

CHAIRMAN - Letter on behalf of Luis Echavarri - International Conference on Radioactive Waste Disposal in Berne, Switzerland

From: <Lydie.GUYOT@oecd.org>
To: <chairman@nrc.gov>
Date: 04/27/2007 10:44 AM
Subject: Letter on behalf of Luis Echavarri - International Conference on Radioactive Waste Disposal in Berne, Switzerland
CC: <jdl@nrc.gov>

Dear Chairman Klein,

Please find attached an advance copy of a letter by NEA DG, Mr. Echávarri, along with one attachment. The original is dispatched today.

With best regards,

Lydie Guyot
Office of Luis E. Echávarri - Director General
OECD Nuclear Energy Agency
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AGENCE DE L'OCDE POUR L'ÉNERGIE NUCLÉAIRE

OECD NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY

Dr. Dale KLEIN
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 205 55 - 0001
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Directeur général
Director-General

Issy-les-Moulineaux, 27 April 2007

Dale,

Dear ~~Chairman~~ Klein,

As you know, solutions for the safe management of long-lived radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel are being developed in a number of countries. Despite the progress made in recent years, implementation of deep geological repositories still poses important decision-making challenges for most countries relying on the nuclear option.

Building on the success of the international conferences held on these issues in Denver in 1999 and Stockholm in 2003, a third conference on

Geological Repositories: A Common Objective, a Variety of Paths
Berne, Switzerland, 15 to 17 October 2007

will take stock of international political and strategic developments that have taken place in recent years and will look at the different political and societal approaches that are being explored or implemented worldwide. The conference is a collaborative effort between the IAEA, OECD/NEA, the European Commission and EDRAM (International Association for Environmentally Safe Disposal of Radioactive Materials) and is being organized by the Swiss National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste (Nagra).

On behalf of the conference host and co-organisers, I would like to thank you for agreeing to make a presentation on the second day of the conference, which is dedicated to the implementation of geological disposal considered from the political, regulatory, social and technical points of view. With this letter, we would like to invite you to participate in **Session 5** on the role and activities of the regulator, which will take place in the afternoon of **16 October 2007**.

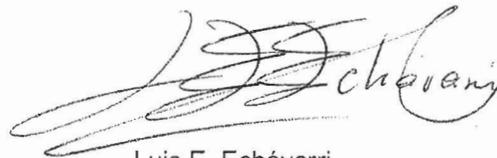
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Given the anticipated interest in the event on the part of high-level participants, it is expected that, apart from the formal sessions, there will be meeting opportunities on the margins of the conference for informal discussions on progress in the area of geological disposal and its role in the expansion of nuclear energy.

You will find enclosed the first announcement of the conference. We will be in touch with you shortly with more information and a detailed calendar for the event. If you require any assistance in the meantime, your Cabinet may contact the program committee at info@icgr2007.org or also directly Mr. Claudio Pescatore who is in charge at the NEA of the programmatic issues of the conference (Claudio.Pescatore@oecd.org).

I would like to underline once again the importance of your contribution in helping to achieve the stated objectives of the conference and look forward to meeting you in Berne in October.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luis E. Echávarri', with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

Luis E. Echávarri
Director-General

Enclosure: 1st announcement ICGR'07

cc: US Delegation to the OECD

Conference venue

Zentrum Paul Klee
Monument im Fruchtdland 3
CH-3006 Berne (Switzerland)
www.zpk.org

Organiser

National Cooperative for the Disposal
of Radioactive Waste (Nagra)
Hardstrasse 73
CH-5430 Wetingen (Switzerland)
Tel.: + 41 56 437 11 11

Language

The working language of the Conference
is English. Simultaneous translation from
French and German will be provided.

Information

www.icgr2007.org
info@icgr2007.org

Online registration, including hotel reservation, will
be available from March 2007 on the conference website.

First Announcement
International Conference
on Radioactive Waste
Disposal

Geological Repositories:
A Common Objective,
a Variety of Paths

Berne, Switzerland
October 15 – 17, 2007

OECD/NEA
Nuclear Energy Agency
IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
EC
European Commission
EDRAM
International Association for
Environmentally Safe Disposal of
Radioactive Materials

Background information

Long-lived radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel for direct disposal have been generated in many countries and are presently being held safely in interim storage facilities. Solutions for the long-term management of these wastes are being developed, with the aim of ensuring that no undue burden or responsibilities are passed on to future generations.

There is consensus at an international level that disposing of these wastes in a deep geological repository offers the required long-term safety and security. A sound technical basis for implementing such repositories has already been established in many countries through substantial national and international R&D programmes. The question of how and when to implement such a disposal concept raises important ethical, economic and social questions that will have to be answered at a political level and with the constructive involvement of all stakeholders. In some countries, political and social steps have already been taken towards practical realisation. In other countries, however, progress has been limited. Effort needs to be invested now in discussing the way forward, as well as how the technical flexibility of the geological disposal concept can be used to help in meeting social and political requirements and expectations.

Scope and objectives

The main objective of the Conference is to take stock of international political and strategic developments that have taken place in recent years in the field of geological disposal of radioactive waste.

The scope of the Conference consists of looking at the different political and societal approaches that are being explored or implemented worldwide.

Similar international conferences were held successfully in 1999 (Denver) and in 2003 (Stockholm).

Programme structure

The first day of the Conference will be devoted to considering strategic and policy developments, while the second day will focus on societal and regulatory issues related to geological disposal. Effective integration of topical sessions and panel discussions will provide a comprehensive overview of the main developments. The schedule will allow ample time for informal exchange of views and ideas.

Audience and speakers

The Conference aims to bring together high-level decision-makers – ministers, parliamentarians and other political appointees, senior ministry and industry officials, high-ranking officials from technical regulatory bodies – as well as opinion-leaders from society in general, including the international press. All speakers are by invitation only.

Logistics

The Conference will be held at the Zentrum Paul Klee, Berne, Switzerland on October 15–16, 2007. On October 17, several study tours to Swiss facilities for radioactive waste management and research on radioactive waste disposal will be offered, e.g.:

- Tour to the Grimsel Test Site (underground laboratory in granite, located in the Swiss Alps)
- Tour to the Mont Terri Rock Laboratory (underground laboratory in clay; located in the Jura mountains)
- Tour to ZWILAG (centralised interim storage facility)

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Subject: Letter on behalf of Luis Echavarri - International Conference on
Radioactive Waste Disposal in Berne, Switzerland
Creation Date Fri, Apr 27, 2007 10:43 AM
From: <Lydie.GUYOT@oecd.org>

Created By: Lydie.GUYOT@oecd.org

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