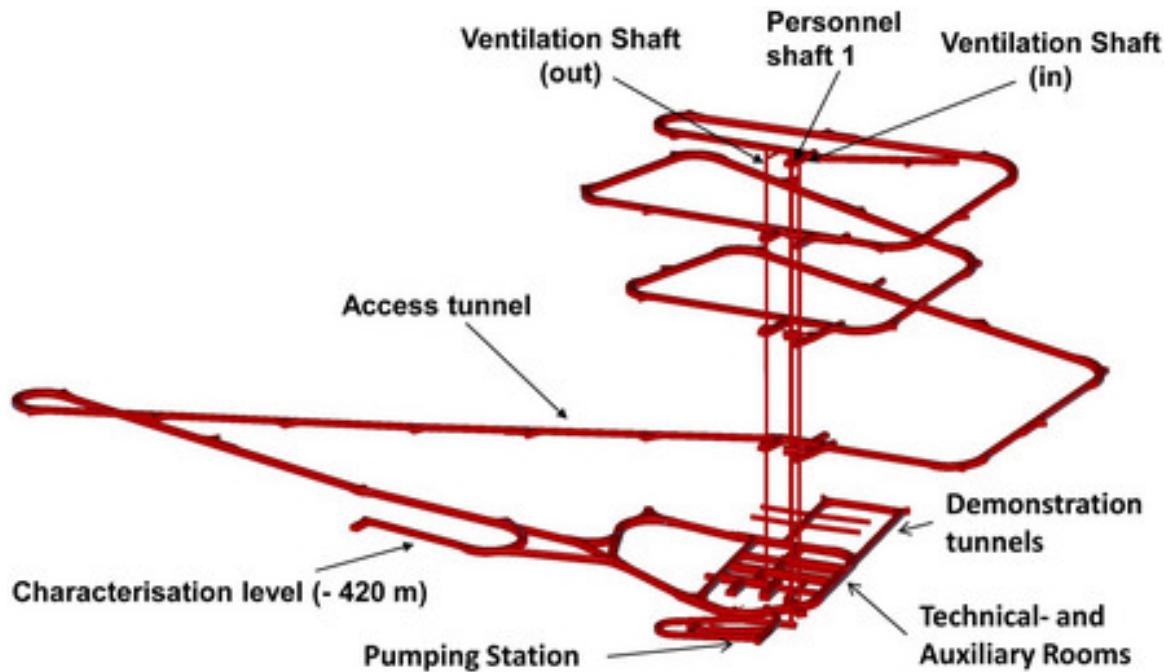
- Proposed KBS-3H concept

- 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



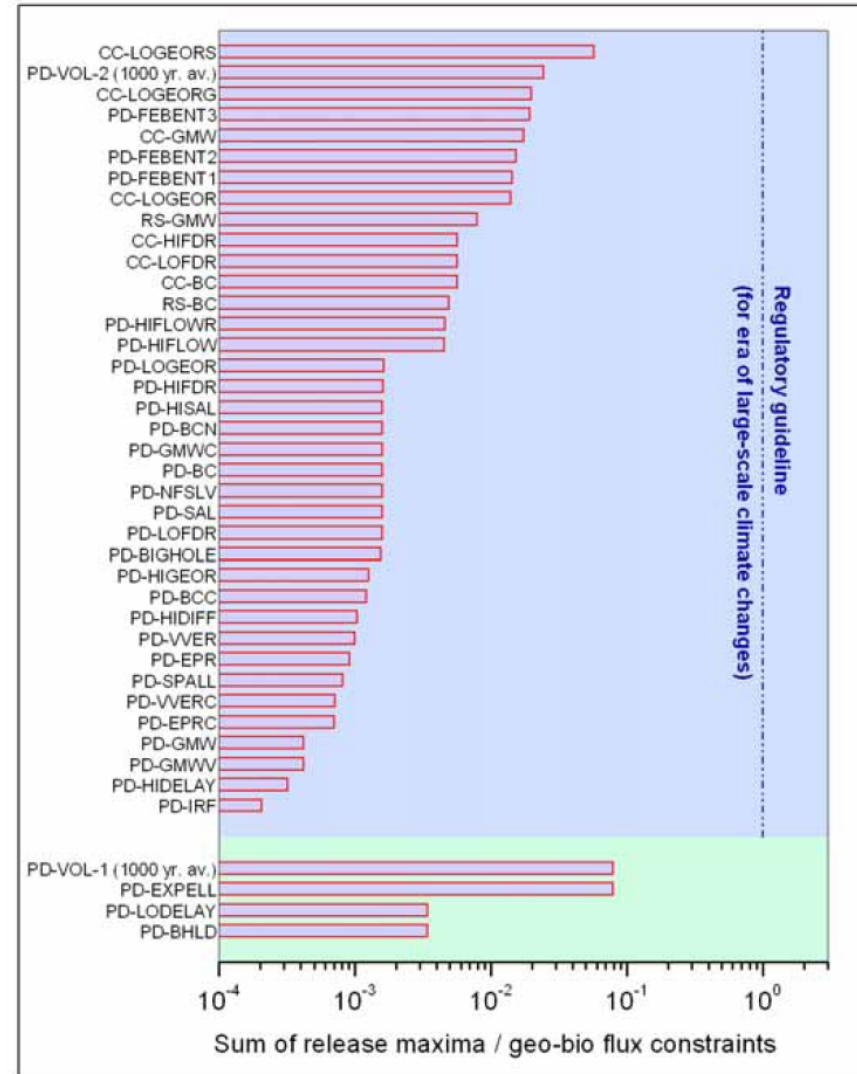
# Finland - Geologic Repository Regulatory Context

- Activity release based standards:
  - 0.03 GBq/y for long-lived  $\alpha$ -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>).

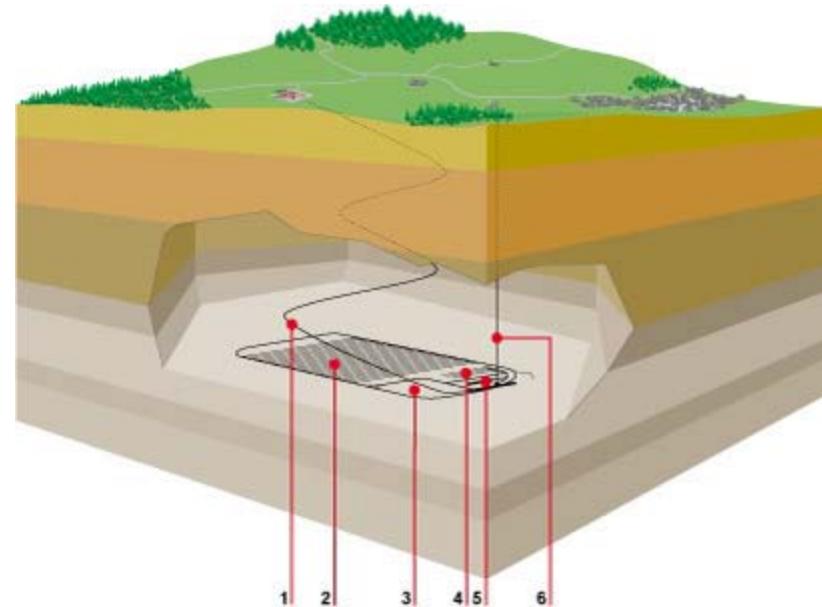


# Switzerland - Nuclear Waste Management

- Switzerland: 5 reactors (to be replaced when retired)
- Approximately 4,300 MTHM HLW (spent fuel) considering reactor life extension
- Reprocessed U-Pu MOX (about 1/3 of spent fuel will be reprocessed)
- Reprocessing at La Hague, France and Sellafield, UK
- Waste forms: spent fuel and HLW glass

# Switzerland - Characterization and Siting

- **1972** National cooperative (NAGRA) formed
- **1984** Begin investigations at Grimsel Test Facility
- **1996-2008** Investigations at Mont Terri underground laboratory
- **2002** Generic safety assessment for HLW disposal in Opalinus clay
- **2005** Nuclear Energy Act halts reprocessing for 10 years, directs repository program
- **2010** Six locations in Switzerland selected for LLW, ILW, and HLW investigations; discussions with localities to proceed
- **2013** Complete Phase VI at GTS
- **2020** Target for HLW repository operation



