

FACT SHEET

WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

► CONCEPT AND PURPOSE

The Waste Management Programme provides an overview of how radioactive waste is to be disposed of and how the waste can be safely stored in deep geological repositories. It also provides information about the source, type and quantity of the radioactive waste that has to be disposed of in Switzerland, shows how much capacity is required for interim storage and describes how deep geological repositories are constructed. It has to be updated every five years. It is also examined by the relevant authorities and approved by the Federal Council (with the inclusion of any additional requirements). The Federal Council is required to report to Parliament on a periodical basis about the programme and its implementation.

At the end of 2021, Nagra (National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste) submitted the updated programme together with a research, development and demonstration plan.

► CORRELATION WITH SEARCH FOR SUITABLE SITES

While the purpose of the Sectoral Plan for Deep Geological Repositories is to regulate the search for suitable sites, the Waste Management Programme provides an overview of the necessary activities for the construction and operation of deep geological repositories up to the definitive closure. The programme takes account of the current status of the search procedure but does not anticipate any decisions to be taken within the scope of the sectoral plan. It also includes a financing plan and Nagra's communication concept.



A clearly structured concept is required for the construction of a deep geological repository

► LEGAL BASES

The Nuclear Energy Act and Nuclear Energy Ordinance specify the criteria for the Waste Management Programme. With the details relating to the volume of waste, the interim storage capacities and the construction plan, the programme forms a basis for the estimation of the disposal costs. Together with the programme, the stakeholders responsible for radioactive waste disposal submit a study of the decommissioning and disposal costs. The Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (FNSI) and the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) are responsible for monitoring compliance with the programme.

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