

# 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?

**Scientific Natured**  
procedure

**Self-Questioning**  
procedure

**Learning**  
for the future

**Wide & Honest**  
participation

**Fairness**

**Transparent**  
procedure

**Participation**  
from the beginning

**Accuracy**  
instead of time pressure

# 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 REPOSITO

- 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

# WHAT WE PLAN TO DO AT THE SUB-AREAS CONFERENCE?



- 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!



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