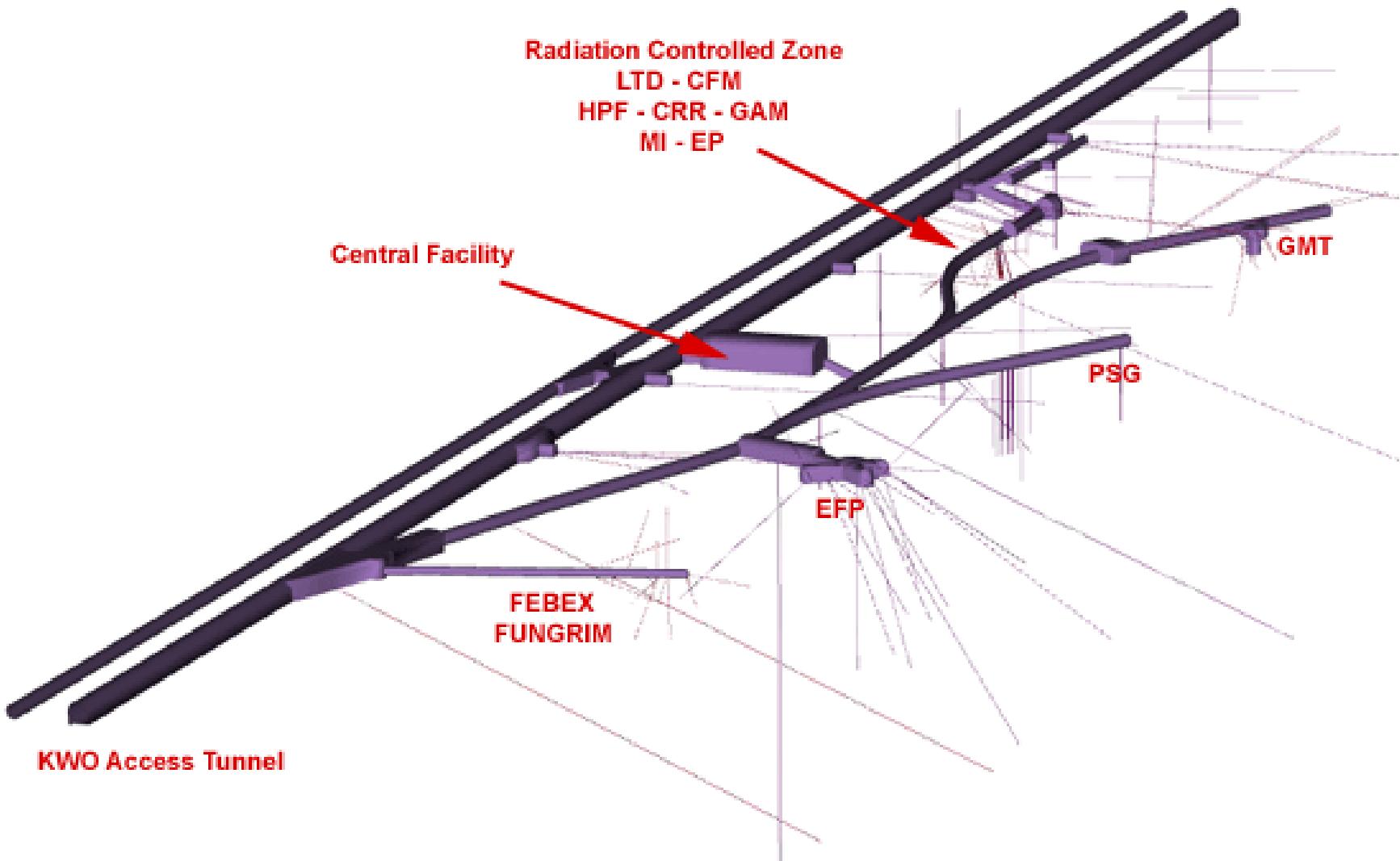
1. Access tunnel
2. Disposal tunnels for spent fuel and vitrified high-level waste
3. Rock laboratory
4. Pilot facility
5. Disposal tunnels for long-lived intermediate-level waste
6. Shaft

# 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

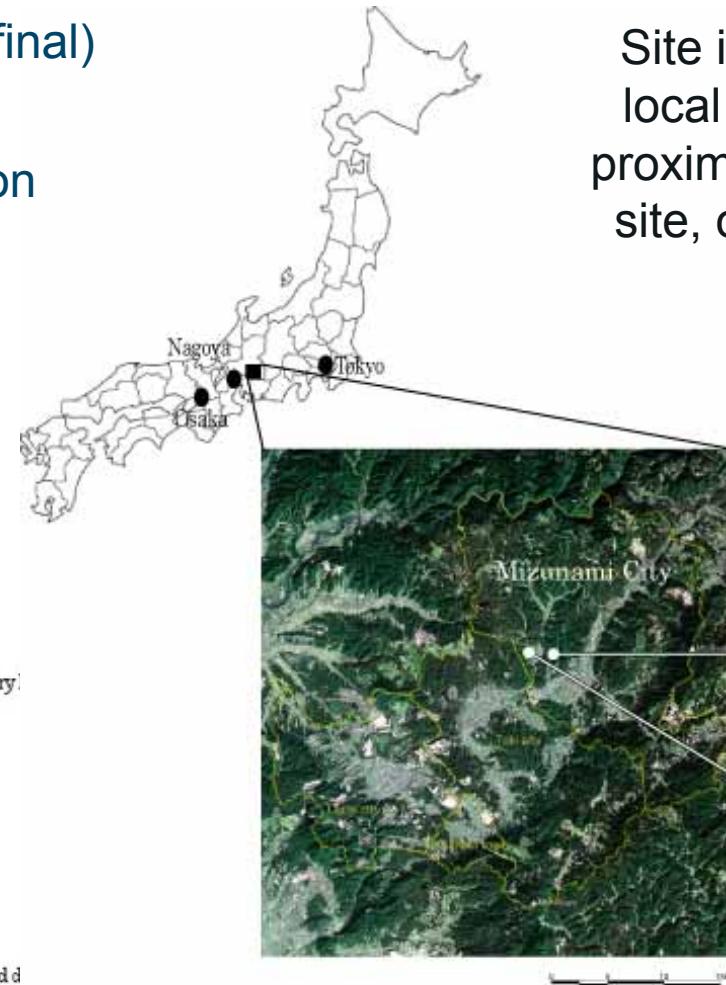
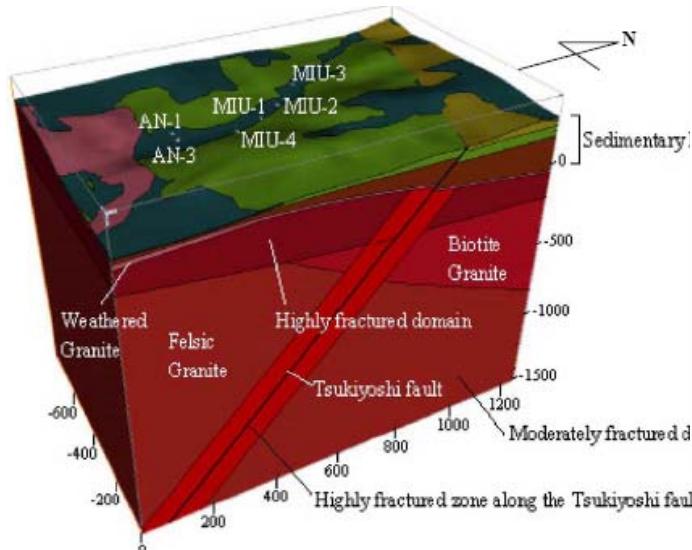
- **Phase III (1990 - 1993)**
  - Fracture flow test
  - Tracer migration test
  - Hydrodynamic modeling
  - Unsaturated zone studies
  - Ventilation test
- **Phase IV (1994 - 1996)**
  - Borehole sealing
  - Excavation disturbed zone studies
  - Seismic tomography techniques
  - Two phase flow in fracture 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

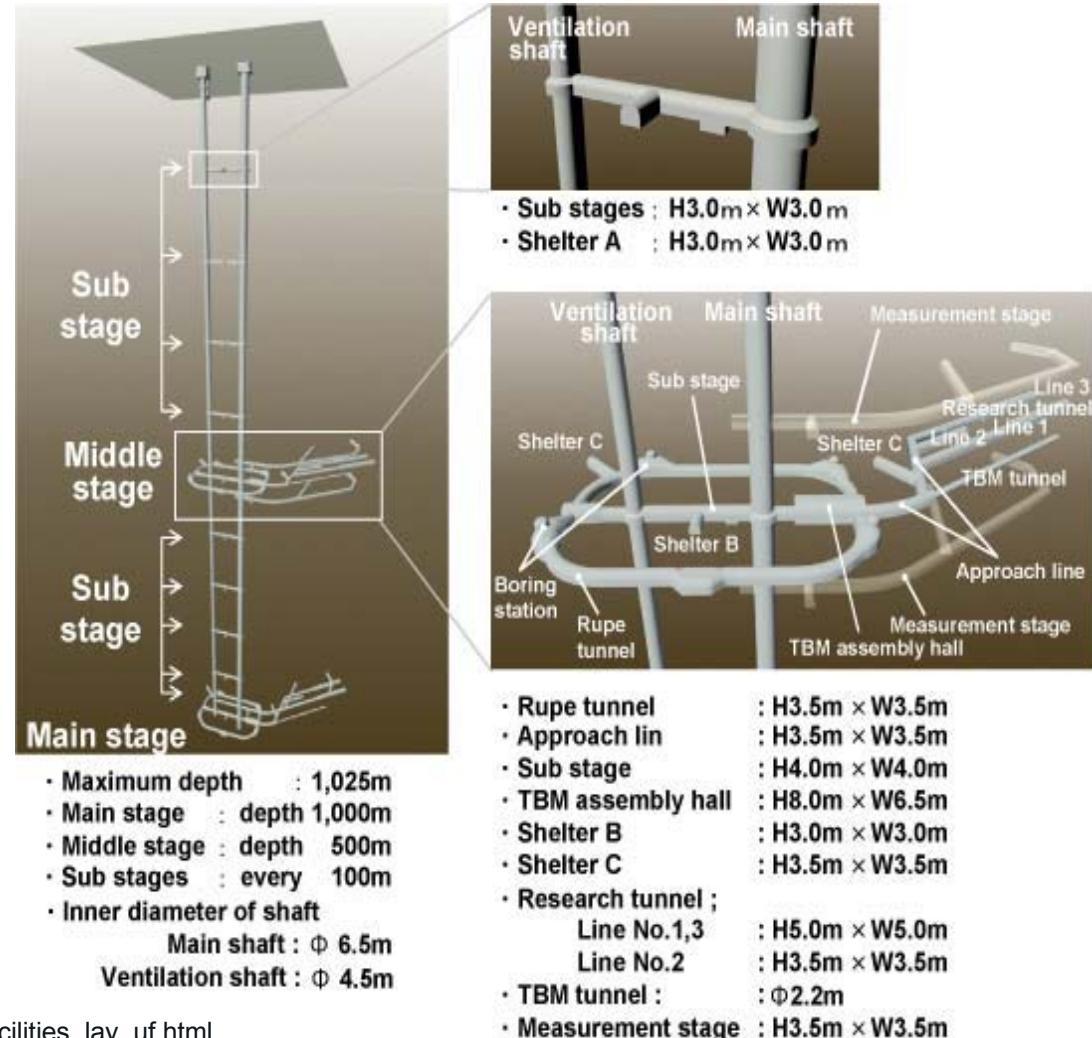
- **May 2010** Shafts at 1000 m (final)
- **2004-2010** Shaft construction
- **2007** Middle stage construction
- **2010-2015** Main stage construction
- **1996-2004** Phase 1 R&D
- **2001-2009** Phase 2
- **2010-2015** Phase 3



