

The process of siting a high level nuclear waste repository in Sweden

TOVERUD, Ö. Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate, SE-106 58 Stockholm, Sweden.

The Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Co (SKB) has since the mid seventies performed comprehensive studies of concepts for final disposal of nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel in the Swedish crystalline bedrock.

In accordance with the Act on Nuclear Activities SKB is obliged by law every third year since 1986 to present a programme for future research and development. The Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate (SKI) reviews the programme. SKB's latest RD&D Programme was presented in September 1998 and the review report from SKI was submitted to the Government in April 1999. SKI has proposed that a government decision on SKB's RD&D Programme 98 should be made already during the autumn 1999.

Up to June 1999 eight municipalities in Sweden have voluntarily, asked by SKB, responded positively to participate in a feasibility study in their own municipality. In two municipalities in northern Sweden a local referendum gave the result that SKB is not allowed to continue with any site investigations in the municipality. In the other six municipalities the feasibility studies are still not finalised.

Parallel to the feasibility studies (desk compilation of available data) SKB has presented to the authorities a regional general study, a study of possibilities for siting a repository in north-south/coast-interior of Sweden, and studies of 20 Swedish counties (semi-regional study).