The Political and Public Perspective on Radioactive Waste Management

A Swedish Municipality View

Presentation to
NWTRB
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The Swedish Nuclear Waste Management Organisation

Ministries and regulatory authorities
- Ministry of the Environment
- National Council for Nuclear Waste KASAM
- Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate SKI
- Swedish Radiation Protection Institute SSI

Statutes
- Act on Nuclear Activities
- Radiation Protection Act
- Financing Act

SKB’s owner utilities
- Vattenfall AB
- Barsebäck Kraft AB
- OKG Aktiebolag
- Forsmarks kraftgrupp AB

SKB’s subcontractors and cooperation partners

Approximately 300 persons work for SKB, and about 110 of these are employed by the company. The rest are subcontractors or cooperation partners. They include contractors for operation of CLAB, SFR and waste shipments; researchers at universities and institutes of technology; and Swedish and foreign consultants and experts who work with development and special investigations.
The Swedish KBS-3 Concept
The Swedish Site Selection Process

Feasibility studies (5-10 m) → Site invest. (min 2) → Detail invest. (1 site)

Siting decision

Sites:
- Älvskarleby
- Hultsfred
- Tierp
- Oskarshammn
- Östhammar
- Nyköping
  - (Malå)
  - (Storuman)

Locations:
- Nyköping
- Östhammar
- Tierp
- Oskarshammn
- Hultsfred
- Älvskarleby
- Malå
- Storuman

Local Competence Building in Oskarshammn, Project Nuclear Waste

LKO
Geological disposal the right choice

KBS-3 is the main alternative

Supplementing information before starting site investigations

- Safety assessment of KBS-3
- Revised analysis of the disposal system and alternative methods
- Programme for site characterisation
- Integrated review of feasibility studies etc.
Local Competence Building in Oskarshamn, Project Nuclear Waste
The Simpevarp Peninsula, Oskarshamn Sweden
Decision making and controversial facilities

From
Prosperous future - no opposition
Decisions behind closed doors
Decide Announce Defend - DAD

To
Complete openness
Participation by the public, our modell
A System for National Dialogue

R&D-plan every third year - Positive

SKB’s R&D-plan 1992 proposed siting of an encapsulation plant to CLAB

Forced the political leadership to define their role and participation
The Political Foundation

An early start of the EIA-process
A defined and clear decision making process
A systems approach
Openness and clarity from all parties
Economical resources to cover the municipality participation
Development of the Oskarshamn model

We initiated the EIA-forum 1994 with:
SKB, SKI, SSI, Kalmar County and the Municipality

31 meetings since August -94:
- extension of the CLAB facility
- encapsulation plant
- final repository system in Oskarshamn
Cont.

Development of the Oskarshamn model

1995 May, SKB’s request to Oskarshamn
1996 Oct., Municipality Council approve - with conditions
1997 June, our Organisation decided
1997 Aug., The Feasibility study starts
1999 June, The Draft Final Report ready
1999 autumn, extensive review
2000 autumn, Final Report
Active Municipality Participation

Object - Be passive - Be active
Oskarshamn has decided to be active!
We already have all the spent fuel
Active participation - better programme
Active participation for future decisions

A passive approach is not an alternative!
Forcing clear roles of the Key Parties in the Decision Making Process

Clear Government Policy = legal status
SKB propose disposal methods and siting
The Authorities - ”our experts”- approve or disapprove SKB´s proposal
The Authorities available throughout the process
The Public - experts on local conditions
EIA as a Tool for Local Participation and Real Influence

All Parties working together for the best possible basis for the decisions to come

Each Party decide independently
Complete Openness and Broad Participation - Democracy in Practice!

The Public has no opinion, no time, no interest, no trust, can’t influence?

We argue, the Public has very clear opinions

but

They demand a clear decision making process
Complete Openness and Broad Participation - Democracy in practice

If You want to communicate with the Public -
You must come to them!
Meet the public with clear information and clear questions
 Seriously address their questions and concerns
Engagement of neighbours in the dialogue

Local Competence Building in Oskarshamn, Project Nuclear Waste
The Oskarshamn model in summary

Openness and participation
everything on the table, real influence

The EIA process
development of basis together - decisions independently

The Council as reference group
competent elected officials responsible towards the voters

The Public - a resource
concrete plans and clear study results a pre-requisite for public engagement and influence
cont.

The Oskarshamn model in summary

The Environmental groups - a resource
their members and experts give us valuable contributions

Stretching of SKB to clear answers
we build competence so we can ask the difficult questions
we ask until we get clear answers

The competent Authorities our experts
the authorities visible throughout the process
our decision after statement by the competent authorities
Summery of experience and conclusions

The Oskarshamn model has worked well.
We have influenced the program,
ensured the local perspective,
increased the local competence and
We know what the public wants.
We are well prepared!