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



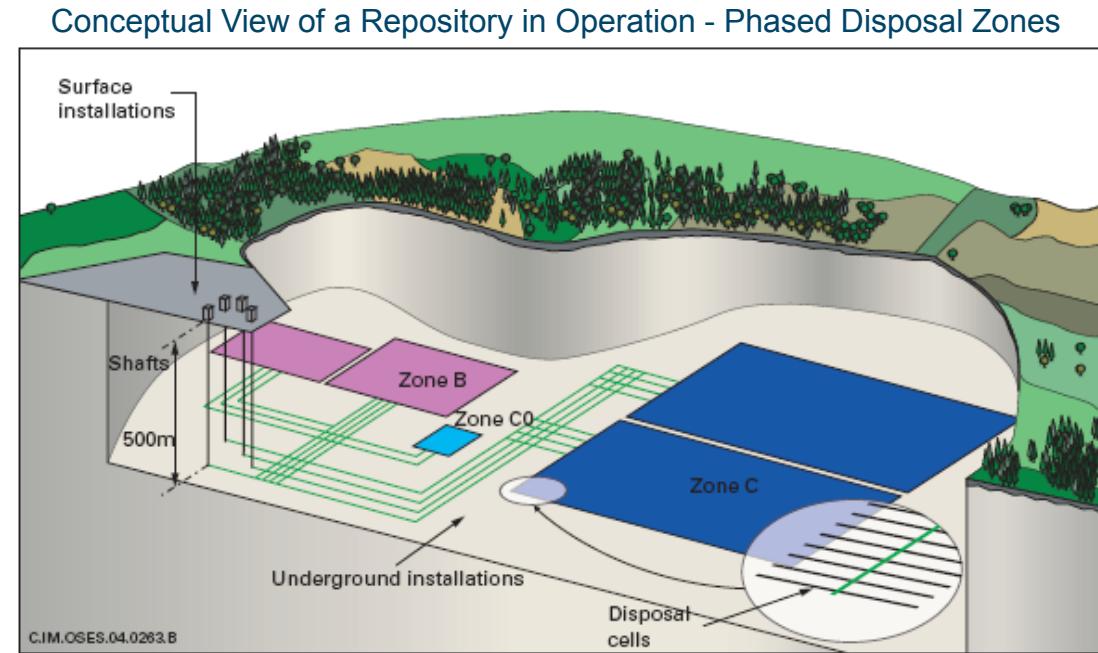
[http://www.jaea.go.jp/jnc/ztounou/miu\\_e/project/facilities\\_lay\\_uf.html](http://www.jaea.go.jp/jnc/ztounou/miu_e/project/facilities_lay_uf.html)

# France - Nuclear Waste Management

- France: 59 reactors (plus 2 inoperative sodium-cooled fast reactors)
- In 2030: approximately  $5,060 \text{ m}^3$  HLW glass (plus  $74 \text{ m}^3$  spent fuel) in pour canisters containing  $\sim 0.15 \text{ m}^3$  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

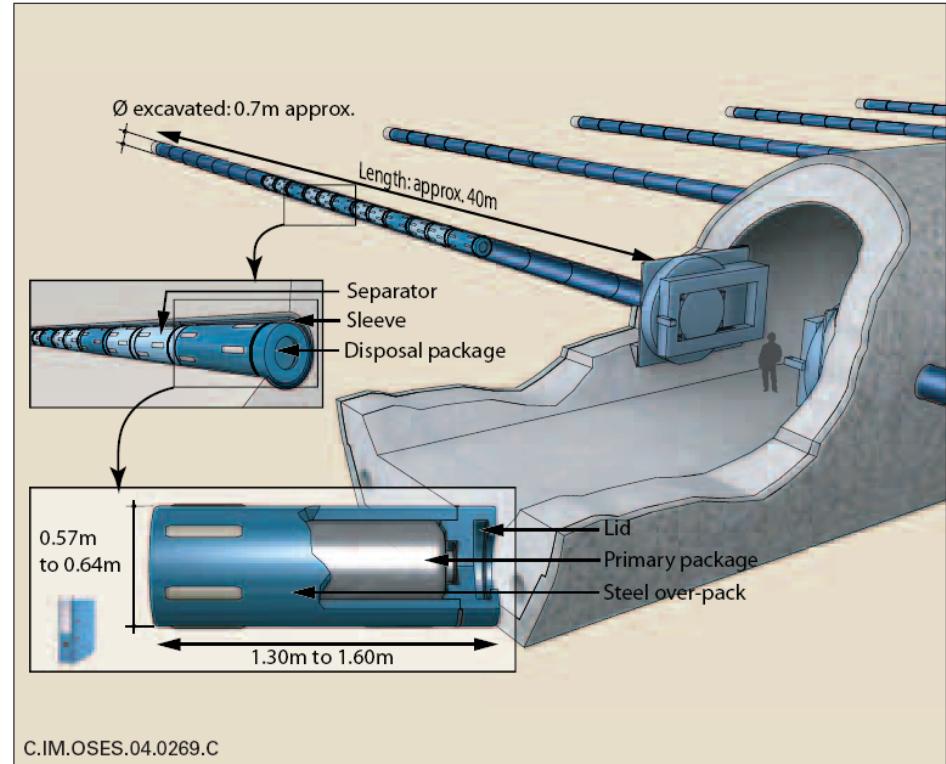
# France - Characterization and Siting

- **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 km<sup>2</sup> “transposition” zone
- **2015** Target date for licensing a repository
- **2025** Target date for repository operation



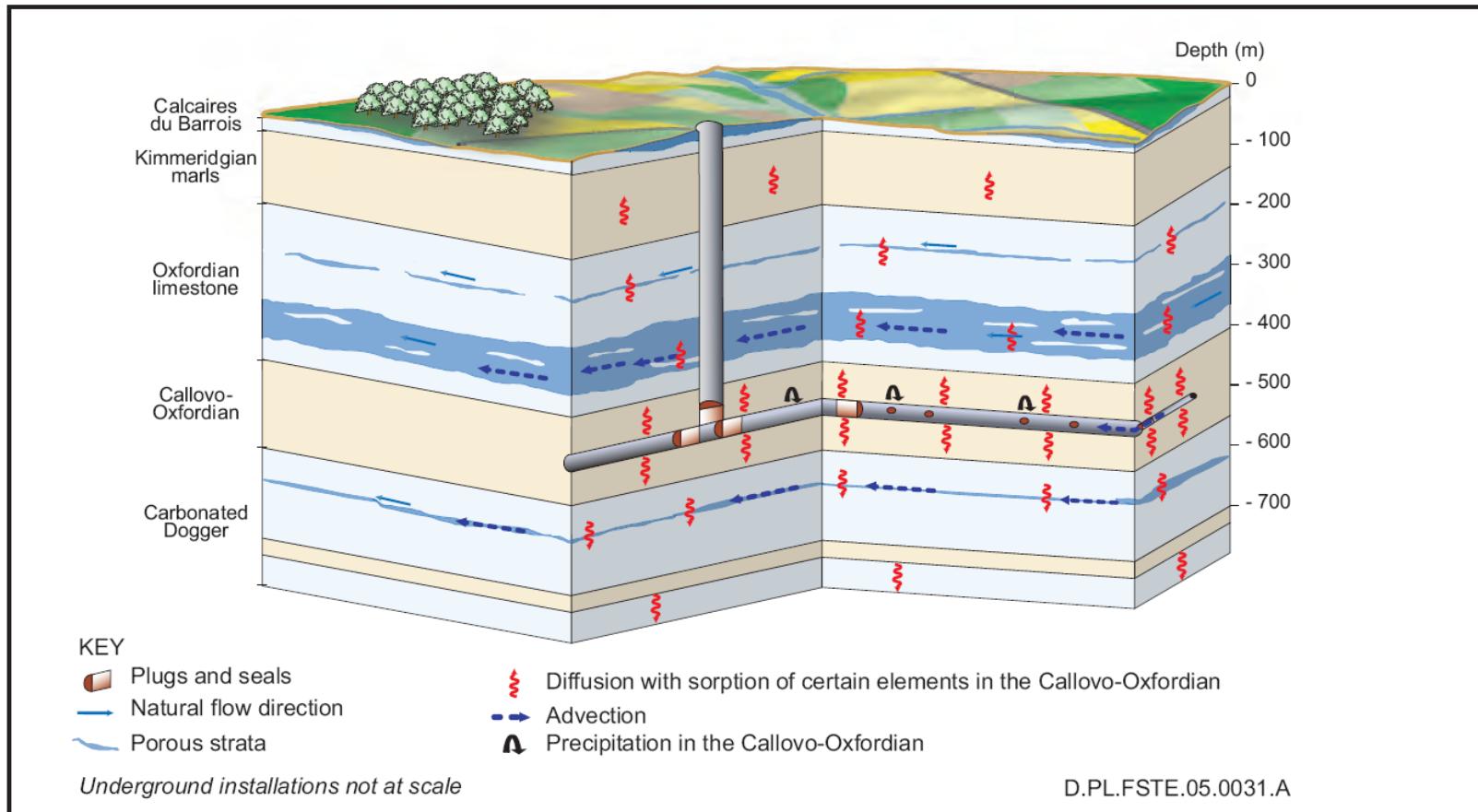
# Reference Concept for HLW Disposal in Clay/Shale Media

