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Cigéo

France's Deep Geological Disposal Facility
for Highly Radioactive Waste





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KEY DATES

1991 The “Bataille” Act of 30 December defines the three priority research areas for the management of highly radioactive waste.

1994-1996 Andra conducts geological investigations to identify suitable sites.

1998 The government selects the Meuse/Haute-Marne site for the construction of an underground research laboratory.

2000 Construction of Andra’s underground research laboratory begins at the Meuse/Haute-Marne site.

2005 Andra produces a report (Dossier 2005) concluding that deep geological disposal in Meuse/Haute-Marne is both feasible and safe.

2005 Public debate on the management of highly radioactive waste.

2006 The Act of 28 June identifies reversible deep geological disposal as the reference solution for highly radioactive waste among the three research approaches.

2009 The government approves the 30 km² underground area proposed by Andra for siting studies of the Cigéo underground facility.

2012 Presentation of concept designs for the proposed disposal facility, named Cigéo.

2013 Public debate on the Cigéo project.

2016 Submission of the Safety Options Report and of the Technical Options Report on Retrievability to the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN). The Cigéo project moves to the Front End Engineering Design phase.

2016 The Act of 25 July sets out the conditions for the construction of Cigéo and for reversibility.

2022 Decree declaring Cigéo to be in the public interest and a project of national interest.

2023 Submission of Cigéo creation licence application.

Introduction

The Cigéo project, led by the French National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management (Andra), aims to protect people and environment from the risks associated with high-level and intermediate-level long-lived radioactive waste over the very long term.

In 2006, the French Parliament adopted the principle of reversible deep geological disposal as the safest solution for this category of waste. Deep geological disposal is the internationally recognised reference approach for the long term management of highly radioactive waste, and is being pursued by many countries around the world.

Cigéo builds on more than 35 years of research and assessment, including over 25 years of investigations conducted at Andra’s underground laboratory in the Meuse/Haute-Marne department. It has also been developed within the framework established by the 1991, 2006 and 2016 Acts, as well as several national public debates. The project aims to provide a long-term management solution for highly radioactive waste, in line with the principle of intergenerational responsibility.

WHAT IS ANDRA?

Andra is the French National Agency for Radioactive Waste Management. On behalf of the French State, it carries out a public-interest mission: the safe long-term management of radioactive waste to protect present and future generations.



History of the project

OVER 35 YEARS OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH

In 1991, the French Parliament adopted the “Bataille” Act, establishing a framework for research into the management of highly radioactive waste. The Act defined **three priority research areas for the management of highly radioactive waste: partitioning and transmutation, long-term storage (both entrusted to the CEA*) and deep geological disposal, entrusted to Andra**, which conducted research at its underground research laboratory.

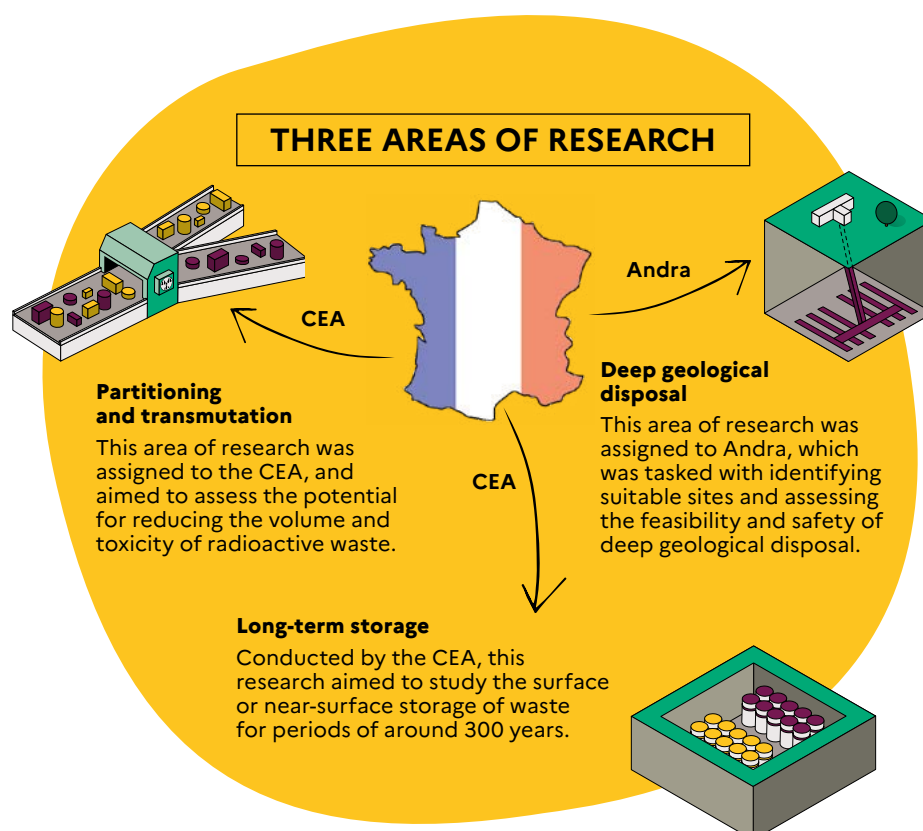
In 2005, Andra and the CEA submitted the findings from their fifteen years of research to the French government. Based on the reports submitted, the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) concluded that:

- partitioning and transmutation technology was not sufficiently advanced and, in any case, could not be used to dispose of ILW-LL waste or waste that had already been vitrified;

- long-term storage could not provide a permanent solution;

- **deep geological disposal appeared to be the most suitable permanent management solution.**

