

SWITZERLAND

Nagra zeroes in on geological repository site

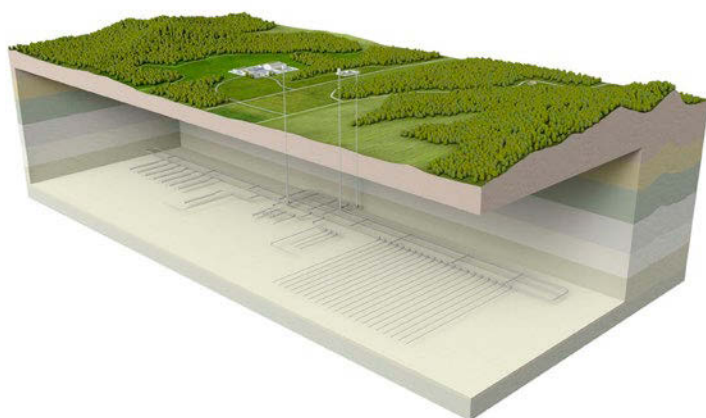
Nagra, Switzerland's national cooperative for the disposal of radioactive waste, announced in September 2022 that it has selected Nördlich Lägern as the site for a deep geological repository for radioactive waste. According to Nagra, extensive investigations have shown that Nördlich Lägern, located in northern Switzerland near the German border, is the most suitable area for a geologic repository with the best

overall safety reserves.

Nagra also plans to build a spent fuel encapsulation plant at the Zwiilag interim storage facility in nearby Würenlingen. As the Zwiilag facility has been in operation for years, this solution is expected to offer organizational and ecological advantages. Nagra will now prepare general license applications for the repository, aiming for submittal to Switzerland's Federal Council in 2024.

The Swiss government began its search for a geological repository in 2008, looking at the whole of the country. By 2018, it was decided that three sites should be investigated for further study: Jura Ost, Nördlich Lägern, and Zürich Nordost.

Nagra determined that all three siting regions were capable of hosting a repository but that Nördlich Lägern is the most suitable. By choosing Nördlich Lägern, Nagra revises its 2015 assessment that found that, based on available data, constructing a repository at the site would be more challenging from an engineering perspective. ☒



An illustration of Switzerland's proposed deep geological repository. (Image: Nagra)

Decommissioning Training Course

The Decommissioning Training Course of the Argonne EOF Division conducts periodic training of various technical and other staff of organizations involved in any of a number of ways in the decommissioning process. Activities to be performed, technical aspects and management aspects and completion of site decommissioning are among the topics to be covered.

Upcoming 2023 Courses (*Dates and in-person status are subject to change*):

- March 27-30 - Las Vegas, NV
- August - Western US (details TBD)
- November - Las Vegas, NV
- Late April/Early May - Augusta, GA/Charlotte, NC area
- October - Virginia Beach, VA

Check website for latest news and upcoming dates: <https://www.anl.gov/eof/facility-decommissioning-training-course>

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