



Environmental Impact Assessment of *short-lived low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste* near surface repository (NSR) in
Lithuania

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Where we were ?

EU Directive 85/337/EC

- Law on EIA (1996)

EU Directive 97/11/EC

- Law on EIA (new draft 2000)

UN 1991 Convention on EIA in Transboundary Context (ESPOO)

- Law on ratification of ESPOO Convention (1999-2001)



Where we were ?

EU Directive 2001/42/EC on SEA

- Law on Territorial Planning (amendments 2004)
- Law on Environmental Protection (amendments 2004)
- Governmental Resolution on SEA Plans and programs

Agreement on ESPOO Convention implementation between Government of Lithuania and Government of Poland (signed)



Where we are ?

Implementation of SEA of Plans and Programs

Transposition requirements of EU Directive 2003/35/EC (regarding Aarhus Convention and public) and EU Directive 1992/43/EC (regarding Habitats and NATURA 2000)

- New Law on EIA (2005)

Agreements on ESPOO Convention implementation between Government of Lithuania and:

Government of Latvia (draft)

Government of Russia (draft)



Which of Espoo case have been likely to have effect on the Baltic Sea Subregion?

Implementing provisions of the Strategy of Radioactive Management Strategy of Lithuania, the Radioactive Waste Management Agency (RATA) under Ministry of the Economy has started to prospect for a site suitable for establishing the near surface repository near Ignalina nuclear power plant (NPP).

Disposal of short-lived low- and intermediate radioactive waste accumulating in Lithuania would cut the price of decommissioning of the Ignalina NPP and will increase the safety of population and environment effectively, and the future generations would not inherit the undeserved burden to manage the radioactive waste.



What kind of activity was proposed?

Near surface repository for short-lived low- and intermediate radioactive waste. The repository conceptual design was developed after review designs and operational experience of existing near surface repositories all over the world (France, Sweden, Spain, Slovakia, Japan etc.). According to the concept, the repository would consist of 50 vaults with total disposal volume of 100 000 m³. It is estimated that repository will occupy an area about 40 ha including waste disposal zone of 3 ha area.

ESPOO Convention requirements



Appendix I List of activities

“3. Installations solely designed for the production or enrichment of nuclear fuels, for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuels or for the storage, disposal and processing of radioactive waste“

NSR is designed mainly for Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant decommissioning purposes and finally conditioned solid or solidified low- and intermediate-level short-lived waste that meet waste acceptance for disposal criteria will be disposed off in repository. Waste from research, medicine and industry, including spent sealed sources, can be also be disposed of in the repository, if the waste acceptance criteria are met.



Who were affected Parties?

The impact on two countries, Belarus and Latvia, has been assessed. These countries are relatively close to repository sites. Other countries are in a distance of several hundred kilometers away from selected sites. These countries will not be affected by planned activity.