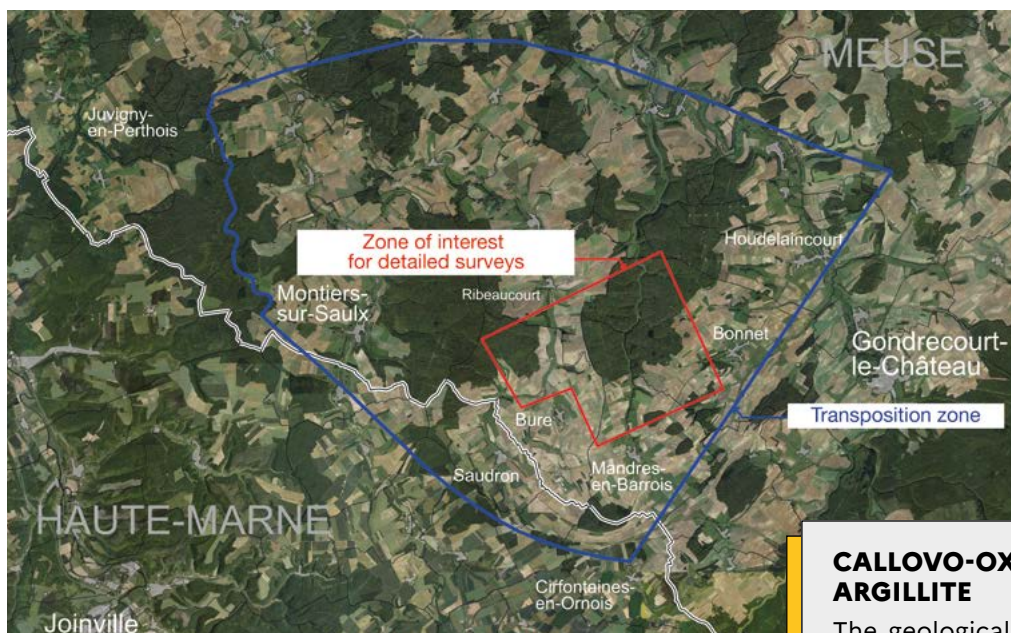
In 2006, based on these scientific findings, their review by the ASN** and the National assessment Commission (CNE2), as well as a public debate held in 2005, **the French Parliament ratified the choice of deep geological disposal and tasked Andra with designing a disposal facility close to the site of the underground research laboratory. The Act also required the disposal facility to remain reversible for at least 100 years.** Research into partitioning, transmutation and long-term storage has continued as complementary options to deep geological disposal.



* French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission.

** Opinion of the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) of 1 February 2006 on “Research on the management of high-level long-lived waste conducted under the Act of 30 December 1991.”

THE UNDERGROUND RESEARCH LABORATORY AND THE SELECTION OF THE MEUSE/HAUTE-MARNE SITE



CALLOVO-OXFORDIAN ARGILLITE

The geological layer chosen as the location for the Cigéo underground facility is a 160 million years old argillaceous sedimentary layer: Callovo-Oxfordian argillite.

This layer is 150 metres thick on average and located at a depth of between 400 and 600 metres. Its specific properties, including its stability and very low permeability, make it particularly suitable for deep geological disposal.

In 1994, investigations were carried out at four candidate sites (in Gard, Vienne, Meuse and Haute-Marne) to build an underground research laboratory to study the feasibility of deep geological disposal. Preliminary studies showed that the geology of the Meuse and Haute-Marne sites, merged into a single site, was particularly suitable.

In 2000, construction of the Underground Research Laboratory began, on the border of the two departments. Located at a depth of 490 metres and consisting of a network of over two kilometres of drifts so far, this research facility has been used to conduct scientific and technological research directly within the Callovo-Oxfordian argillite layer and, in 2005, led to the conclusion that deep geological disposal was feasible. The Laboratory is still used to conduct studies and experiments for the design of Cigéo.

In 2005, an area of 250 km² around the Underground Research Laboratory, known as the "transposition zone", was identified as having geological characteristics similar to those observed at the URL: the stability of the clay formation and its properties make it well suited to the long term containment of radioactivity.

In 2009, Andra proposed to the French government an underground area of 30 km² located within the transposition zone: the area of interest for detailed investigations (ZIRA). This area was defined based on both scientific criteria related to the safety and geology of the site, as well as criteria identified by local stakeholders via a consultation process. The area was approved by the government after opinions were issued by the ASN and the National Assessment Commission, and after consultation with elected representatives and the Local Information and Oversight Committee (CLIS*).

Subject to licensing, the Cigéo underground facility would be built within this area.

* The CLIS (Local Information and Oversight Committee) is a consultative body made up of elected officials, associations, experts, and government representatives. Its role is to keep the public informed and to oversee activities related to the Cigéo project.



Long term management of highly radioactive waste

Most radioactive waste is generated by nuclear power production, but also by the industry and the health, research and defence sectors.

The vast majority of this waste is disposed of in existing facilities: over 90% of the total radioactive waste produced in France is disposed of at Andra's surface disposal facilities in the Manche and Aube departments (very low-level waste and low-level and intermediate-level short-lived waste).

However, high-level waste (HLW) and intermediate-level long-lived waste (ILW-LL) cannot be disposed of in surface or near-surface facilities due to the risks associated with their level of radioactivity and the timescales over which they remain hazardous, which may extend to tens or even hundreds of thousands of years.

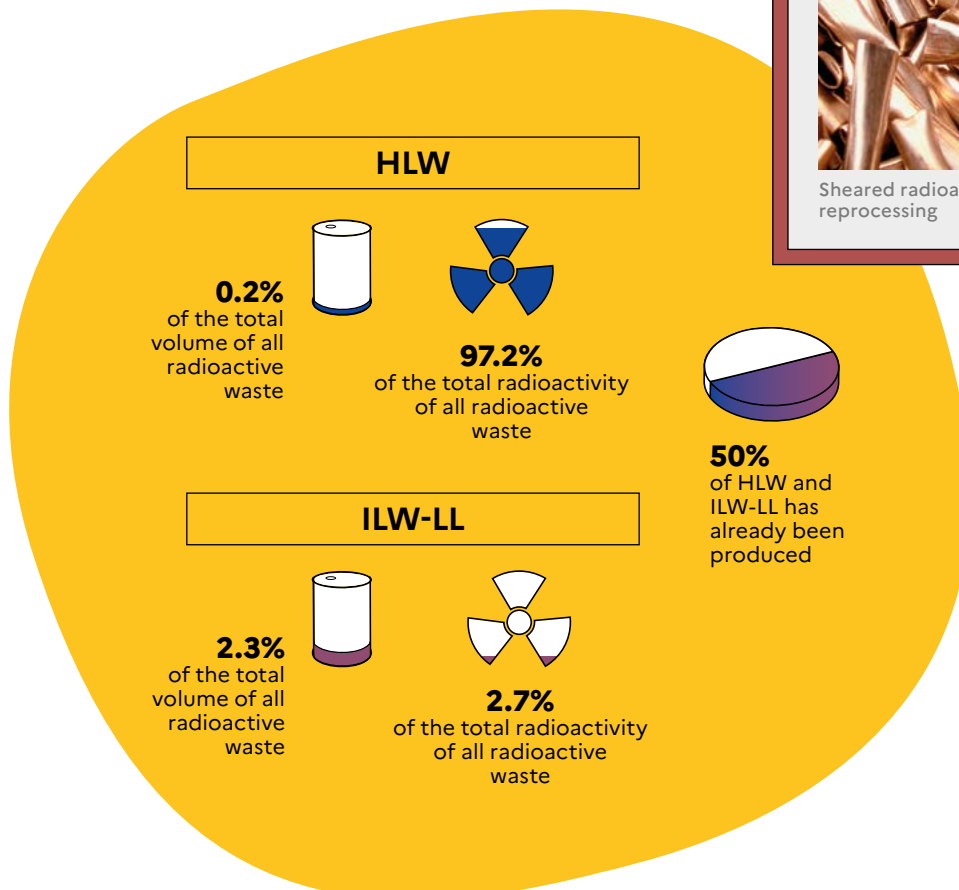
This waste represents nearly 2.5% of all the radioactive waste produced, but accounts for over 99% of the total radioactivity.

