

The Site Selection Procedure for a Repository for High-Level Radioactive Waste in Germany



Federal Office
for the Safety of
Nuclear Waste Management

Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement

Aarhus Convention & Nuclear - European Roundtable on information and public participation in the field of Radioactive Waste Management - 13th January 2021

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Task-Related Research, Licenses for Repositories, Long-Term Documentation

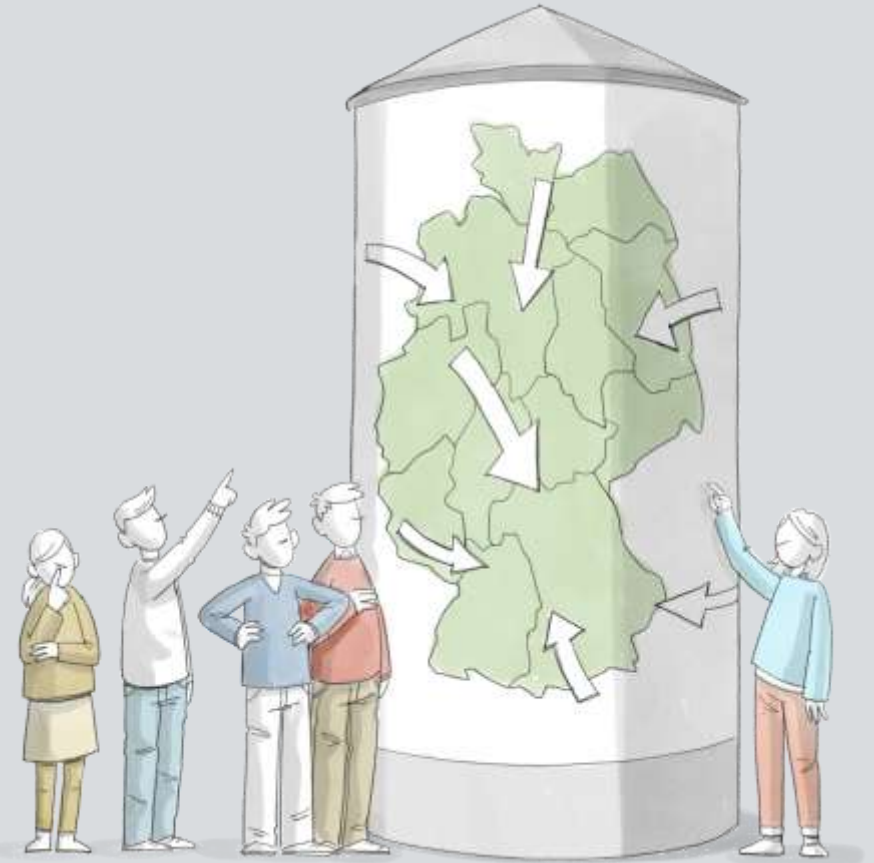
BASE – Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management

In 2017, Germany started a comparative Site Selection Procedure for a deep geological repository for high-level radioactive waste.

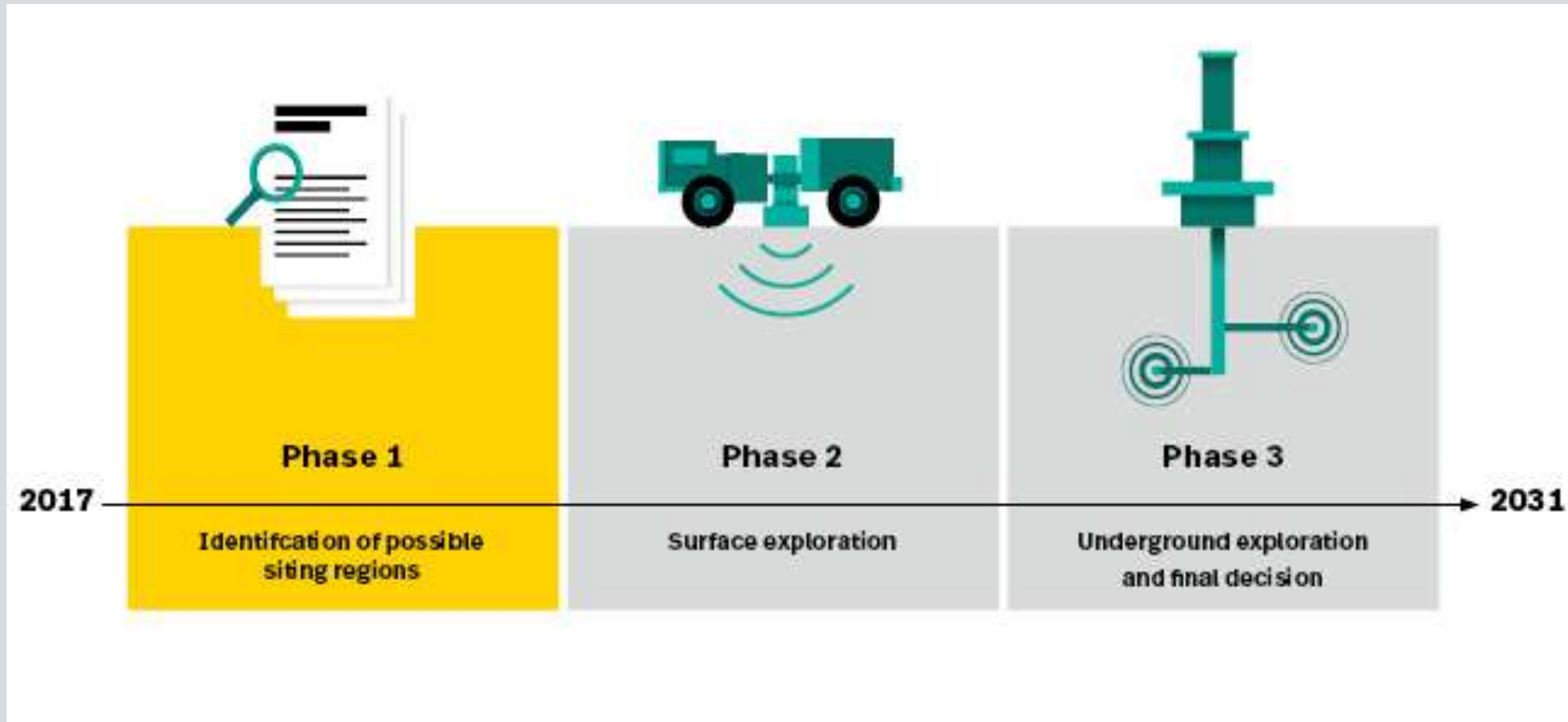
The Site Selection Act defines the legal basis and the main characteristics of the procedure:

- Starting from a “white map”
- Stepwise process with final decisions by parliament
- Scientifically based –
Fundamental criteria already laid down by law
- Public participation
- Transparency (digital information platform)
- Evaluation and Learning during the Process

Aim: Decision for a site with the best possible safety in 2031



The Site Selection Procedure is divided into three consecutive phases...



...with a new setup of actors with different roles and responsibilities.



German Parliament (Bundestag)

Political responsibility



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Accompanying the procedure independently with focus on public participation



National Civil Society Board (NBG)



Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management (BASE)

Supervisor and regulator, public participation



Federal Company for Radioactive Waste Disposal (BGE mbH)

Operator

The Site Selection Act stipulates far-reaching opportunities for public participation



The Sub-areas Conference

Members of the public discuss the first interim report with BGE mbH and make statements. The results will be recorded in a report which BGE mbH must take into account in its ongoing work.

Started in October 2020



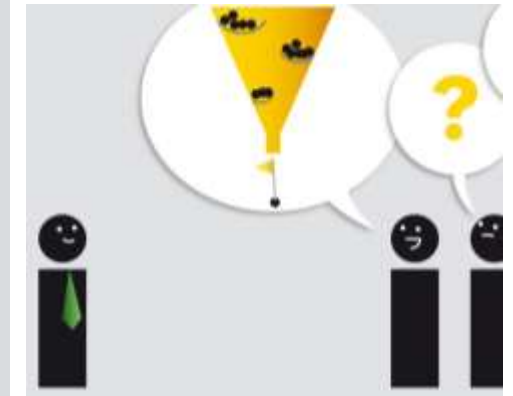
Regional Conferences

The conferences will be established in every region designated for surface exploration. They represent their interests and have certain rights, e.g. filing statements, requesting scientific advice, demanding reviews of information of the regional public



Council of the regions

A mediating body, which consists of members of the regional conferences and representatives of those local communities in Germany where storage facilities for HLW already exist.



Comments procedures and public hearings

Comments procedures and public hearings take place at the end of each phase. Any person involved can lodge objections.

On top, every institution is invited to offer informal opportunities for public participation and information. For example...



Mobile exhibitions

Dialogue with local authorities, NGOs and citizens



Annual Status Conference



Information Material



Web & Social Media



Pictures: BASE

Status Quo

- BGE mbH published the **Subareas Interim Report on 28th September 2020**. It is a first progress statement which names those areas in Germany that are expected to have favorable geological conditions
- In order to discuss the interim report with the public, BASE has started the first formal participation format – the **Sub-areas Conference**.

Goal: involving the public at a very early stage

Participants: representatives of regional authorities, members of the public, scientists and representatives of societal organisations.

Information and Participation in times of COVID-19



Digital Opening meeting of the subareas conference, 17 – 18 October 2020

Thanks for your attention!



Federal Office
for the Safety of
Nuclear Waste Management

Further information needed?

→ jochen.ahlsweide@bfe.bund.de

→ <https://www.endlagersuche-infoplattform.de/webs/Endlagersuche/DE/Aktuelles/Info-neighbouring-states/search-for-disposal-site-germany.html>

Subareas Conference

