

Title of the process

**Slovenia:
Finding the Site for the Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive
Waste Repository**

Type of procedure

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation procedure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedure including mediation elements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other procedure | |

Topic area

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban and land use planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Water management/supply and distribution |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waste management | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry, trade, enterprises |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Power industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Telecommunications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic, transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> General environmental policies (genetic engineering, nuclear policy, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood conflict |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| | |

Initiator(s)

Agency for Radwaste Management (ARAO)

Short description of the case

Slovenia does not have a disposal facility for any type of radioactive waste. The current storage capacities are limited and will soon run out, which is especially true for the LILW storage at Krsko Nuclear Power Plant (NPP).

The Agency for Radwaste Management (ARAO) was founded by the Slovenian Government in 1991 and assigned the task of providing conditions for final disposal of radioactive waste. It was decided that ARAO will start with the disposal of low and intermediate level radioactive waste (LILW). A mixed-mode siting procedure that allows flexibility, transparency and public involvement was chosen. Its main characteristics are:

- All decisions should be made with public consent.
- Local communities volunteer potential sites for the repository.
- Local communities can withdraw from the procedure whenever they wish.

- Governmental and local interests have to be balanced.

In 2002 an independent mediator was introduced to communicate with local communities that were interested in participating in the siting procedure. The mediator's main tasks were to prevent possible future conflicts between decision makers in local communities and the general public, as well as to help the local community to find the potential benefits that it might receive if it accepted the LILW repository.

A broad communication campaign was initiated before the official start of the administrative procedure of the LILW repository siting. It continued while ARAO collected applications from local communities willing to participate in the siting procedure. Publications, TV broadcasts, workshops, and contacts with non-governmental organisations supported the work of the mediator. Efforts proved successful as eight local communities of the 193 invited volunteered as a site or area for the first run.

Parties and other participants (number of individuals, names of participating public authorities, institutions, interest groups, etc.)

Agency for Radwaste Management on one side and all **local communities** (initially 193, i.e. almost 2 million people) in Slovenia on the other side.

Several **environmental NGOs** in cooperation with **REC Slovenia** were involved in related informational campaigns and public participation events.

Client/financial sponsor

The mediator has a contract with ARAO, but it only defines that the mediation has to be carried out according to the mediator's judgement. The mediator's work was paid for by the Fund for Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Disposal from the NPP Krsko. The fund is prescribed by a separate law.¹

Procedural guidance by (e.g. professional mediators, etc)

The professional mediator, an independent expert, was chosen by ARAO with the help of experts. She has a technical background, with experience in management and politics. She is educated in mediation techniques and receives expert technical support from ARAO.

Geographic dimension

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> local | <input type="checkbox"/> regional | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state-wide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> international | <input type="checkbox"/> EU-wide | |

¹ The monetary resource of the fund is the price of electricity produced in NPP Krsko (0.3 euro cent/kWh). Both Slovenia and Croatia have to participate in the fund because both are using the energy from NPP Krsko. The management board of the fund has five members (two appointed by the government, two by NPP, and one by the local community of Krsko).

Status of process

concluded

in execution

Start, end, duration of the process (if still in execution: estimated end)

The mediation process started in February 2002. The first phase of the mediation finished in April 2005. At that time ARAO finished collecting applications from local communities willing to cooperate with ARAO in the LILW repository siting procedure. The mediation took place in numerous contacts with the municipality councils in the entire screening area, i.e. throughout Slovenia. The second phase will continue until the site confirmation in 2007/2008.