HLW AND ILW-LL

- **HLW** mainly comes from the reprocessing of spent fuel from nuclear power plants, during which reusable materials are separated from residual waste. The waste is mixed with a molten glass paste which is then poured into stainless steel packages.
- **ILW-LL** is more diverse in nature. It includes fuel cladding and metal components surrounding the fuel, as well as waste arising from the operation and maintenance of nuclear facilities. This waste is compacted or immobilised in a matrix of cement, glass or bitumen and packaged in metal or concrete waste packages.



Sheared radioactive metal parts from spent fuel reprocessing



The Cigéo project is based on a reference inventory that includes all HLW and ILW-LL generated, and expected to be generated, by nuclear facilities in operation in 2016* through to their decommissioning (nuclear power plants, research facilities, etc.). Waste that will be produced by nuclear facilities currently under construction, including the ITER facility and the Jules Horowitz test reactor, is also included. This amounts to around 10,000 m³ of HLW and 73,000 m³ of ILW-LL, i.e. around 83,000 m³ of radioactive waste in total.

This waste is currently stored in interim storage facilities at Orano's sites in La Hague, near the EDF power plant in Bugey, or at the Marcoule and Cadarache CEA centres, pending its future disposal.

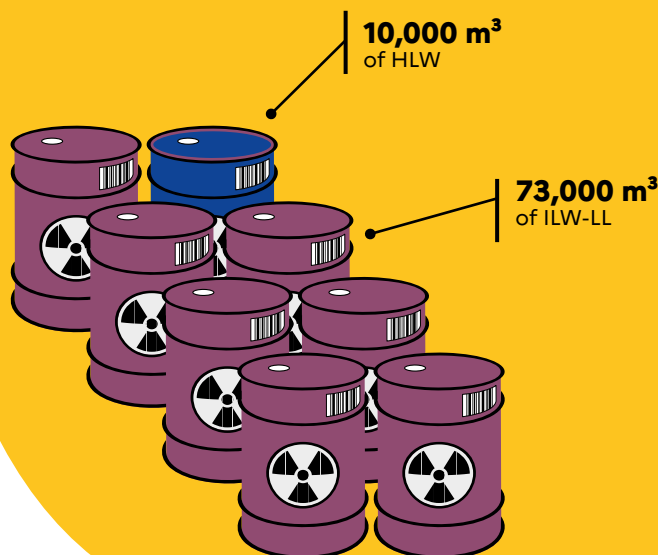


Mock-up of an ILW-LL package



Mock-up of an HLW package

THE CIGÉO FACILITY IS DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE AROUND:



* This inventory also includes waste from nuclear facilities that were operating in 2016, as well as from those under construction at the time, such as the Flamanville EPR, which is now operational.



Why deep geological disposal?

The hazardousness of highly radioactive waste diminishes over time as the radioactivity they contain decays. However, some radioactive waste can remain hazardous for hundreds of thousands of years.

Deep geological disposal involves confining the waste and isolating it from humans and the environment over very long timescales.

The depth and design of the disposal facility, together with the characteristics of the host rock and the geological stability of the site, ensure that the waste remains isolated from human activities and surface phenomena (e.g. erosion, glaciations, etc.) over very long timescales. Once the disposal facility has been sealed, no further human intervention is required: the safety of the site is considered to be "passive". The geological layer delays and reduces migration of the radionuclides contained in the waste towards the surface.

Deep geological disposal is the reference technical solution around the world for the permanent disposal of the most hazardous radioactive waste.

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY

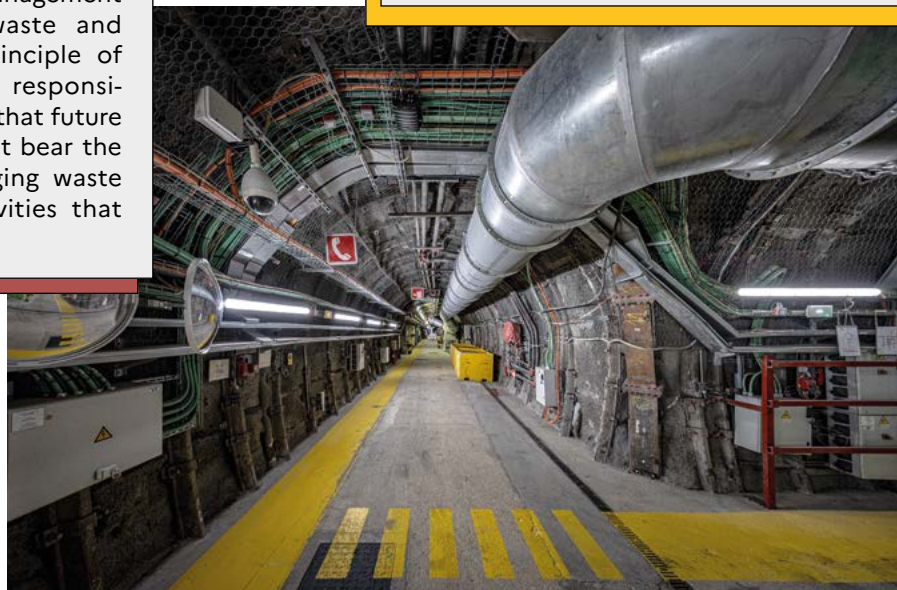
Deep geological disposal provides a safe solution for the very long-term management of radioactive waste and embodies the principle of intergenerational responsibility, by ensuring that future generations do not bear the burden of managing waste arising from activities that benefit us today.

AND WORLDWIDE?

Most countries with nuclear power plants have launched a deep geological project or are considering deep geological disposal as a long-term solution for the management of highly radioactive waste.

Finland and Sweden stand alongside France as the most advanced countries in this field. Both countries plan to dispose of their spent fuel in a granite formation. Finland has completed construction of a geological disposal facility at a depth of 440 metres on Olkiluoto island, and commissioning is scheduled for 2026. Sweden plans to build a geological disposal facility at a depth of around 500 metres in Forsmark, with commissioning scheduled around 2035.

Other countries with nuclear plants in operation (Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the United States, China, etc.) plan on having operational deep geological disposal facilities post-2040.



