2nd Announcement and Call for Abstracts

3rd Conference on Key Topics in Deep Geological Disposal

Challenges of a Site Selection Process: Society – Procedures – Safety

Cologne, 21 – 23 March 2022

DAEF
Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Endlagerforschung

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For more information, please visit the conference website https://www.daef2022.org/

Background

There is a broad international consensus that high-level radioactive waste arising from electricity production by nuclear fission has to be safely isolated from the biosphere. Disposal in deep geological formations is considered the best approach to protect human beings and the environment from radiological exposures. However, the design of an appropriate site selection process for a repository still represents a challenge and different strategies are pursued in those countries with advanced geological disposal programs.

A site selection process for a repository for high-level radioactive waste and / or spent nuclear fuel has to consider and to reconcile:

- Safety related scientific technical principles and knowledge bases as well as regulatory constrains/guidelines
- Geoscientific information based both on existing data and on site investigations and its utilization for safety, feasibility and demonstration purposes
- Detailed knowledge about type and amount of waste to be disposed of (data bases)
- Ideas/concepts how to provide safety by means of an appropriate repository design
- Social-science based aspects related to good governance, i.e. a “qualitatively good” procedural design aiming at the development of a fair process
- Land use concepts and regional planning aspects
- Legal and political boundary conditions

The reconciliation of these aspects may differ from country to country but experience shows that “safety first” is the overriding principle.

Considering the time scales of many decades required to implement a repository for high-level radioactive waste from initiating the site selection process to the closure and possibly post-closure monitoring, evidently science and technologies related to nuclear waste disposal have to be developed further during the process. Keeping and improving know-how and expertise during decades requires strong efforts to support and organize research in all related scientific disciplines with a strong focus on interdisciplinary aspects as well as permanently educating and training scientific and technical staff.

The third international conference ***Key Topics on Deep Geological Disposal – Challenges of a Site Selection Process: Society – Procedures – Safety*** will focus on the following topics:

1. **Status of high-level waste / spent nuclear fuel repository siting in Germany: Views of different actors**
2. **Status of high-level waste / spent nuclear fuel disposal programmes in various countries: Technical and societal aspects**
3. **High-level waste / spent nuclear fuel disposal: Research and development in natural sciences and engineering**
4. **High-level waste / spent nuclear fuel management strategies and governance: Research in humanities and social sciences**
5. **Competence building and knowledge transfer**

The conference will provide an adequate forum for fruitful scientific exchange and a valuable instrument for further improving multilateral co-operation for mutual benefit. The program will consist of invited and contributed presentations (oral and posters); the conference language will be English.

Conference organizers:

The German Association for Repository Research (DAEF) represents leading research organizations active in radioactive waste disposal research. The aim of this association is to contribute to the safe disposal of radioactive waste, to support respective research and education, and to offer respective fact based information.
Web: www.endlagerforschung.de

Call for Abstracts

Please submit your abstract until **June 30, 2021**, (max. 500 words) to daef2022@fu-confirm.de, stating:

- conference topic your abstract belongs to (please specify at least one number 1 – 5 according to the list of topics above),
- whether you prefer an oral presentation or a poster,
- name and institution of all authors,
- phone and e-mail address of contact author.

Timeline

Deadline for abstract submission:	30 June 2021
Notification of acceptance:	15 October 2021
Deadline for early registration:	15 December 2021
Final programme:	15 February 2022
Welcome reception at Gürzenich Weinkeller:	21 March 2022, evening
Conference:	22 - 23 March 2022

Registration

Details and information on registration and accommodation will be made available online at: https://www.daef2022.org/ beginning of November 2021

Registration fees:

The conference fees are set at a similar level as originally planned. Minor adjustments are possible.

Registration fees include:

Welcome reception; attendance of technical sessions;
Buffet style dinner during the evening poster session; coffee breaks; conference material

Venue

The conference will take place in the Gürzenich Köln, a wonderful representational building in the heart of Cologne, which was first opened in 1447. It is fronted by a classic late Gothic façade. The interior was developed in the style of the fifties. In 1997, the building underwent a complete renovation with the objective of combining its historical architecture with state-of-the-art event technology in an exclusive event centre.
Köln (Cologne) is the city of the dome: The cathedral is the famous landmark of the city and one of the greatest European masterpieces of gothic architecture and was declared a UNESCO world heritage. The city founded by the Romans has a more than 2000 year old history and is one of the economic and cultural centers of international importance in Germany – and it is famous for its traditional carnival.

Getting to the venue

Cologne has an outstanding traffic infrastructure with an excellent public transport network. Motorways lead to Cologne from every direction and a main station is served by 1,200 trains daily. Two international airports are located nearby – Cologne-Bonn and Düsseldorf – and direct InterCity Express-trains connect to Frankfurt Airport.