

“Perspectives from environmental organizations”

Johan Swahn, MKG

**Workshop on information and memory for future decision-making
Radioactive waste and beyond
Stockholm 21–23 May, 2019**

NGO representatives at workshop

- Marcos Buser, geologist and social scientist, Institute for sustainable waste management INA Ltd, Zürich
- Gordon Edwards, president, Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility (CCNR)
- Miles Goldstick, Miljöorganisationernas kärnavfallssekretariat (Milkas) [The Swedish Environmental Movement's Nuclear Waste Secretariat]
- Jan Haverkamp, senior expert nuclear energy for Greenpeace and WISE
- Joachim Stormvall, Opinionsgruppen för säker slutförvaring (Oss) – Local NGO in Östhammar community
- Johan Swahn, Miljöorganisationernas kärnavfallsgranskning (MKG) [Swedish NGO Office for Nuclear Waste Review]

“Some perspectives”

1. Responsibility for information to the future is independent of long-term radioactive waste management (RWM) route
2. Moving ahead to possible repositories will in many countries take many generations
3. There is a responsibility for intentional intrusion scenarios
4. The concept of “Rolling Stewardship”

Rolling Stewardship

The Concept of Abandonment

1. Humans have never permanently disposed of anything.
2. Assumes a permanent solution to waste problem exists.
3. Monitoring the waste ceases after abandonment.
4. Retrieval is difficult or impossible.
5. Containers will inevitably disintegrate.
6. If leakage occurs timely corrective action is not likely.
7. Abandonment will eventually result in amnesia.
8. Difficulty in communicating to unknown future societies.
9. No intention to truly solve the problem of nuclear waste.

The Concept of Rolling Stewardship

1. Humans can contain waste securely for decades at a time.
2. Recognizes a solution to the problem does not yet exist.
3. Continual monitoring of waste is essential.
4. Retrieval is anticipated and actively planned for.
5. Periodic repackaging is an integral part of the process.
6. If leakage occurs timely corrective action will be taken.
7. Rolling Stewardship is based on persistence of memory.
8. Information is readily transmitted to the next generation.
9. Ongoing reminder that the problem remains to be solved.

“Some perspectives”

1. Responsibility for information to the future is independent of long-term radioactive waste management (RWM) route
2. Moving ahead to possible repositories will in many countries take many generations
3. There is a responsibility for intentional intrusion scenarios
4. The concept of “Rolling Stewardship”
5. The concept of a “Dual approach”
6. The concept of “Societal verification”
7. Final reflections