A drift in the underground laboratory

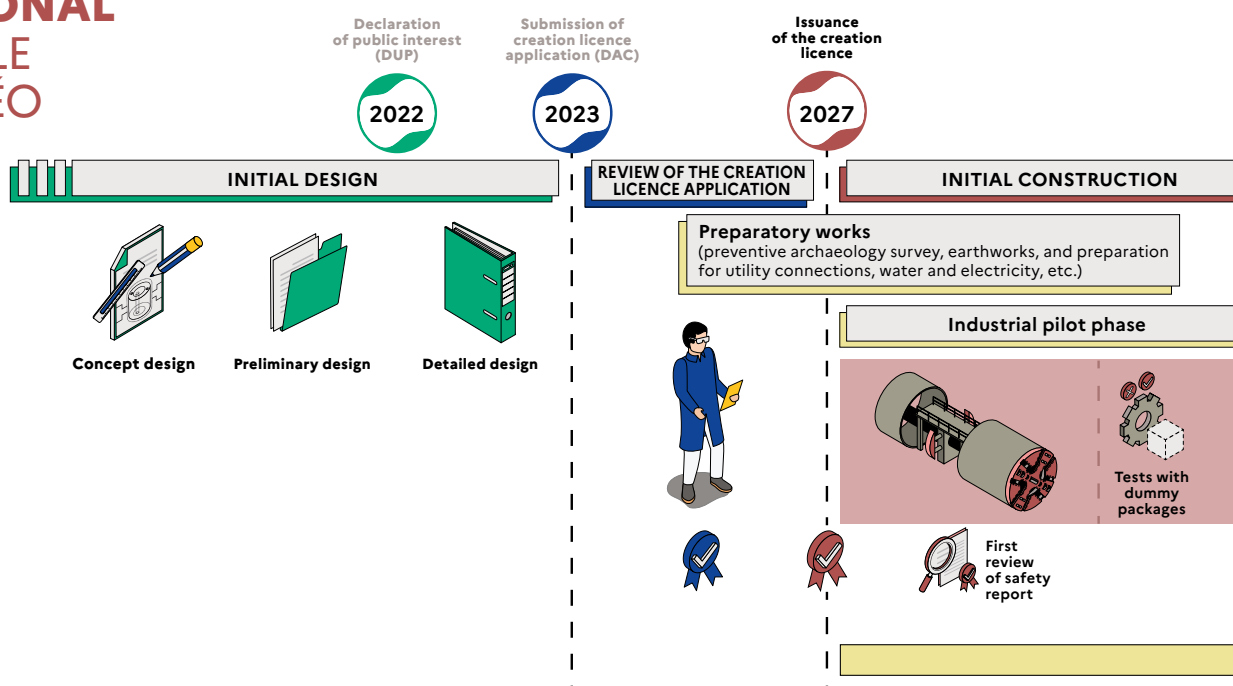


Industrial facilities

The Cigéo disposal facility will comprise surface facilities located in two areas (the “Ramp zone” and the “Shaft zone”), and an underground facility with disposal areas and the connections between the surface and underground facilities. This underground facility will be developed progressively over more than 100 years at a depth of 500 metres. The disposal areas will extend over approximately 15 km².



PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE FOR CIGÉO



SURFACE FACILITIES

A The Ramp zone

This zone includes a rail terminal for the reception of the radioactive waste packages, a building for the inspection and preparation of the packages, as well as workshops and offices.

B The Shaft zone

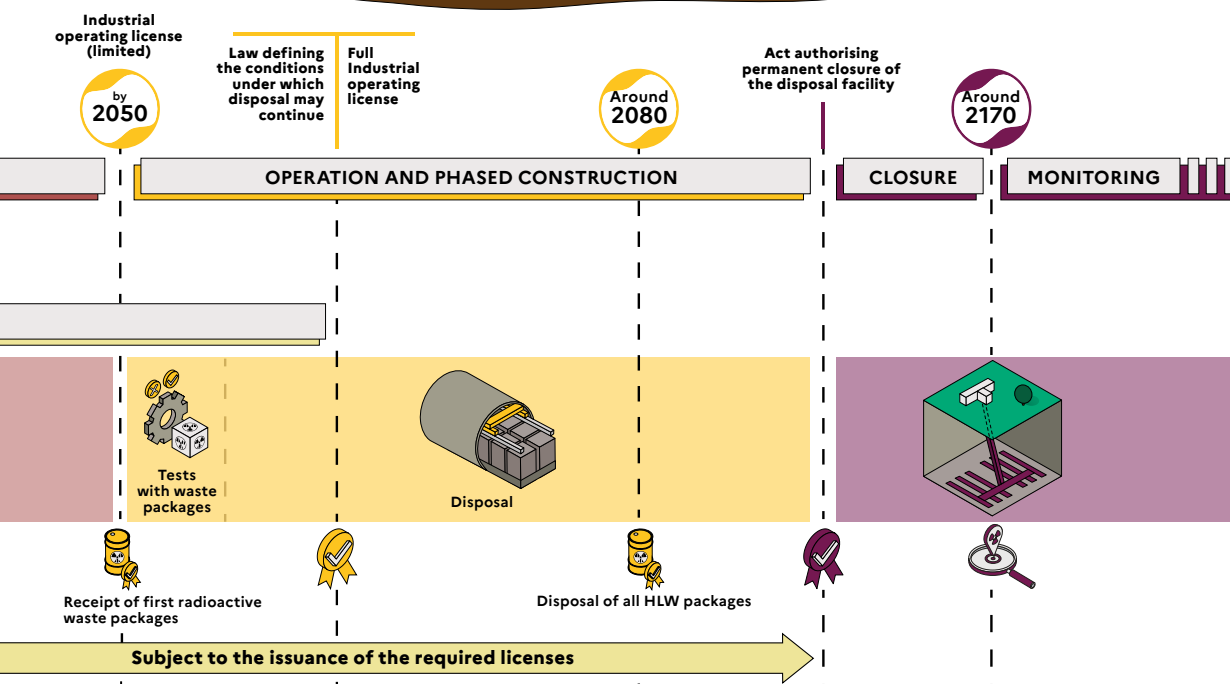
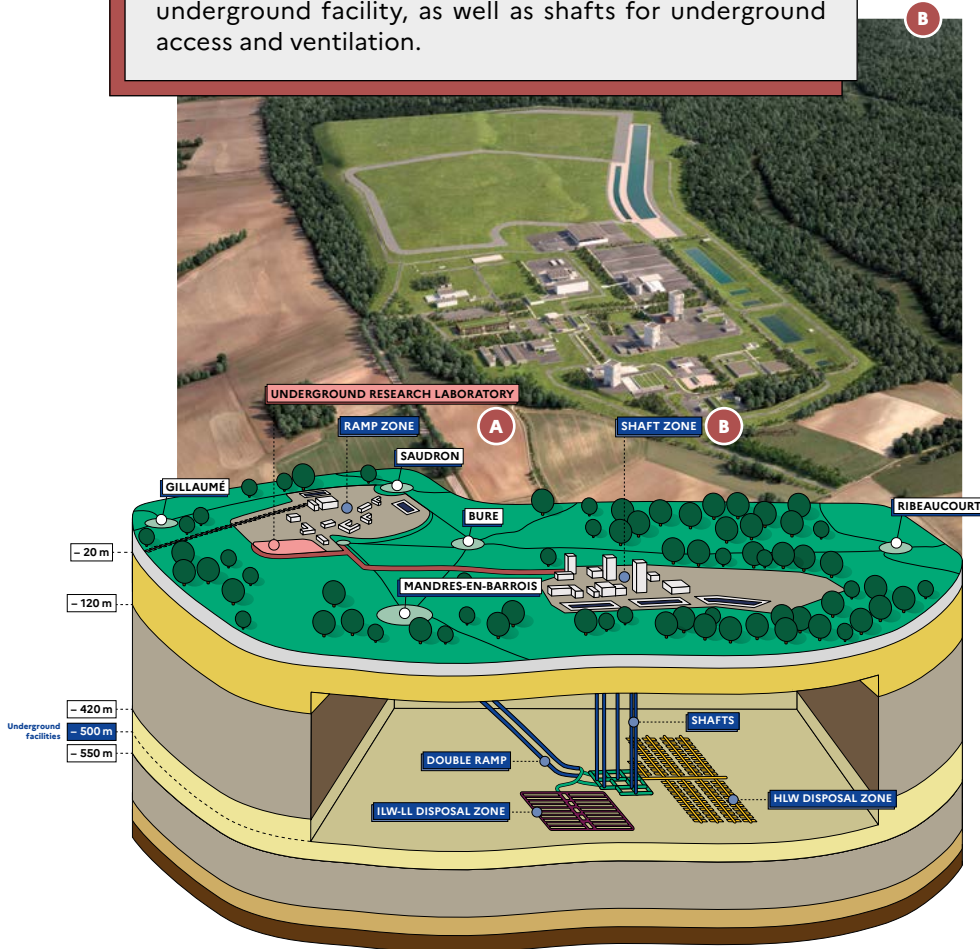
Located directly above the disposal zone, this area is where underground construction works will be launched. It will include infrastructure and buildings required for the construction, operation and maintenance of the underground facility, as well as shafts for underground access and ventilation.