- 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

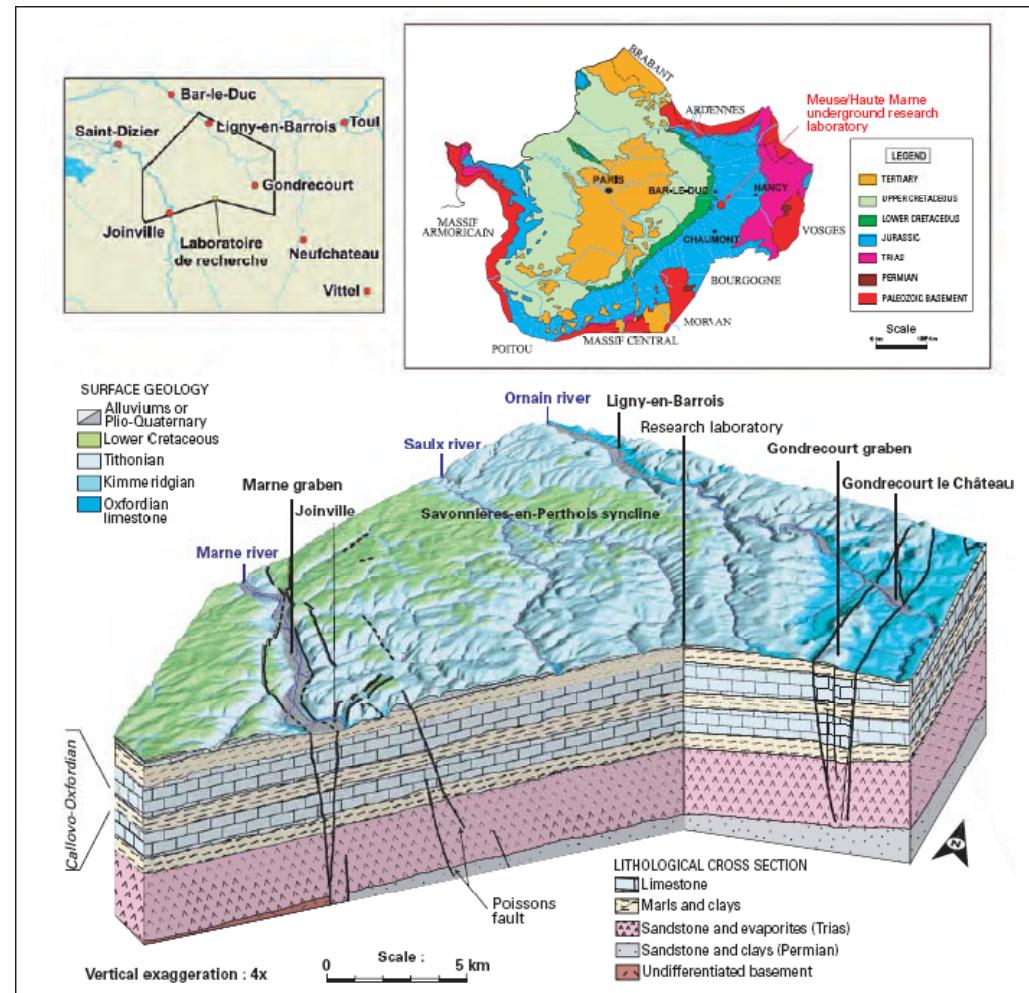
## Processes Affecting Waste Radionuclide Fate and Transport



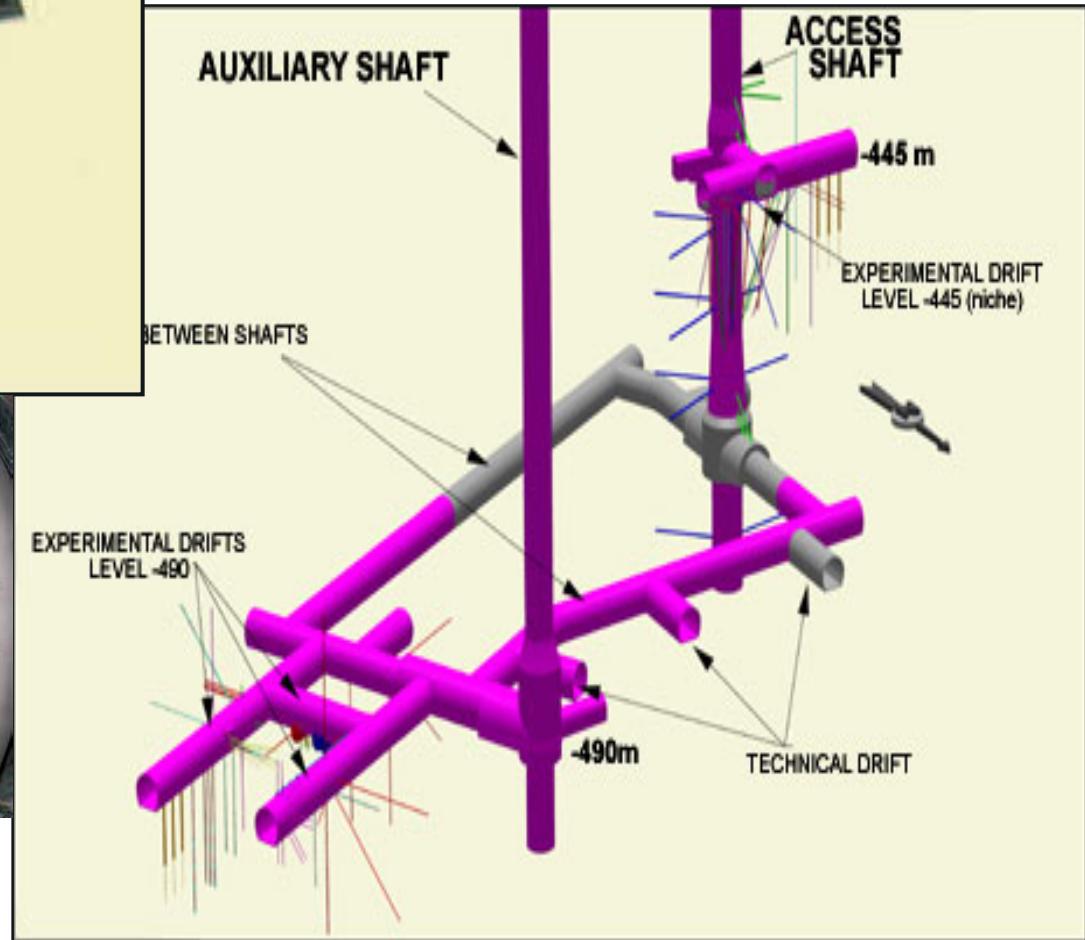
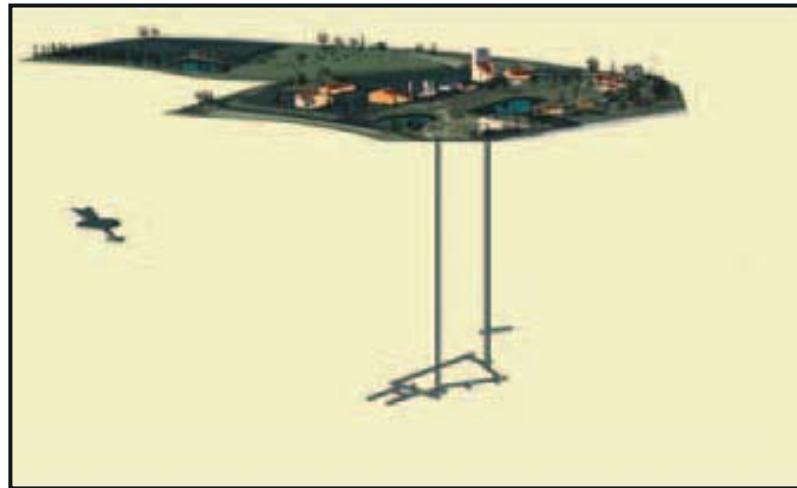
Source: ANDRA Dossier 2005 Argile Synthesis