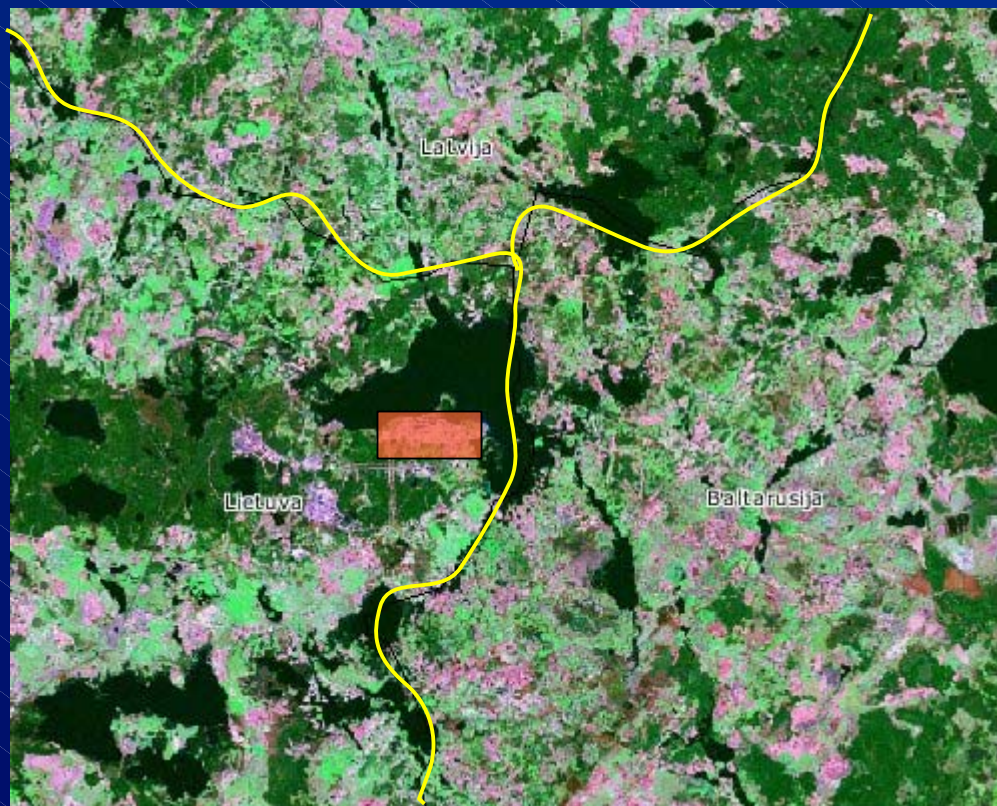


Region from the space





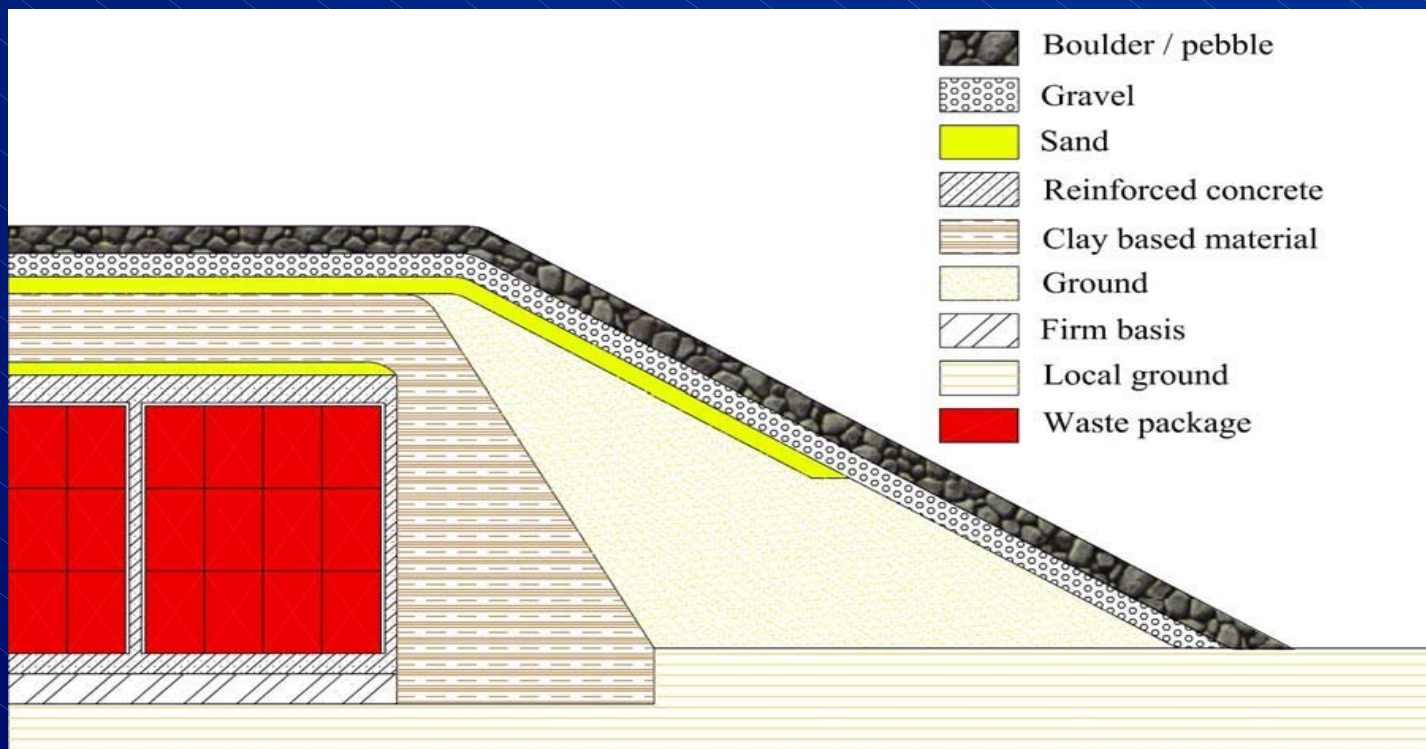
NSR from the space in transboundary context



Proposed layout of the near surface repository



Cross-section of the vault after closure of repository





EIA process

- Preparation of EIA program: 2004 February- May
- Consideration of EIA program: 2004 May- July
- Adoption of EIA program: 2004 June
- **Assessment and preparation of EIA's: 2004 August – 2005 February**
- **Consideration of EIA's: 2005 March-.....**



Transboundary consultations

According ESPOO Convention requirements with Latvia, because Latvia is ESPOO Party

- notification
- public hearing
- consultation

According good neighbourhood with Beylarussia, because Beylarussia is not ESPOO Party

- expert level meeting



Is the case finished?

No, because after consultations between national relevant stakeholders and RATA, consultation between Lithuania and Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus, RATA has took more time for investigation on alternatives, and requested from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to organize a peer review related to the safety of the siting and design aspects of near-surface disposal facility. The objective of this peer review is to provide on the basis of international safety standards and applicable national standards an independent assessment of the safety of the considered site and feasibility of the proposed reference design and its adequacy to the local conditions.



Problems concerning this case

Having no precise procedures and practicalities (timing of procedures, languages used, etc.) prescribed in an Bilateral agreements on ESPOO convention application may lead to practical uncertainties.