A PROJECT FUNDED BY WASTE PRODUCERS

As part of a responsible approach, the design, construction, operation and closure of Cigéo is being funded by current generations so that the burden is not passed on to future generations. This means that provisions are set aside by the three waste producers concerned (EDF, CEA and Orano), and those provisions are regularly updated.

In April 2026, a ministerial decree set the cost of Cigéo at €33.4 billion (excluding taxes). This amount is based on the cost estimate submitted by Andra in May 2025, on comments provided by the waste producers, and on the opinion issued by the ASN. This cost covers the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the disposal facility, over a period of around 150 years.

The initial construction phase is estimated at €9.7 billion (cost of initial construction through to commissioning).





Deep geological disposal in practice

TRANSPORT OF WASTE PACKAGES TO THE CIGÉO DISPOSAL FACILITY

HLW and ILW-LL waste packages will primarily arrive at the Cigéo disposal facility by train from the producers' sites, where they are currently stored. Transport by train requires a rail connection between Gondrecourt-le-Château and the disposal facility Ramp Zone: the rail terminal. Only a few ILW-LL packages will be transported by road.



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INSPECTION AND PREPARATION OF WASTE PACKAGES

Waste packages are inspected before being placed in disposal containers, where necessary:

- welded steel containers several centimetres thick for HLW packages;
- very thick concrete containers for ILW-LL packages.

RECEPTION OF WASTE PACKAGES

Upon arrival at the disposal facility, waste packages undergo controls. Waste packages are offloaded from their transport containers in dedicated surface facilities.



Reception and offloading of transport containers for ILW-LL waste packages



Inspection of HLW packages



Inspection of ILW-LL packages

TRANSFER OF WASTE PACKAGES TO THE UNDERGROUND FACILITY

Each cask is placed on the funicular which transports the waste packages to the disposal, 500 metres underground. This transport system is designed to ensure a high level of safety: the motors are located at the surface, the carriage stops automatically in the event of a malfunction, and it operates at low speed.



Casks are transported underground via the funicular

4

PLACEMENT OF WASTE PACKAGES IN TRANSFER CASKS

The waste packages are then placed in a "cask", which provides radiation protection during their transfer from the surface to the disposal cells in the underground facility.



Transfer casks for ILW-LL and HLW packages

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DISPOSAL OF WASTE PACKAGES

Finally, the cask is transferred onto a robotic transfer shuttle that transports the waste packages to the disposal cells:

- HLW packages are disposed of in microtunnels with a working diameter of approx. 60 cm and a length of 150 metres. They are pushed into the disposal cell using a pusher robot;
- ILW-LL packages are disposed of in tunnels of around 10 metres in diameter and up to 500 metres long. Depending on the type of waste, the packages may be placed on a single level or stacked up to three levels high.



Disposal of ILW-LL and HLW packages



The Safety of Cigéo

The main purpose of Cigéo is to protect people and the environment from the risks associated with highly radioactive waste, while minimising the burden placed on future generations.

Cigéo is designed to be safe all throughout its construction and operation, which will last for around a hundred years, as well as after its closure.

The safety of Cigéo relies to a large extent on the geological layer in which the underground facilities will be built. This geological formation was created over a hundred million years ago. Its containment properties slow down the migration to the surface of the radionuclides contained in the radioactive waste.

The facility's safety also depends on design decisions such as:

- **the general layout of the disposal facility:** for example, the separation of nuclear areas from construction work areas;
- **the facilities and structures:** for example the methods used for excavating and lining the drifts and disposal cells;
- **the materials used:** for instance non-flammable materials and substances;
- **the requirements** relating to waste package characteristics and inspections;

- **the instrumentation and sensors** used to monitor evolutions in the disposal facility and also to detect any problems;

- **the general organisation** during operations: e.g. the use of automated or remote-controlled devices and machinery.

To ensure the safety of the disposal facility, Andra based its design on methods and analyses from the nuclear industry, as well as from sectors that involve underground work (mining, tunnelling, etc.) and international feedback.



Inspection of radioactive waste packages

A ROBUST PROJECT BACKED BY A STRONG SAFETY CASE

In December 2025, the French Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ASNR) published its opinion on Cigéo creation licence application.

