

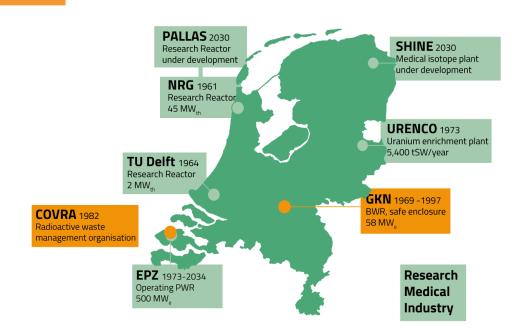
Marja Vuorio & Ewoud Verhoef– IGD-TP Symposium 25.-27.11.2025, Prague

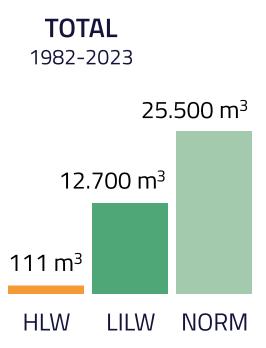


Netherlands roadmap updates for the disposal of radioactive waste

- 1. Background
- 2. Present policies
- 3. Future plans
- 4. To conclude

#### **RADIOACTIVE WASTE**





#### **COVRA**

A clean and healthy living environment means taking responsibility for waste

We contribute to this with sustainable, integrated and safe solutions for radioactive waste

Est. 1982 | state-owned enterprise turnover € 20-25 million | 84 fte



#### INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT CHAIN

Dedicated facilities for handling and storage of lowlevel, intermediate-level, and high-level radioactive waste.

> Facilities, packages and organization designed for at least 100 years.

> > dismantling

Long-term communication strategy.



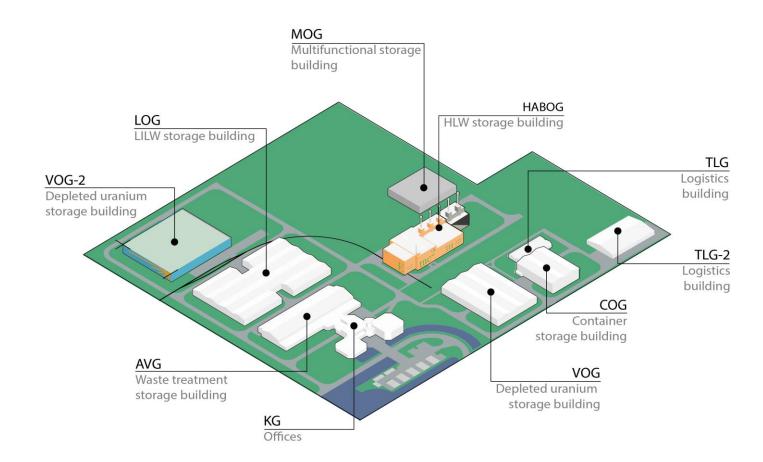
### **SOLUTIONS FOR THE NETHERLANDS**



- Small volume of waste
- High ground water table
- High population density
- Little space

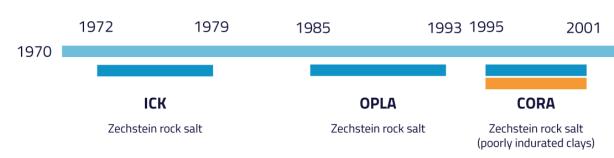
17,5 million people

# **SPACE**



#### RESEARCH ON DISPOSAL

Research has been carried out in the Netherlands since '70s, concentrated on clays and salt host rocks





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#### **MONEY: WAIT OR COLLABORATE**

- Polluter pays
- Costs covered by fees
- Cost effective
- No retrospective adjustment of fees paid
- COVRA takes over full title

- Contribution per m³
- In 2130 € 2 billion
- Real interest of 2,3 %
- Safe investment
- The State as a safety net

#### RADIOACTIVE WASTE POLICY

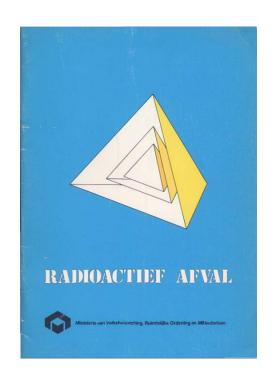
- All waste at one industrial site
- At least 100 years storage
- Disposal in one repository either in clay or salt host rock
- Disposal starting 2130



#### RADIOACTIVE WASTE POLICY

In 1984 memorandum the government's position on radioaction waste policy is set out:

"During the storage period, options for final disposal can be further studied, international developments can be followed and it may even be possible to link up with a possible internationally established disposal facility."



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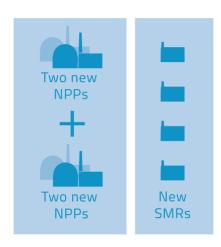
#### PRINCIPLES OF THE NPRA

# The policies concerning the management of radioactive waste are based on the following principles:

- Safe management of radioactive waste, now and in the future
- No unreasonable burdens for future generations
- Minimising the generation of radioactive waste, both in volume and radioactivity
- The waste generator bears the cost of managing radioactive waste.

#### **NEW POLICY PLANS**

- Concerning nuclear energy:
  - Borssele NPP will remain open
  - Continuing preparations the construction of 2 new NPPs
  - Building two additional NPP's
  - Possibilities for Small Modular Reactors
- Extra attention for radioactive waste management.
- The government is therefore exploring what is needed to bring forward the decision-making process to achieve a safe final storage.
- Budget of €14 billion available.



#### ROADMAP FOR THE DISPOSAL

- The roadmap provides an initial picture of:
  - The knowledge that is required
  - Studies that are needed
  - Decisions that need to be taken
  - Parties that need to be involved
  - Developments that are required
    - in legislation and
    - regulations
    - and the organisations

#### **DISPOSAL**

- In 2019 lenW asked Rathenau Instituut to give an advise on the decision-making process of the final respository
  of radioactive waste.
- September 2024 they published the final advise to the Ministry.
- Policy change: decision on the respository in 2100 is let go, we take action now.
  - Ambition is to decide on disposal location(s) and method(s) in 2050
  - Develop the decision-making process in course of the next two years
  - Start the process in 2027
- Research programme final repository
  - Technical and societal research
  - Technical research should also include alternatives for GDF (shallow and intermediate depth disposal, deep borehole disposal) and consider combinations of these
  - Dual track policy still valid

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#### **TO CONCLUDE**

- Due to long timescales
  - Central storage for safety
  - Flexible for policy changes space availability, modular storage facilities
  - Self sufficiency treatment technologies at own hands, when possible
  - Knowledge building and -transfer continuous research (on disposal)
- Disposal:
  - Ambition: decision on disposal location(s) & method(s) 50 years earlier
  - Includes research on decision making process
  - New disposal methods to be considered