



Public Debate
Framework, results and importance for the Cigéo
project (geological radioactive waste disposal)

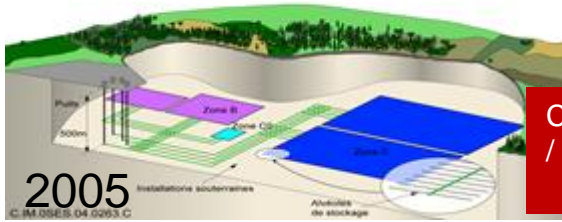
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Andra

Atomeco November 2017

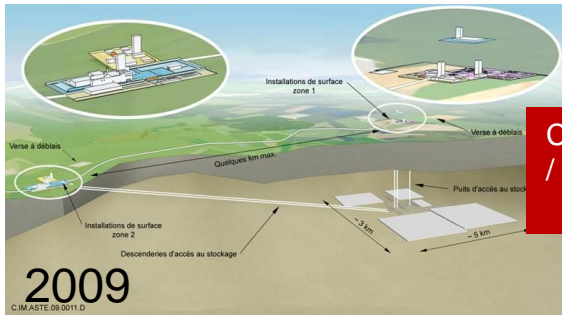


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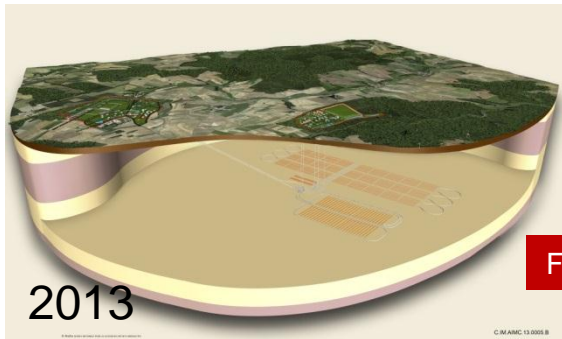
- **CIGEO as a project**
Reversible geological repository based on 25 years of research
- **Public debate in France**
Legal framework and organization
- **2005: Public debate on HLW management options in 2005**
Timeline, progress, conclusions
- **2013: Public debate on CIGEO**
Timeline, progress, conclusions
- **Future of the public debate**
Challenges of the societal dialogue



2005
Conceptual design / long term safety

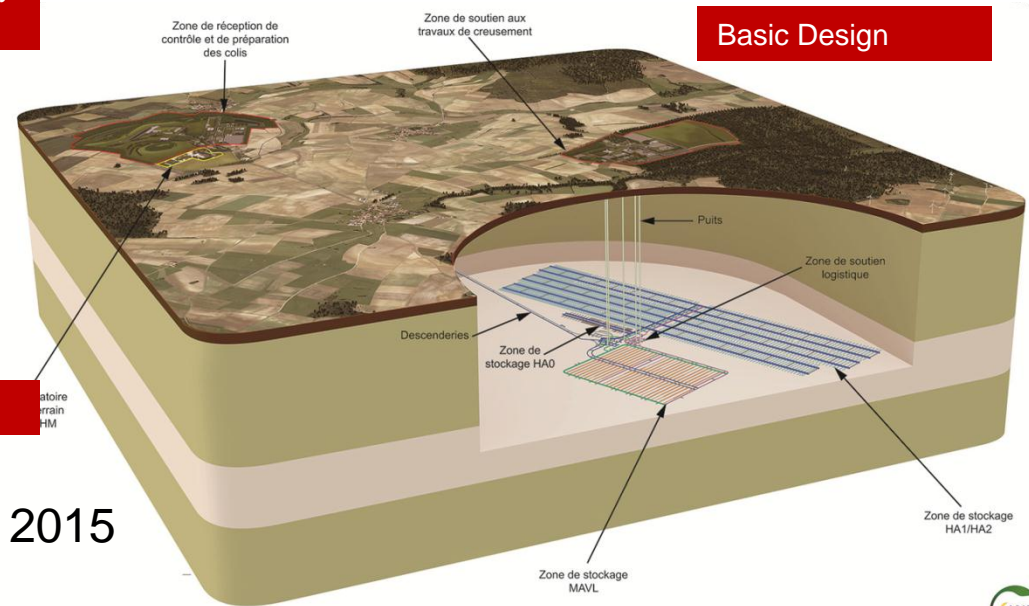


2009
Conceptual design / operational safety



2013
Feasibility study

- Cigéo is a project of exceptional scale, duration and significance in terms of territorial impact – local/regional/national
- A constructive dialogue with local stakeholders is paramount at all stages of the project and can determine its main features and future direction



2015
Basic Design

IM.0EKS.15.0005.C

Echelle des ouvrages non respectée.
Pendage des formations géologiques non représenté.