Following its review, the Authority concluded that the project has reached an overall level of maturity in line with expectations at that stage of the project. It considers the concept to be sound, based on the properties of the clay layer and the performance of the containment systems, both during operation and after closure.

Additional information is expected to be provided as part of Cigéo's phased approach, particularly during the industrial pilot phase. This opinion marks a key step in the licensing process.

THE RADIOLOGICAL IMPACT OF CIGÉO DURING OPERATION AND POST-CLOSURE

Cigéo will generate some radioactive discharges.

During the facility's operation, the radiological impact of these releases on the surrounding area will be limited to 0.001 mSv/year. This figure is far below the regulatory limit for public exposure to nuclear activities (1 mSv/year) and average exposure to natural background radiation levels (3 mSv/year on average in France).

Assessments have demonstrated that, following the closure of the disposal facility, the radiological impact over the very long term will remain far below natural background radiation levels. Studies have also been conducted on exceptional events (earthquakes, intrusions, etc.) and have confirmed that the disposal facility is sufficiently robust to protect the public and the environment.

SAFETY OF CIGÉO DURING THE OPERATING PHASE

For every risk identified during the operating phase, several measures will be incorporated into the disposal facility design to prevent or mitigate it.

For example, to prevent fires, the presence of flammable materials in the nuclear zone is kept to a minimum: petrol engines are therefore prohibited. If fire does break out despite these preventive measures, measures have been taken to limit its consequences: enhanced fire detection and monitoring, fire suppression systems, emergency response measures, a disposal facility layout designed to facilitate evacuation, fire-resistant disposal containers, etc.

Measures have also been taken to manage the risks associated with concurrent activities, i.e. when excavation work is being carried out at the same time as operational work, the two activities will be strictly separated. These operations will be carried out in physically distinct areas, with different access points and independent ventilation systems.

CLOSURE OF CIGÉO AND SAFETY OVER THE VERY LONG TERM

To ensure that waste is disposed of safely over the very long term, without the need for human intervention, Cigéo's underground facilities must be closed and sealed.

This closure will be carried out gradually, under a specific licensing process.

Before Cigéo is permanently closed, closure operations will be carried out in the disposal zones: operating equipment will be dismantled and closure structures (backfills, seals) will be constructed allowing the geological barrier to perform its containment function.

To ensure that the disposal facility remains safe under all circumstances, all phenomena that could affect its performance and compromise safety are taken into account (earthquakes, erosion, intrusion, etc.) and their potential consequences are evaluated. Studies have shown, for example, that Cigéo could withstand the strongest earthquake considered geologically possible within its host rock layer.



Key concepts



A DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

The Cigéo project is the culmination of a long democratic process, which included **three laws passed in 1991, 2006 and 2016, and several national public debates held in 2005, 2013, 2019 and 2026.**

Since the public debate on Cigéo in 2013, Andra has committed to ensuring greater public and stakeholder involvement in decisions about disposal at both local and national levels.



PERIODIC ASSESSMENTS AND KEY MILESTONES

Since research into deep geological disposal began, all studies conducted by Andra have been regularly assessed by French and international safety and scientific bodies.

On 4 December 2025, the French Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ASNR) issued its opinion on Cigéo creation licence application. Following the public inquiry held between May and July 2026, the project now requires the creation licence, to be granted by decree, before it can proceed.

ASNR must also grant authorisation before the first radioactive waste packages are received during the industrial pilot phase. Finally, the Act of 25 July 2016 provides for an additional law to be passed at the end of the industrial pilot phase, before Cigéo can enter full industrial operation. Periodic safety assessments will be carried out by the ASNR, and the French Parliament will continue to be involved.



RESEARCH AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Andra has been conducting research into deep geological disposal and Cigéo for over 35 years. **This research and development work, aimed at continuously advancing knowledge, will continue throughout Cigéo's operational life to take the latest scientific and technological advances into account.**



PRESERVING MEMORY

After the disposal facility is closed, passive safety must be ensured, and shall not require further human intervention. Nevertheless, monitoring will continue and **measures will be taken to preserve and transmit the memory of the disposal facility, keeping it in the collective memory for as long as possible and for at least 500 years, as required by the ASNR.**



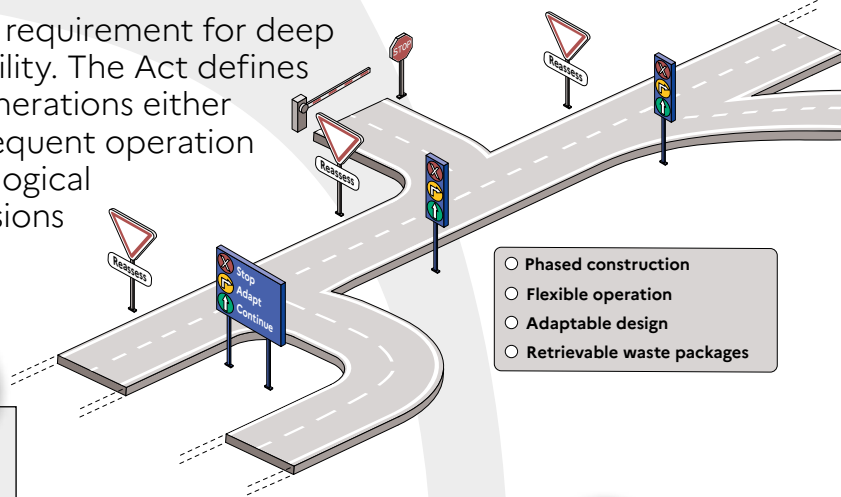
OPERATIONAL MASTER PLAN

The operational Master Plan provides an **overview of the project, its governance and future deployment.** By its very nature, it is an evolving document. Andra will produce successive versions of this document which will be updated throughout Cigéo's development. These editions will provide the public with reliable, practical, regularly updated information.



Reversibility

The Act of 25 July 2016 established the requirement for deep geological disposal to allow for reversibility. The Act defines reversibility as “the ability for future generations either to continue the construction and subsequent operation of the successive phases of a deep geological disposal facility, or to reassess the decisions made in the past and to modify the management solutions”.

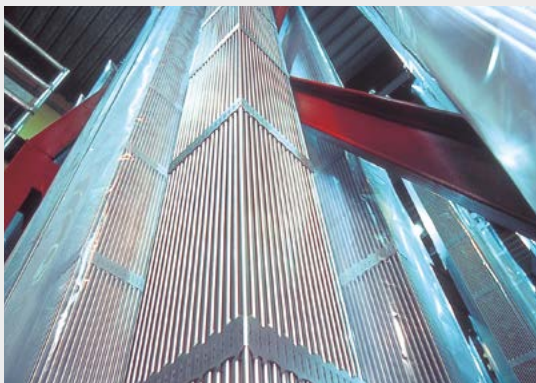


PHASED DEVELOPMENT

Given the long operating life of Cigéo (over 100 years), all facilities will not be built from the outset. Following an initial construction phase, **additional infrastructure will be developed progressively, with the disposal facility already in operation.** This will make it easier to incorporate improvements resulting from scientific and technical advances and operational feedback.

