The objective of stage 3 of the Sectoral Plan for Deep Geological Repositories is to determine the geological siting area(s) and the sites for the surface infrastructure for one or two geological repositories in Switzerland. This procedure is based on spatial planning legislation. In the third stage, a general licence procedure will be implemented under the Nuclear Energy Act for one or two sites in which a brief outline of the project including the approximate location and size of the main buildings will be determined. The main objective of both procedures is to ensure the maximum protection for humans and the environment.

Starting in 2019, Nagra will compare the remaining three geological siting areas with respect to safety, based on the criteria listed in the sectoral plan and the requirements specified by ENSI. To gain further knowledge of the geological conditions, deep boreholes will be drilled. Based on the results of these detailed studies, Nagra will announce for which site(s) they will prepare the general license in about 2022.

At the same time Nagra will define the locations and configuration of the surface facility infrastructure and the distribution of buildings and operations between the individual sites in cooperation with the siting regions and cantons. This will ensure that spatial planning and environmental objectives can be attained to the fullest extent possible. One option to be considered is to place the encapsulation plant outside the siting region where the deep geological repository will be built.

Order of events, activities and findings of the third stage of the Sectoral Plan for Deep Geological Repositories, 2019 to 2029
GENERAL LICENCE PROCEDURE

By 2024, Nagra will draw up general licencing applications (GLA) for the chosen site(s) and for the configuration of the surface facility infrastructure and these applications will be submitted to the federal government. The most important components of the GLA are the safety and security report and the environmental impact report (EIR).

The GLA will then be thoroughly reviewed by the federal authorities with respect to security, spatial planning and environmental criteria and the siting cantons and regions will also be able to comment with regard to the applications. After a broad public consultation procedure the Federal Council will decide whether stage 3 is to be concluded and on the construction licence. This decision will have to be approved by parliament and there may be calls for a referendum.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES

- A monitoring procedure will be established to determine the potential impacts on society and the economy and as needed appropriate, in-depth analysis can be carried out.
- Waste producers will negotiate with the siting regions and cantons about compensation measures.