

To: R.E. Brown
20th March 1990**INTERNATIONAL DOSSIER ON NUCLEAR WASTE PROGRAMMES IN OECD COUNTRIES**

Every country using nuclear energy faces the question of how to dispose of the radioactive waste. The OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) has co-ordinated the publication of a series of brochures prepared by 12 of its Member countries to describe their radioactive waste management programmes. These brochures have been produced in an easily understandable language and common format to inform the public in each of the participating countries about their own programme and similar programmes in other countries.

Radioactive waste management programmes in OECD countries cover a wide range of activities aimed at the gradual implementation of disposal methods for various types of waste. Emphasis is placed on the institutional and regulatory framework, on research and development activities and on site selection and characterisation. Although disposal concepts and systems vary in detail from country to country, their overall programmes are broadly comparable.

The NEA provides an international forum through which government representatives in charge of national programmes and specialists in Member countries exchange information and experience on radioactive waste management policies and practices and sponsor various international research and development activities on their practical application.

In particular, experts from OECD countries contribute to the development of a scientific basis for judging the radiological acceptability of disposal practices and for evaluating the characteristics of potential disposal sites. Detailed safety assessments can already be made which give a certain degree of confidence that safe disposal can be achieved with currently available technology.

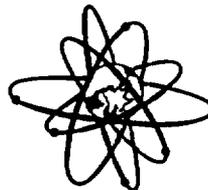
This international file should help the public become familiar with radioactive waste management objectives and programmes throughout the OECD area.

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pour informations complémentaires:
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for further information:
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