ADAPTABLE DISPOSAL

The inventory of waste to be disposed of at Cigéo might change over its one hundred years in operation, especially with regards to energy policy choices. Andra must demonstrate that the facility can be adapted to incorporate these changes.



Fuel assemblies used in nuclear reactors

AN INDUSTRIAL PILOT PHASE AT THE START OF OPERATIONS

The industrial pilot phase will begin once the creation licence for Cigéo is granted by decree. This will further substantiate the safety case of the disposal facility, its operability, and the retrievability of radioactive waste packages.

It will be divided into two phases:

- **a first phase focused on the initial construction of the facility**, equipment testing, and disposal operations through “inactive” tests, i.e. using “mock-ups” of packages containing no radioactive waste;
- **a second phase**, which will require authorisation from the French Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ASNR). This phase will involve “**active**” **commissioning tests**, using radioactive waste packages, before Cigéo is gradually brought into operation, drawing on lessons learned over several years of experience.

The industrial pilot phase will end under conditions defined by the French Parliament, and following the adoption of a new law which will set out the conditions for Cigéo’s continued operation.



Laying the groundwork for Cigéo

Construction of the Cigéo facility cannot begin until the creation licence is granted, which is expected around 2027. However, preparatory works are required in advance, particularly initial works on site and cooperation with local stakeholders, as part of the territorial development project which aims at supporting planning and development in the area surrounding the Cigéo facility.

INCREASINGLY PRECISE KNOWLEDGE

Before the construction phase begins, Andra must conduct various studies on-site and in the surrounding area, including hydrological drilling, geotechnical surveys, and archaeological excavations.

- **Geotechnical surveys** are currently underway at the sites planned for the surface facilities. These surveys involve, among other things, drilling boreholes to a depth of about fifty metres to obtain data for the design of the foundations of future buildings, and the installation of one-metre-high pillars to serve as topographical markers.
- In accordance with regulations, a **preventive archaeological** survey has been launched for the ramp zone and the intersite connection route, while another study will be carried out for the shaft zone. Conducted by the French National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research (Inrap), these operations aim to determine whether archaeological remains are present on site. Pits approximately one metre deep are dug for this purpose and examined

by archaeologists (this may require the sites to be cleared beforehand).

- Environmental sampling and observations are carried out by Andra at the planned Cigéo site and in the surrounding area. **The data collected will inform the Cigéo environmental impact assessment**, submitted as part of the creation licence application. For this environmental impact assessment, Andra also relies on a tool set up in 2007: the Perennial Observatory of the Environment (OPE). The OPE studies the characteristics and evolution of the different environmental compartments (water, air, soil, flora and fauna). It provides data needed to establish the initial environmental baseline required for the environmental impact assessment.. In 2013, through the OPE, Andra launched **a series of specific inventories covering the two areas where Cigéo's surface facilities will be located**, focusing on flora, fauna (birds, bats, insects, mammals, amphibians, reptiles) and habitats.



Preventive archaeological survey

PREPARATORY WORKS

Preparatory works must be carried out so that the construction of Cigéo can begin once the creation licence will have been granted.

This includes the work to secure the sites, prepare and service the platforms, to clear the sites, carry out earthworks and build support facilities needed for the construction of the deep geological disposal facility.

Additional connection works (to water, power, roads and railways) carried out under the responsibility of project owners other than Andra,, are also required for the future construction and operation of the disposal facility. These operations will start after the specific permits required for these works have been obtained.



Examples of site development work



POWER SUPPLY

Project owner:
RTE

A substation and underground lines will be built to supply power to Cigéo, as well as to any other industrial facilities that may be developed in the vicinity.



WATER SUPPLY

Project owner:
**Haut Ornain SIVU
and Échenay SIAEP**

Water supply must meet the needs of site workers (catering, toilets, etc.) and cover the works (concrete mixing, firefighting resources, etc.).



ROAD AND RAIL CONNECTIONS

**DEVIATION OF
DEPARTMENTAL ROAD
RD 60/960**

Project owner:
**Haute-Marne
Departmental Council**

This new road will circumvent the Ramp zone so that the departmental road open to traffic.

**UPGRADING RAILWAY
LINE 027000**

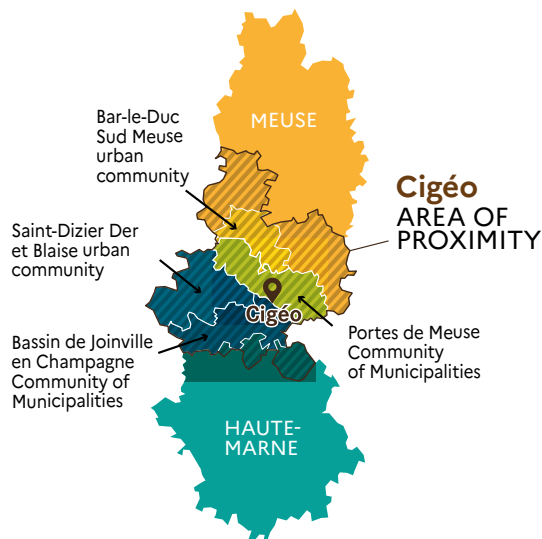
Project owner:
SNCF Réseau

This rail connection is part of the national network but is currently closed. The refurbishment will allow for the connection of Gondrecourt-le-Château to the Paris-Strasbourg line.

INTEGRATING CIGÉO INTO ITS LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

The territorial development project is a roadmap for land-use planning and economic development in the area hosting Cigéo. Led by elected officials and coordinated by the French government, this initiative aims to build on the opportunities created by Cigéo to promote residents' quality of life and support local economic development.

3 geographic areas for deployment purposes



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: CREATING JOBS

Cigéo represents an opportunity for the development of local jobs: the workforce will increase once site preparation works begin.

Up to 2,000 people will be required during the initial construction phase. Staffing levels will stabilise at around 600 people during the gradual construction and operation of the facility.

In addition to these direct jobs, Cigéo will generate indirect jobs (among suppliers and service providers) and induced employment (resulting from spending by Cigéo employees), over more than a century.

