

# Stakeholders' Involvement: Developing a Technical Dialogue on HLW and IL-LLW "Cigéo" Disposal

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With a National Public Debate on HLW and IL-LLW Management scheduled for 2013, IRSN, along with two citizens' oversight bodies (Anccli<sup>1</sup> and the Clis de Bure<sup>2</sup>), launched in 2012 a joint initiative to help them get ready for this milestone and the following ones.



## Purpose of the Initiative: To Inaugurate an Early and Durable Dialogue

**A long-standing collaboration meets a hot topic:** IRSN has been collaborating regularly with Anccli and the Clis de Bure over the past few years, providing technical support to their capacity-building effort on nuclear safety and radiation protection. With the approaching milestones regarding HLW and IL-LLW disposal, both Anccli and the Clis felt the need for early discussions.

**The aim:** allowing Anccli and the Clis to grasp the main technical issues at stake before the start of the Public Debate, to facilitate their involvement in the Debate, and keep this dialogue active in the long run to accompany the following steps of the decision making process.

## Step 1: Defining the Stakes for all Parties Involved (June-December 2012)



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First order of business: have all stakeholders (implementer, local actors, NGOs, authority, experts...) expose what the stakes of the Cigéo project were according to them.

Based on a primary discussion on that topic, three main issues were identified as particularly significant:

- Radioactive waste **inventory, management options** and impact on those of energy policy changes.
- **Storage vs. disposal, and reversibility**
- **Safety, radiation protection, health and environmental monitoring.**

Three groups worked on these topics during Fall 2012. In December, an extended seminar attended by Cli members (NGOs, elected officials, etc.) confirmed the identified stakes and allowed building a work program.

## Step 2: Addressing Technical Queries (2013-...)

On April 8, 2013, a conference open to all Cli members on the topic "Your waste: what solutions?" served as a teaser for all people unfamiliar with radioactive waste. It gave to the 80-odd participants an overview of the situation in France and abroad.

The following day, IRSN presented to an audience of 70 persons (including representatives from 20 different Cli, operators, implementers, authority, etc.), its main expertise findings, addressing the issues raised during the first phase of the "Dialogue".

From May to December, the "Dialogue" has been suspended to allow the Public Debate to run its course. It will resume in earnest in 2014 to address issues such as reversibility, confinement properties of clay, etc.



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<sup>1</sup> Anccli: National Association of Local Information Committees and Commissions

<sup>2</sup> Clis de Bure: Local Information and Oversight Committee attached to Bure's geological laboratory.