

LONG-TERM STORAGE: SUMMARY OF PROBLEMS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY'S PERSPECTIVES

ASTRA 3+1 Workshop
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OVERVIEW

- Civil society's participation in ASTRA long-term interim storage activities
- Green Paper: problems on long-term storage from civil society's perspectives
- Important next steps from civil society perspective



CIVIL SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN ASTRA LONG-TERM INTERIM STORAGE ACTIVITIES

- A questionnaire was created and answered by all ASTRA partners, which included questions on transparency and participation in long-term storage
- We assessed the answers, and compared them with our own experience on long-term (interim) storage in our countries
- We included the outcomes of this assessment as part of the ASTRA Green Paper

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- **Old interim storage facilities were often built before the environmental impact assessment (EIA) laws came into force.** Therefore, neither an adequate assessment of impacts on the environment and human health was conducted, nor was legally secured public participation on national and transboundary level enabled.
- **There is a lack of public participation procedures during storage operation.** Some countries have local committees at the siting communities, but no nationwide or even transboundary procedures are foreseen. Periodic Safety Reviews represent good points in time to broaden public participation. This would strengthen a shared culture for safety and security and could contribute to developing an intergenerational stewardship culture.
- **Information on interim storage design lifetime is in general not publicly available.** It is therefore not obvious to civil society when a lifetime extension procedure of facilities and storage containers would have to be conducted. And it is not even clear yet if such a lifetime extension procedure would be carried out with an EIA.

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- Long-term interim storage of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) could result in large amounts of such fuel located in one place. **Security risks like terrorist attacks and acts of war have become of higher importance in recent years.** Interim storages, especially when it comes to long-term use, need to be secured against these types of attacks. The public is concerned and needs to be provided confidence that such events have been considered in store design and management.
- From an ethical perspective, long-term storage exceeding the container and/or interim storage facility design lifetime, puts pressure on future generations and violates the polluter-pays principle. To provide solutions for time-related problems such as this, **the development of an intergenerational stewardship culture is needed.**

IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE

- **Define the design life of storage facilities** (casks and buildings) – define when a lifetime extension starts – should be linked to renewal of the environmental license
- **Conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in case of a lifetime extension**
 - Shall include safety aspects like ageing management, robustness against external hazards, changes in risks resulting from ageing and outdated designs etc.
 - Shall include security aspects like design against terroristic attacks, drones, acts of war
 - Assess environmental impacts of long-term storage and how to minimize/avoid them
 - Enable local, national and transboundary public participation in this legally secured instrument
 - Compare alternatives based on assessment of environmental impacts
 - Check if old storage facilities (with no EIA conducted yet) have negative environmental impacts
- **Enable participation in periodic safety reviews of interim storages**
- **Long-term storage will likely last for more than one century. This will put undue pressure on future generations. An intergenerational stewardship culture needs to be developed, with all actors including civil society.**