

FACT SHEET REGIONAL PARTICIPATION

Communes and cantons, organised interest groups and the local population of potential siting regions for housing a deep geological repository for radioactive waste work together with the Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) within the framework of the regional participation process. In this way they are able to represent their interests and incorporate them into the sectoral plan procedure for the selection of potential sites for deep geological repositories. For this purpose, regional conferences were established in six potential siting regions.

▶ ACTIVITIES

- **POSITION OF THE REGION** Formulation of the region's positions regarding a deep geological repository and their inclusion in the sectoral plan procedure.
- **INFRASTRUCTURE SITES** Debate on the sites proposed by Nagra (National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste) regarding the placement of the main surface infrastructure facility (surface facility and auxiliary access facilities).
- **IMPACTS** Analysis of the potential impacts of a deep geological repository on the local economy, society and environment.
- **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** Formulation of measures to foster sustainable regional development.



Regional conferences facilitate participation in the Sectoral Plan procedure.

▶ FRAMEWORK

- **LEGAL BASES** Incorporation into the Nuclear Energy Act and the conceptual part of the Sectoral Plan for Deep Geological Repositories.¹
- **FRAMEWORK** The concept for deep geological storage and the disposal of radioactive waste within Switzerland, and the procedure for the selection of suitable sites for deep geological repositories, are laid down in the applicable legislation.
- **COMPETENCIES** Regional participation facilitates opportunities for collaboration prior to the scheduled consultation procedure. However, the involved stakeholders cannot be granted any new competencies beyond those provided for in the applicable legislation and the instruments of direct democracy.
- **DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY** Decisions relating to the disposal of radioactive waste have to be taken at the national level. Neither cantonal nor communal licences are required for deep geological repositories. The Federal Council and Parliament are responsible for the decision concerning a deep geological repository. The decision by Parliament is subject to an optional national referendum and thus the Swiss voters may have the final say.
- **CRITERIA** The protection of human beings and the environment is of the highest priority. Safety takes precedence over aspects relating to land use, economy and society.

¹ The principles of the sectoral plan were formulated by taking account of opportunities for participation at various levels

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