4 strategic focus areas

Focus area 1

Develop infrastructure to support the construction of Cigéo

Focus area 3

Enhance the attractiveness of the two departments through major development for the territory

Focus area 2

Boost the socio-economic potential of the area around Cigéo

Focus area 4

Sustain the economic and environmental excellence of the Meuse and Haute-Marne departments

24 signing parties

The French State, local authorities, public interest groups, industrial operators and Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Over **€500 M** in planned funding for focus areas 1 and 2, including approx. **€200 M** for Andra.

Funding for focus areas 3 and 4 will be specified once the creation licence for the Cigéo project has been granted.

At the time of its signing, this programme planned:

64 projects

38 actions

to be carried out over the 2020–2024 period: preparatory work prior to the construction of Cigéo and economic support. (focus area 1 and focus area 2)

26 forward-looking orientations

to be developed and finalised before Cigéo creation licence is granted: services to the public, enhancement of landscape and built heritage, creation of sectors of excellence, etc. (focus area 3 and focus area 4)



Public dialogue and consultation

The purpose of Cigéo, the timescale for its development and the challenges it raises, make it a project of public interest for both current and future generations. For this reason, Andra has adopted a proactive approach to engage with society and to involve the public and local stakeholders.

ONGOING DIALOGUE

Informing the public about radioactive waste management, a technical and scientific subject that has long term implications for society, means making complex issues accessible and enabling everyone to form and express their views with full knowledge of the facts. For over 30 years, providing information and engaging in dialogue have been an integral part of Andra's approach.

Andra has gradually tailored this approach to meet society's expectations for greater transparency, increased dialogue, and increased public involvement. It relies on a strong local presence in the territory and a commitment to reaching out and engaging with with all members of the public.

Andra therefore uses a variety of formats to provide information and foster dialogue, including public and local meetings, outreach activities, digital platforms, traditional and social media. Andra hosts on its sites a growing number of visitors giving them an opportunity to discover Andra's activities and engage directly with its teams. Andra continues to develop innovative ways to broaden the dialogue and generate interest, particularly among young people.

Finally, Andra involves the public and local stakeholders in its projects through consultation, contributions to public debates, and participatory initiatives.

PUBLIC DEBATES ON THE PNGMDR

In 2019 and in 2025–2026, public meetings were held to discuss the Cigéo project as part of the public debates on the fifth and sixth editions of the French National Plan for the Management of Radioactive Materials and Waste (PNGMDR).

The PNGMDR sets out France's schedule and strategy for the management of radioactive materials and waste to protect public health, safety, and the environment. It provides an overview of the current situation, identifies future needs, and sets targets and timeframes.

ONGOING DIALOGUE WITH THE PUBLIC

- Two public debates dedicated to radioactive waste management and the Cigéo project in 2005 and 2013.
- Two public debates on the PNGMDR, also addressing the Cigéo project, in 2019 and 2025-2026.
- An ongoing consultation at the local and national levels, supported by guarantors appointed by the National commission for public debate (CNDP) between 2017 and 2026.
- Public inquiries at key regulatory milestones (declaration of public interest, preparatory works and creation licence).

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REGARDING CIGÉO

Following the public debate in 2013, Andra agreed to work closely with civil society during future phases of the project. Since 2016, Andra has been carrying out public participation activities at local and national levels. This approach was further strengthened in 2018 with the publication of a consultation roadmap and the appointment of guarantors by the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP).

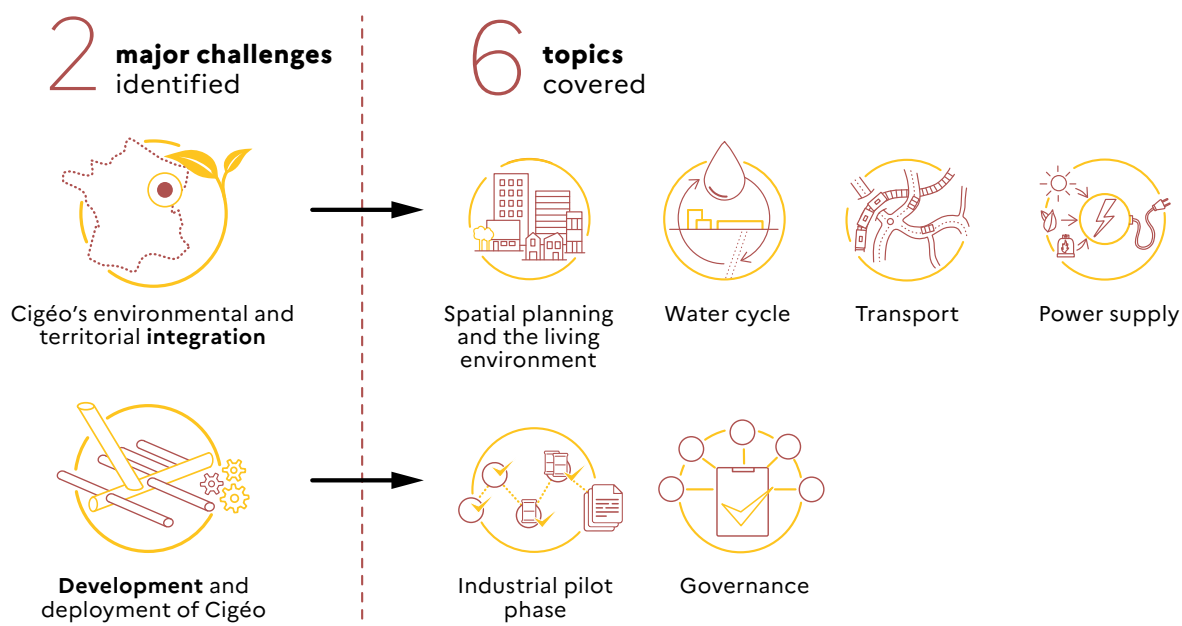
This participatory process continued throughout the public inquiry in May 2026, which focused on Cigéo's creation licence application. Consultation will continue, particularly at the local level, as the project moves into the construction phase.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CIGÉO AND ANDRA'S MISSION

Andra welcomes members of the public to its Meuse/Haute-Marne Centre (CMHM), where they can learn more about its activities first-hand through site visits and educational initiatives.

The Underground Research Laboratory, located at a depth of 500 metres, is open to visitors by reservation. These guided tours provide insight into ongoing research on deep geological disposal.

From spring to autumn, the Cigéo exhibition entitled "Dessus/Dessous" (Above and Below) provides an accessible and immersive look into the project. Mock-ups, interactive content, and educational tours help visitors understand the scientific, technical, and societal challenges associated with radioactive waste disposal.



KEY FIGURES

OVER
70
MEETINGS

OVER
2,500
PARTICIPANTS

1
CITIZEN'S
conference



Follow all of Andra's public consultation activities at concertation.andra.fr





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