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Bundesamt für Energie BFE Sektion Entsorgung radioaktive Abfälle

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Fact sheet: Demonstration of feasibility; components and significance

The term "demonstration of feasibility" refers to the provision of evidence that it is fundamentally possible to dispose of radioactive waste in Switzerland in a specific geological layer. It does not constitute a licence or a choice of location. The intention is to demonstrate that there is a sufficient volume of rock with the required properties, and that, based on other exploration work and subsequent positive findings, the construction of a deep geological repository would appear feasible.

A demonstration of feasibility comprises the following components:

- Evidence of safety: Here it must be demonstrated that the host rock possesses the necessary geological and hydrological properties, and that the long-term safety of the deep geological repository can be guaranteed through the use of artificial barriers.
- Evidence of site suitability: Here it must be demonstrated on the basis of findings from studies that there is a sufficient volume of host rock with the properties called for in the evidence of safety so that the construction of a deep geological repository would appear feasible.
- Evidence of feasibility: Here it must be demonstrated that it is possible to construct and
 operate a deep geological repository (and subsequently seal it over the long term) in the
 chosen host rock with the currently available technical resources, while meeting the applicable safety requirements.