# 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

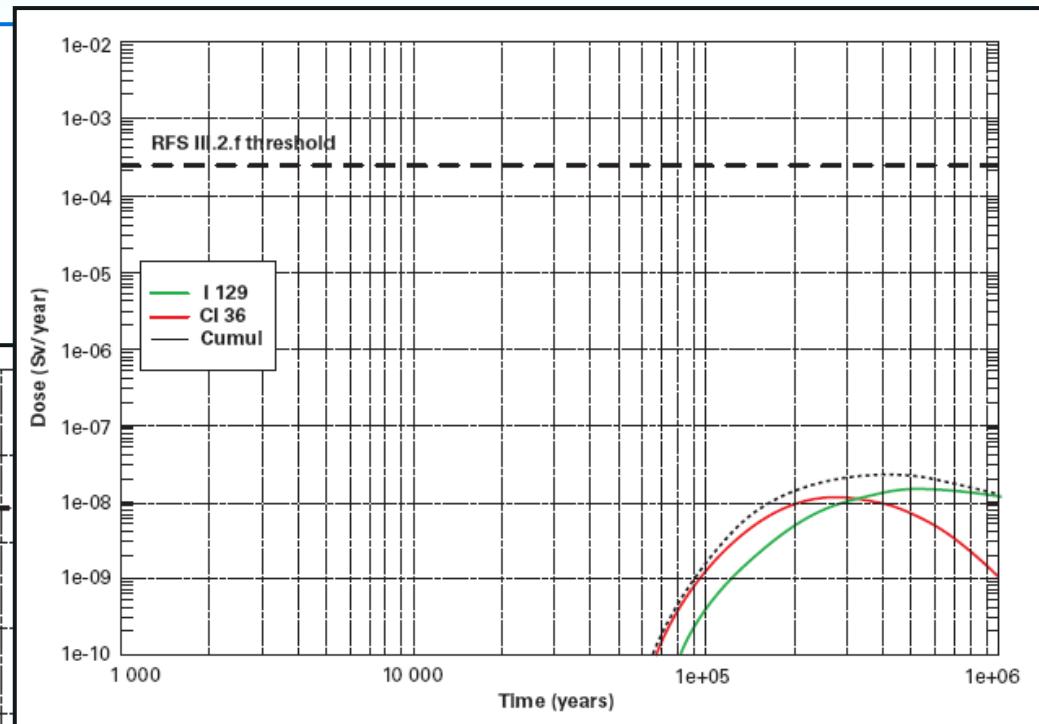
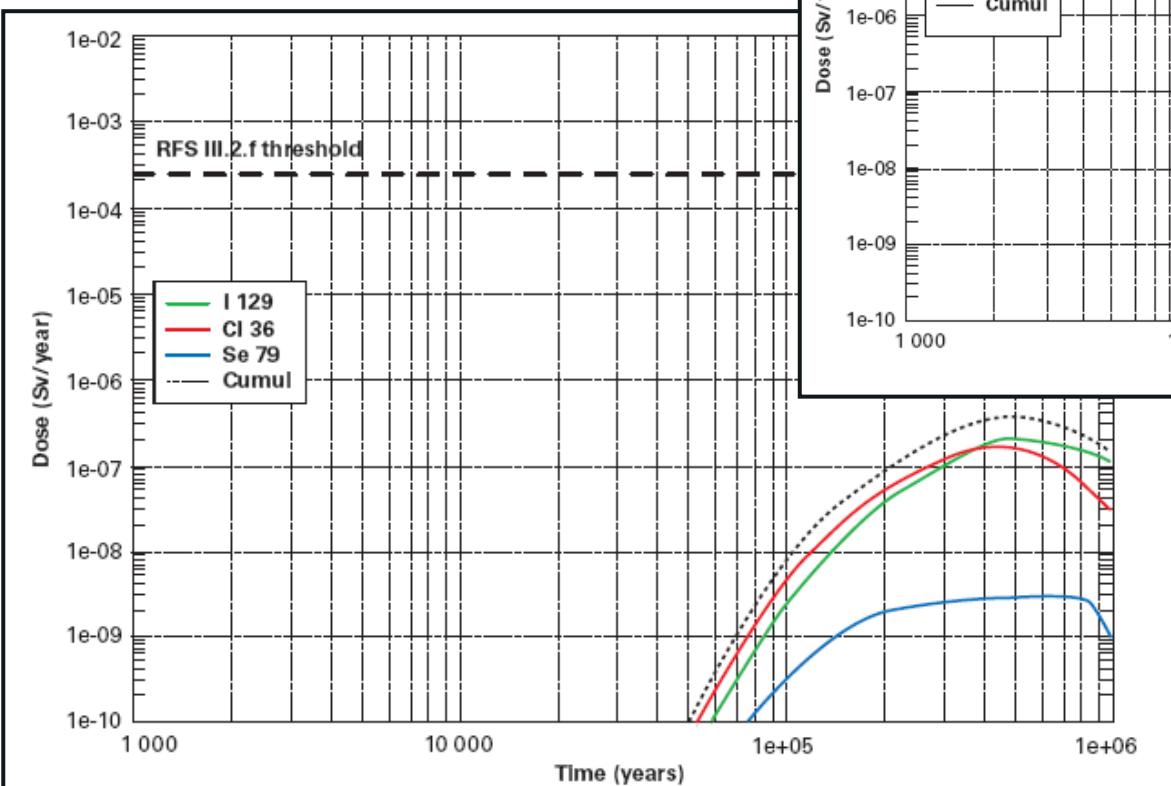
## Final repository dose-based standards:

- 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
  - Advection-diffusive (Peclet) transport along intersecting discontinuities (if any)

# Switzerland - Nuclear Waste Management

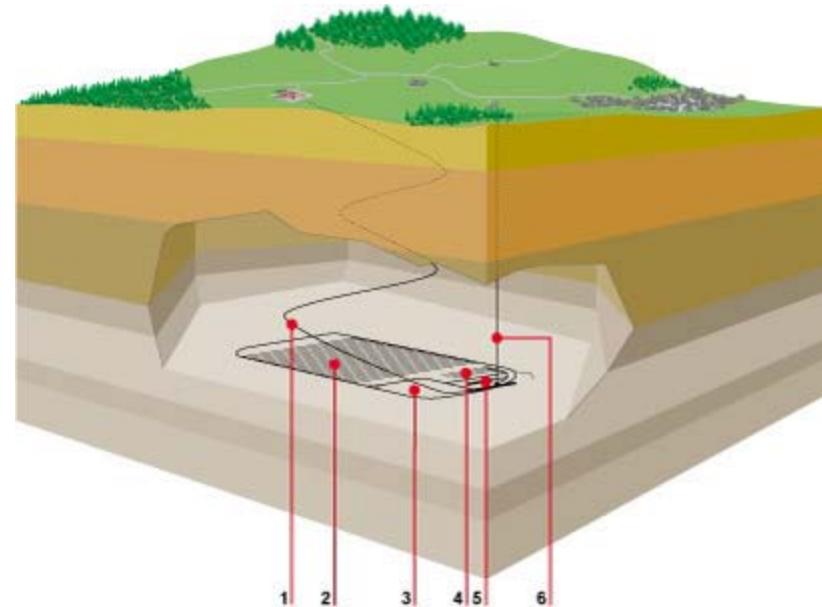
(previous slide)

- Switzerland: 5 reactors (to be replaced when retired)
- Approximately 4,300 MTHM HLW (spent fuel) considering reactor life extension
- Reprocessed U-Pu MOX (about 1/3 of spent fuel will be reprocessed)
- Reprocessing at La Hague, France and Sellafield, UK
- Waste forms: spent fuel and HLW glass

# Switzerland - Characterization and Siting

(previous slide)

- **1972** National cooperative (NAGRA) formed
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- **2020** Target for HLW repository operation



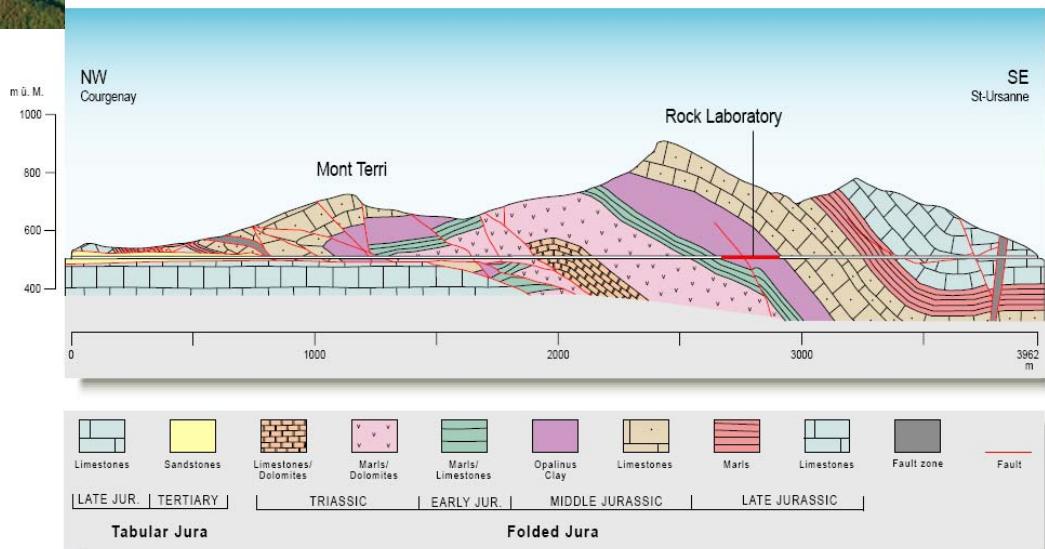
1. Access tunnel
2. Disposal tunnels for spent fuel and vitrified high-level waste
3. Rock laboratory
4. Pilot facility
5. Disposal tunnels for long-lived intermediate-level waste
6. Shaft