The planned deep geological repository shall be :

- ❑ feasible from a technical and scientific standpoints
- ❑ reversible during the operational period (at least 100 years)
- ❑ safe in operation and after closure (to be proven by safety case)
- ❑ well integrated into the host environment

The project of an outstanding industrial installation combining

- ❑ Surface / underground / infrastructure works, scientific research and nuclear safety
- ❑ Importantly, it is also a societal challenge :
 - ❑ **It concerns all citizens and requires their active involvement**
 - ❑ **It calls for pluralistic and complex decision-making processes**
 - ❑ **It requires a clear legal framework as well as time.**

The public debate:

-  Is a legal requirement (Law of 1995) imposed for every major project of national interest
-  Is the responsibility of the National Public Debate Commission
-  Is organized and managed by a Special Public Debate Commission
-  Has a flexible format to be determined / adapted by the NPDC
-  Requires an input by the Project Owner (documentation, consultation support)
-  Is rigorously registered and covered by mass media and NPDC
-  Expression of opinions of persons or organizations is formalized thanks to the Contributor's Report document (Cahier d'acteur)
-  Is concluded by the Report of the NPDC with recommendations to the Project Owner to be taken into account in the project development
-  Follow-up principles are announced by the Project Owner

- **Global Goal:**

It aims to associate and allow the public to participate in the development of the projects of development or equipment having an important incidence on the environment or on the town and country planning

- **Main objectives:**

- ❖ Inform the population and the stakeholders about the project
- ❖ Allow them to express their opinion and their expectations
- ❖ Influence and inform the project owner

- **Main principles:**

- ❖ Transparency
- ❖ Argumentation
- ❖ Equality of treatment and approach

- In 2005, following 15 years of research stipulated by the Bataille Act of 1991, reports on high-level waste management options (long term storage, partitioning and transmutation, deep geological disposal) were submitted to the government
- Ministries of Industry and Ecology and Sustainable Development called upon the NPDC to organize a public debate on RW management options
- Such debate, not being tied to a particular project, is not a compulsory procedure but, considering the importance of subject matter, can prove important and facilitate further dialogue
- Public debate ran from September 2005 to January 2006
- An open format of public discussion with a loose flexible perimeter defined by the questions from the public

➤ **Topics covered:**

- long-term management options for various categories of RW
- Reasons behind and sources of waste generation
- Waste treatment and recycling possibilities

➤ **Input data:**

- “Setting the context, challenges and perspectives” report by the ministries-applicants
- Summary of the scientific report based on the 15-year research and its scientific evaluation
- Presentations by waste producers, by CEA and Andra
- Contradictory expert analysis on order of NDPC

➤ **Phases of public debate:**

- Public auditions in areas concerned by the ongoing research
- Debate days on particular scientific/technical questions
- Regional conferences under a wider “democracy and waste” concept.

➤ **Results:**

- A “REAL PUBLIC DEBATE” was made possible
- 15 public meetings
- 3000 participants
- 23 contributor’s reports and 600 questions

➤ **Conclusions:**

- Research should be continued into the deep geological disposal as the safest and optimal option for HLW management
- Weighing up reversibility / irreversibility and Trust in geology / Trust in human options of long-term management
- Summarizing “Follow up” document published by the ministries-applicants

➤ **June 28, 2006: Law on RW Management:**

- Creation of National plan for management of RW and materials
- Definition of programme for future research + schedule
- Deep geological disposal is retained as a reference solution for HLW.

