National Citizens’ Oversight Committee
Assisting the Search for a High-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Site
WHO ARE WE?

NBG (in German: Nationales Begleitgremium) is an independent, pluralistically composed social committee. NBG tasks are determined by statute. Members are elected into the NBG (either by the government or citizens) and participate voluntarily.
WHAT DO WE WANT?
Goals of the NBG

• Time follows procedure - not vice versa
• Participation throughout
• Broad and open public participation
• Transparency during each step of the search procedure
• A selection procedure based on solid scientific and ethical principles
• Self-reflective participation to enable learning
• Learning for the future from past mistakes
WHAT DO WE WANT?

Participation
from the beginning

Scientific Natured
procedure

Self-Questioning
procedure

Fairness

Learning
for the future

Wide & Honest
participation

Accuracy
instead of time pressure

Transparent
procedure
WHAT DO WE DO?

Tasks of the NBG

As an independent body and in the interest of the common good, we chaperon the search for a high-level radioactive waste disposal site.

• Communication and exchange with all stakeholders

• Identification of tensions and possible conflicts at an early stage

• Contribute to the mediation of conflicts

• Make voices heard and ensure that criticism and suggestions from the public find their way into the search process

• Make recommendations to political actors

• Inspection of data generated, analysed and reported by formal institutions involved in the search process (we do this ourselves and via experts)

• Discussion and debate over key topics, such as public participation, developments with temporary storage sites for high-level radioactive waste, and content of main reports’ findings and gaps
WHAT WE DON‘T DO?

NBG Boundaries

• NBG is not a judge; rather, it is a facilitator, an observer, and a forewarner of potential problems

• NBG is limited in its ability to inspect data, reports, and analyses. It does not aim to outperform other actors, but instead to identify potential gaps and mistakes

• Concerns and challenges to official documents (e.g. the Interim Report on Sub-Regions) are primarily to be examined by their author, the `Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung (BGE)‘ (Federal Company for Radioactive Waste Disposal). The NBG acts when protected data needs to be reviewed as its members have this right under the law.

• The NBG is not responsible for the organization of the Sub-Areas Conference or for public participation. These are responsibilities of the `Bundesamt für die Sicherheit der nuklearen Entsorgung (BASE)‘ (Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management). The NBG can, however, inform the BASE of concerns.
The SUB-AREAS CONFERENCE  
(CANDIDATE AREAS FOR A REPOSITORY)

- Under the law, a Sub-Areas Conference is to be organized by concerned citizens, impacted regions, etc.
- Dates of the Sub-Areas Conference are:
  - February 5-7, 2021,
  - April 15-18, 2021,
  - June 10-13, 2021.
- The aim of the Sub-Areas Conference is to evaluate the Interim-Report on Sub-Areas produced by the BGE and to make recommendations.
• NBG will observe the process in order to support it, learn from it, and evaluate it

• NBG will serve as a go-to actor during the Sub-Areas Conference when there are concerns about the actions (or non-actions) of other official stakeholders or the process

• NBG plans to conduct a peer review of the process

• As deemed appropriate, the NBG will review the geological data collected and models used by the BGE which are the basis of the Interim-Report.
Thank you for your attention!