# Mont Terri Rock Laboratory (Switzerland)

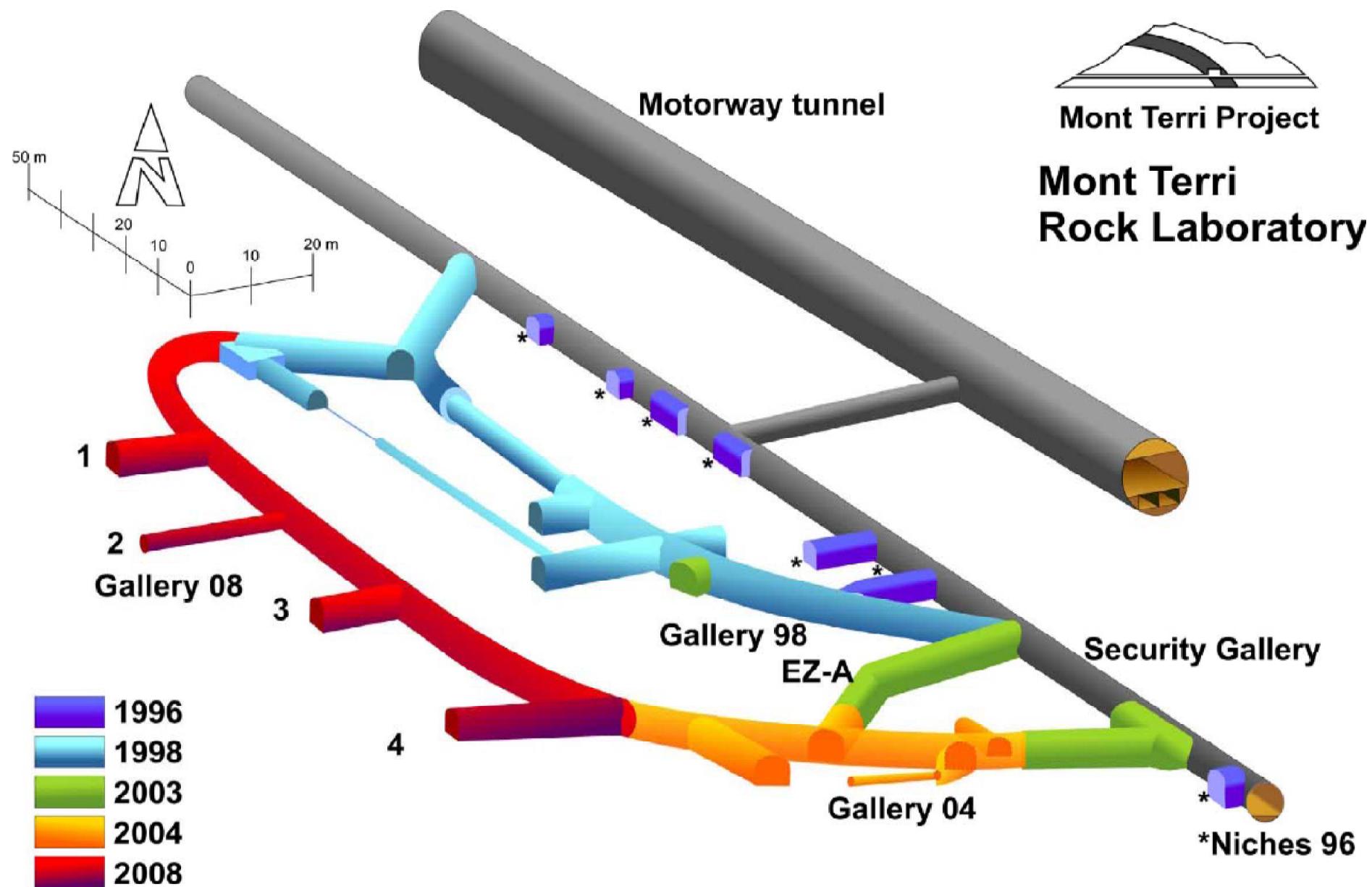


- Project timeline
  - 1989 Excavation of reconnaissance gallery from motorway tunnel.
  - 1996 Mont Terri rock laboratory construction initiated
  - 1996-present International collaborations/experiments

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



# Mont Terri URL Layout



# Mont Terri URL Research Program

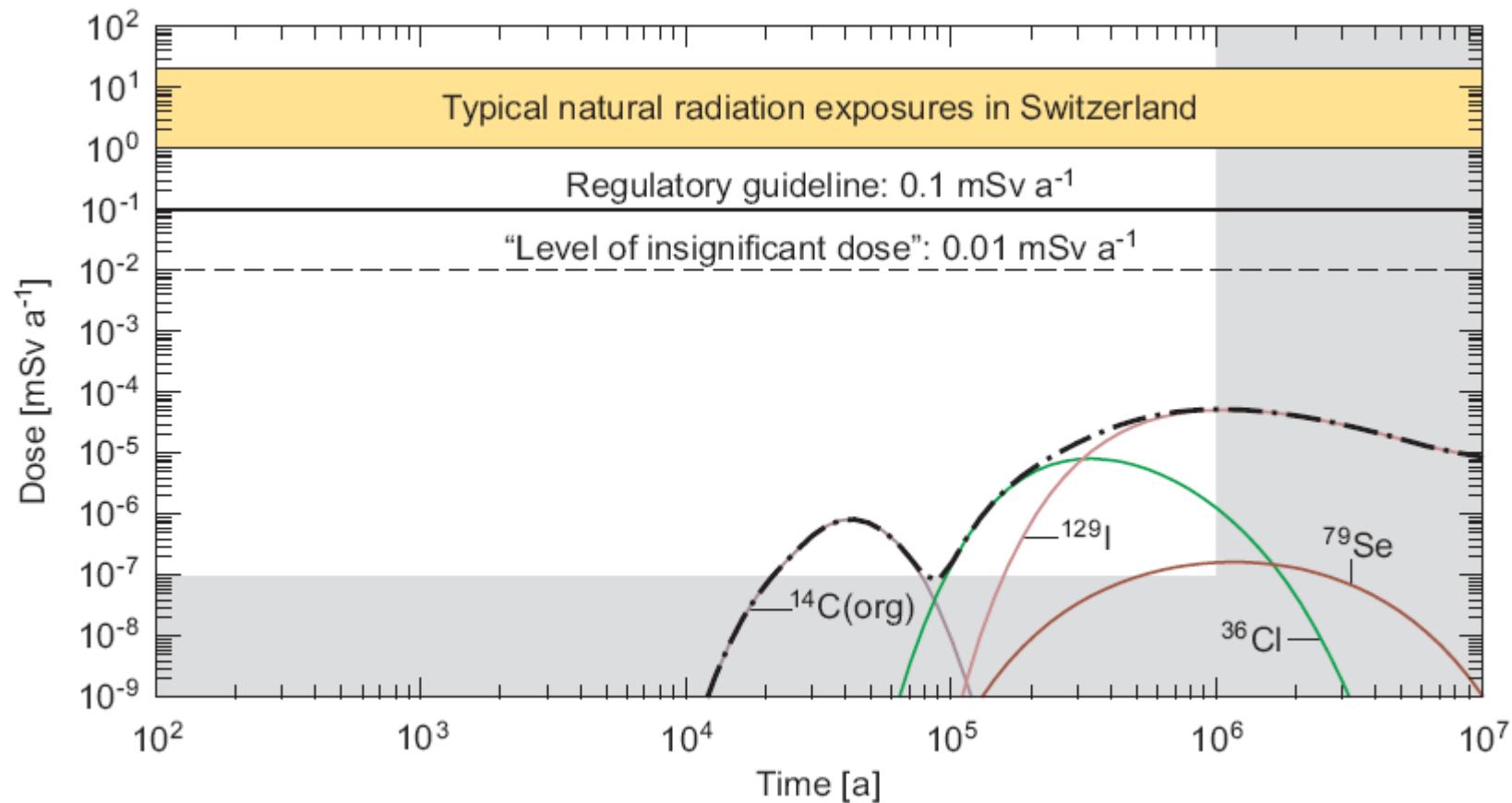
- **Characterization of Opalinus Clay**
  - Fluid/gas advective transport properties
  - Diffusion properties
  - Geomechanical stress conditions and deformability
  - Geochemical properties (pore water, sorption)
- **Investigate excavation disturbed zone (EDZ)**
  - Evolution of EDZ (formation of fractures, 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

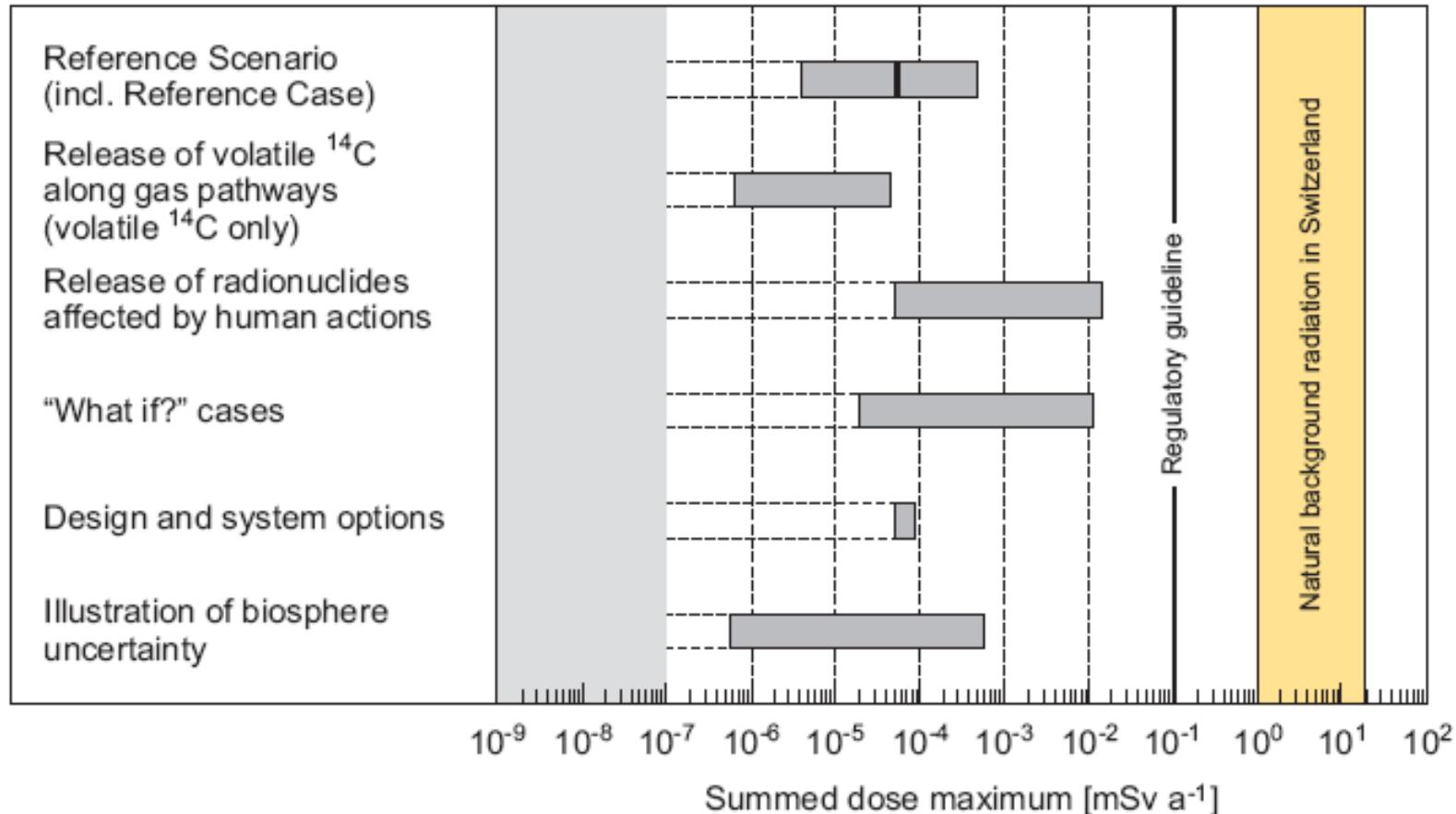
# Switzerland: 2002 Performance Assessment