Took place from May to December 2013

October 9, 2012 to May 15, 2013
Preparing the Public Debate

July 11 to December 15, 2013
Debates on the Internet
Local meetings
Q/As in local newspapers

July 3rd, 2013
Programme Update

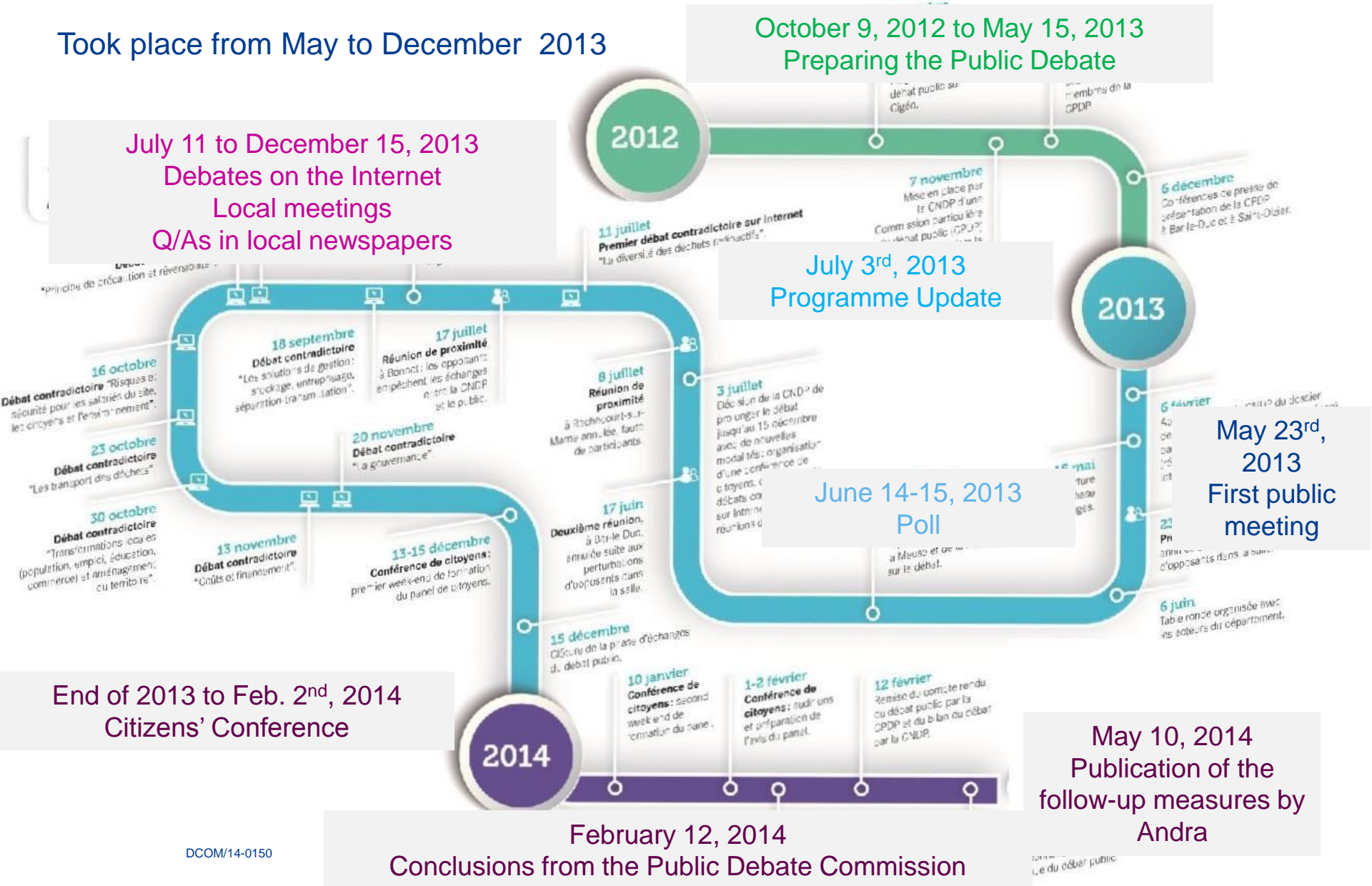
June 14-15, 2013
Poll

May 23rd, 2013
First public meeting

End of 2013 to Feb. 2nd, 2014
Citizens' Conference

May 10, 2014
Publication of the follow-up measures by Andra

February 12, 2014
Conclusions from the Public Debate Commission



- Format was adapted to the specifics of the sensitive subject
- Large public meetings were replaced by mini seminars and internet/ radio debate
- Multiple Q&A live sessions were held in audio and internet format
- 76 000 visits on the debate website
- ~1500 questions
- ~500 public opinions
- ~150 contributors' reports
- **9 interactive contradictory debates**
- **1 consensus conference/ citizens panel**



In order to take account of the opinions and expectations expressed during the public debate, and to continue the stepwise approach initiated by the Law of 1991, Andra has decided to pursue the Cigéo project with:

Four changes to the project following the public debate

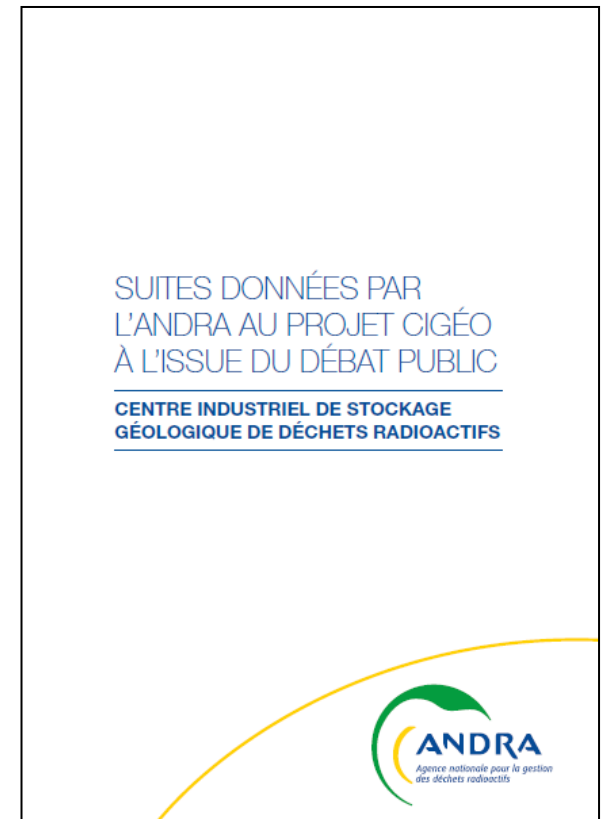
- The integration of a pilot industrial phase at facility start-up
- The establishment of a regularly revised master plan for disposal operations
- Changes to the timetable
- The involvement of civil society in the project

A proposal regarding reversibility

- Definitions regarding reversibility and retrievability, phased approach

Three commitments

- To ensure safety as the top priority