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

# Belgium - Nuclear Waste Management

- Belgium: 5 reactors (to be replaced when retired)
- Approximately 4,300 MTHM HLW (spent fuel) considering reactor life extension
- Reprocessed U-Pu MOX (about 1/3 of spent fuel will be reprocessed)
- Reprocessing at La Hague, France and Sellafield, UK
- Waste forms: spent fuel and HLW glass

# Belgium - Characterization and Siting

# 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

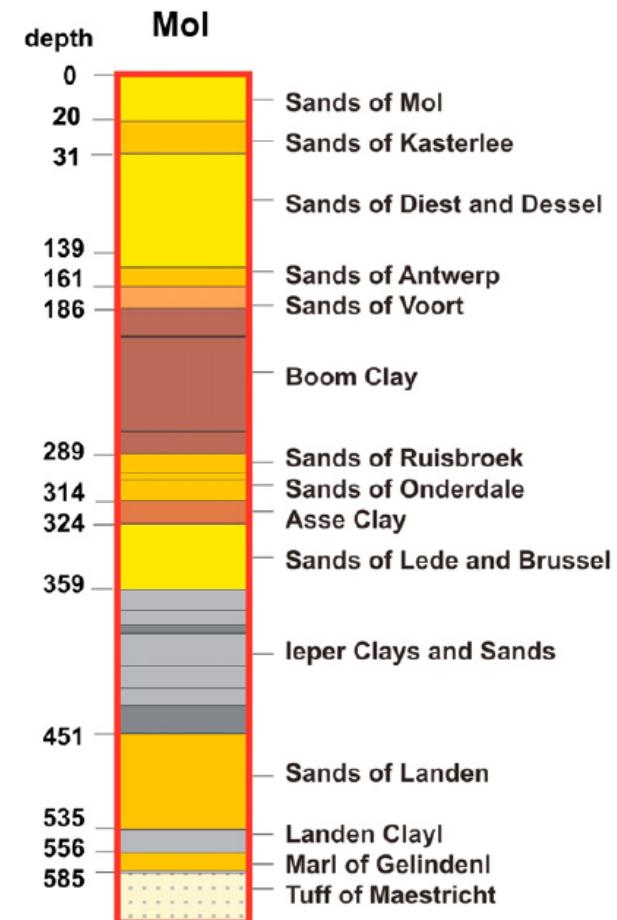
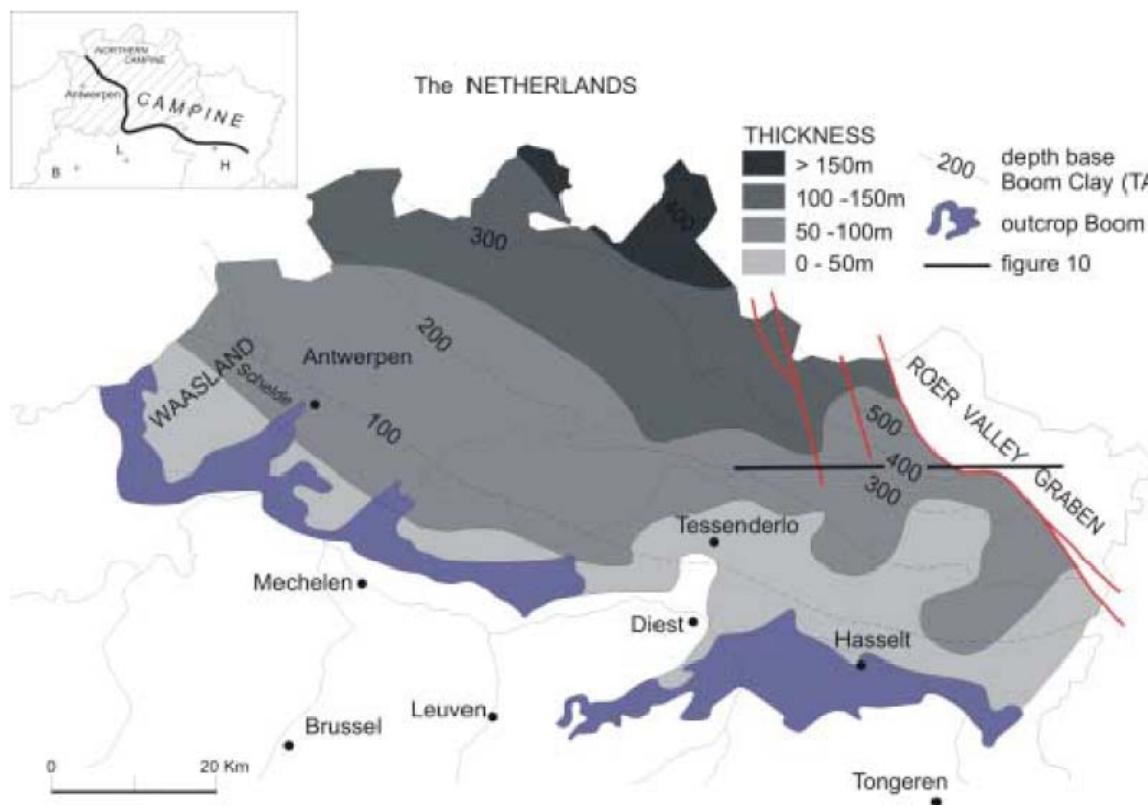
1980 - Belgian Agency for Radioactive Waste and Fissile Materials (ONDRAF/NIRAS) established

1980 - 1987 Construction of HADES URL

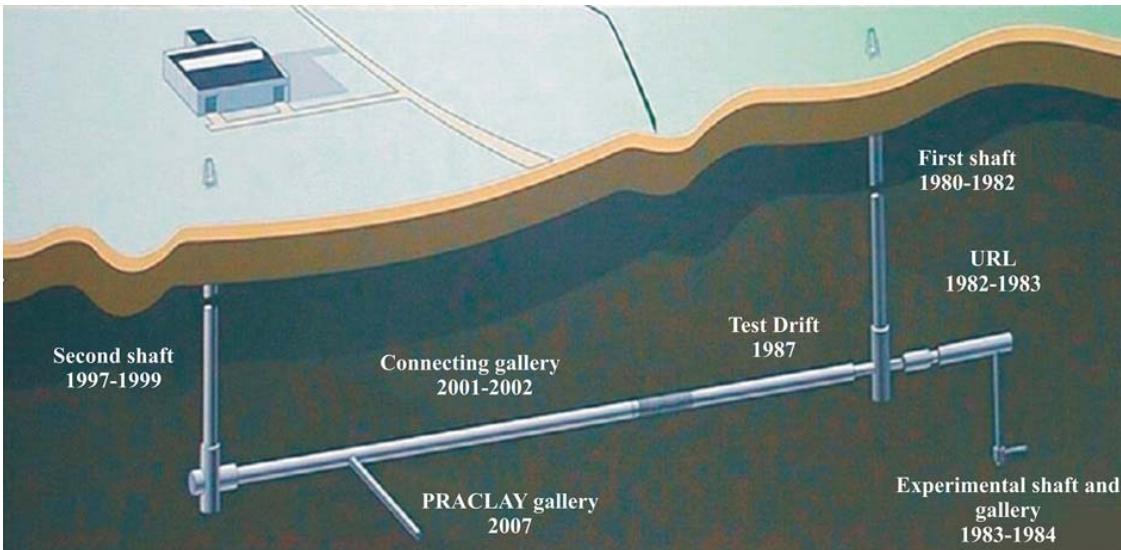
1989 - Safety Assessment and Interim Feasibility Report (SAFIR)

2003 - SAFIR2 report

# Boom Clay Formation



# HADES Underground Research Facility (Mol)



- Plastic Boom Clay
- Thickness  $\sim 100$  m
- URL depth  $\sim 225$  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 & Bastiens 2010. *J. Struct. Geol.* 1-8.



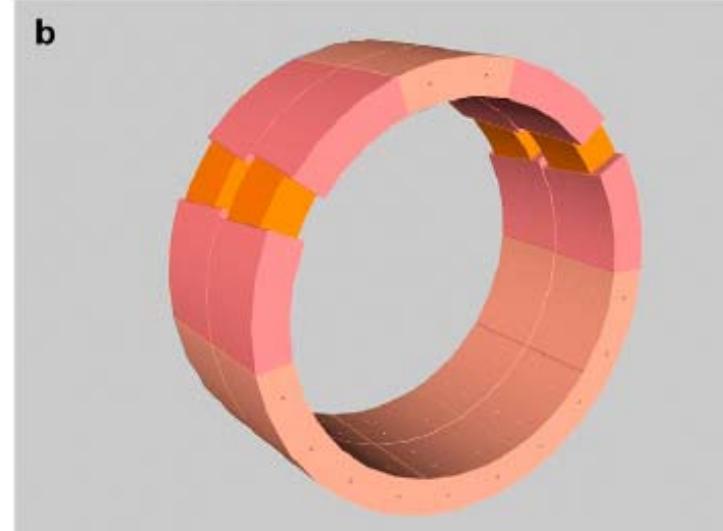
### (above)

Fully shielded tunnel boring machine, road header

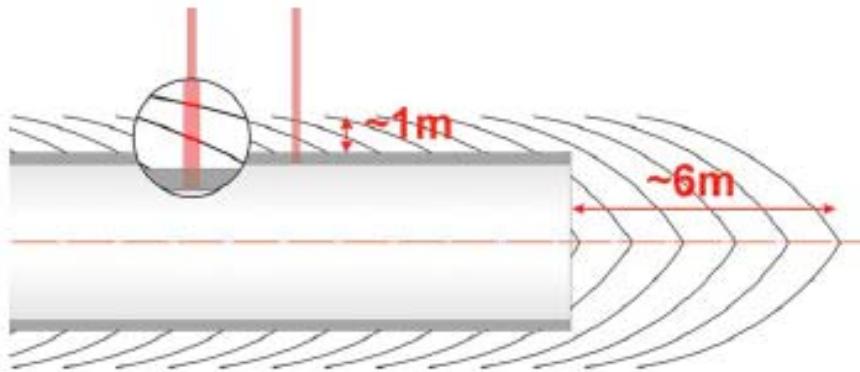
### (right)

(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”

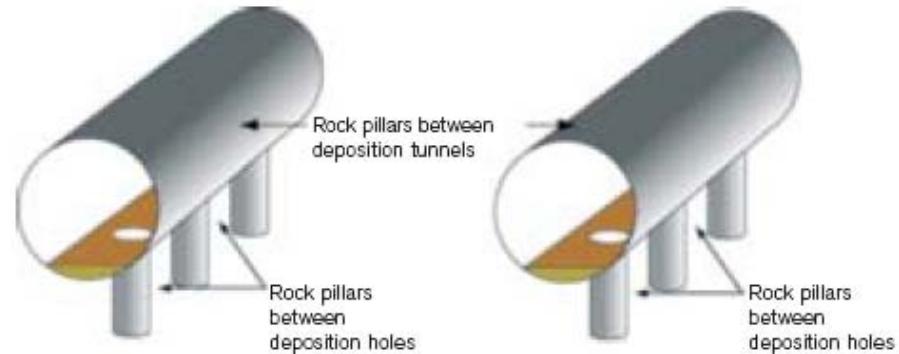
- Voluntary siting
  - Programs in Sweden, Finland, France, and Switzerland have adapted to political constraints
- Public access to all information (Internet)
- Flexible safety regulations
  - Dose vs. release criteria
  - Normal vs. “less likely” or disturbed conditions
  - Retain flexibility as program 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.



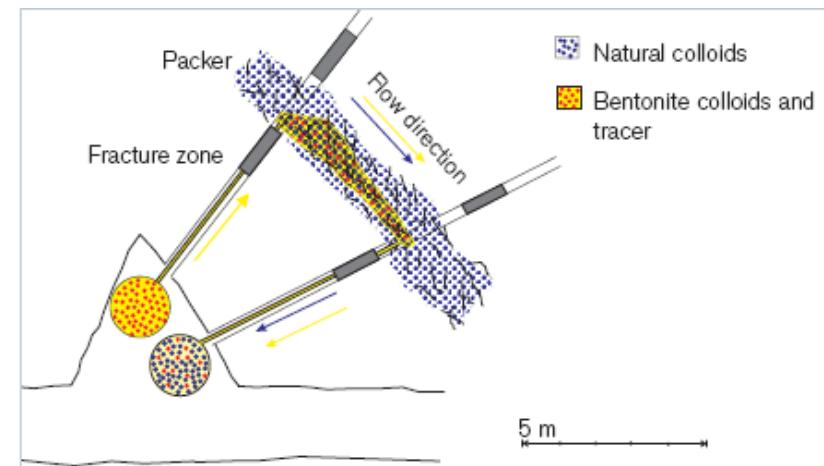
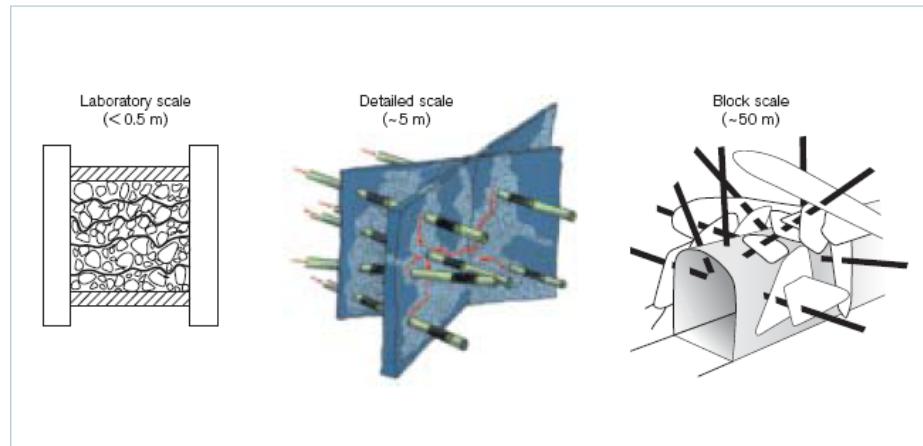
The fractures around a drilled-and-blasted tunnel are much deeper. They were around 30 centimetres in the walls.



Fractured rock mass in rock pillar.

# Äspö URL Research

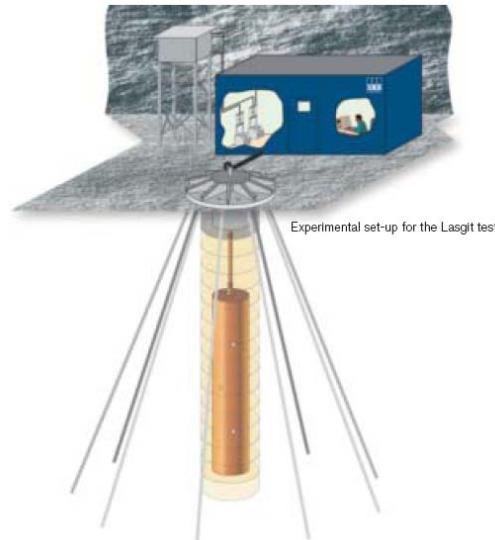
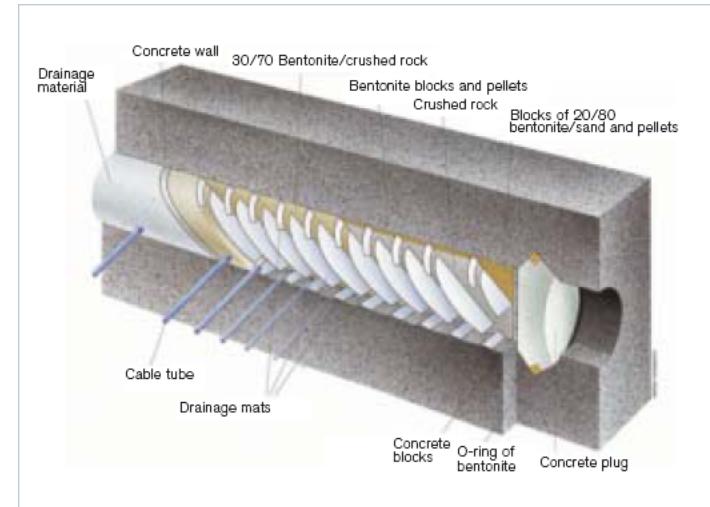
- Groundwater Flow and Radionuclide Transport
  - Two-phase flow project
  - Colloid project
  - Radionuclide retention experiment (RNR)
  - Tracer retention understanding experiments (TRUE)
  - Long-term diffusion experiment (LTDE)
  - Matrix fluid chemistry experiment
  - Redox experiment in detailed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

Reference Case incl.  
parameter variations

High water flow rate  
in geosphere

Transport along trans-  
missive discontinuities

Increased fuel dissolution  
rate in SF

Redox front  
(SF/ILW compacted hulls)

Gas-induced release of  
dissolved radionuclides  
through ramp only

Unretarded transport of  
volatile  $^{14}\text{C}$  through  
host rock

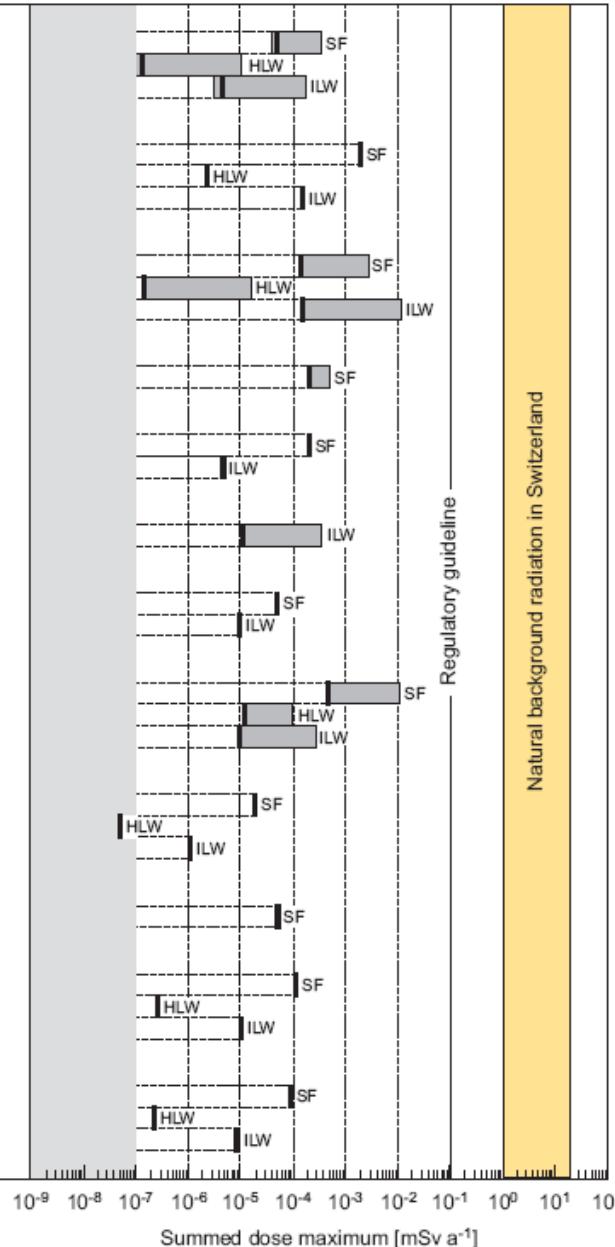
Poor near field and  
pessimistic geochemical  
dataset and increased  
water flow

No advection in geosphere  
(diffusive transport only)

SF: Increased cladding  
corrosion rate

Kd (I) for NF and  
geosphere = 0

Decreased transport  
distance in Opalinus Clay  
(30 m)



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