- To preserve and develop the local area
- To control costs



- Advisability of disposal and continuation of studies into other management methods
- Waste inventory
- Repository safety
- Project milestoneing
- Reversibility and retrievability
- Records, knowledge and memory for the repository
- Costs and funding
- Transportation of radioactive waste packages
- Local integration of the project
- Confidence and governance

The years 2016 and 2017 have seen a rise in violent and aggressive behaviour towards ANDRA and Cigeo project

- February 17th: attack of the Andra's bank of biodiversity samples
- June 21th: attack of the hotel Bindeuil in front of the Meuse/Haute Marne Center
- August 15th: attack against the security forces
- September 20th: police requisitions and searches in the premises occupied by the opponents

****Future public debates that shall be held in the framework of the Cigeo project will be managed taking into consideration the « climate » of public exchanges and possibility to have a constructive conversation.

***** In November 2017, the NPDC appointed 2 sureties to support ANDRA in informing the society and implicating it in the Cigéo Project



**Moving from an « attacked » Andra, in defensive posture, taciturn, with an "institutional" and technocratic / way of communication
...To a more empathetic and present Andra, which authorizes itself to act and to talk**

Strengthening proximity links with the territory to build a collective vision for the future

Developping information, dialogue and consultation

Creating alliances and encouraging third-parties to take the opportunity to speak

...