

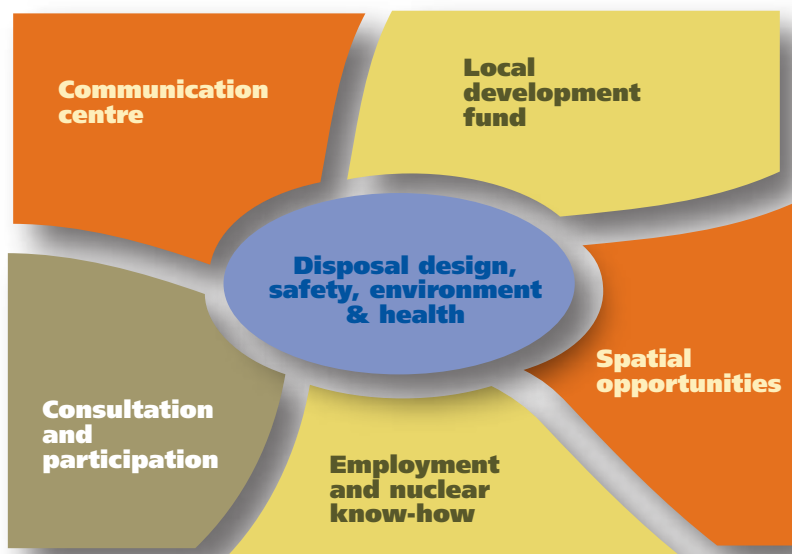
# Government opts for surface disposal in Dessel

On 23 June 2006, the Council of Ministers decided that the low and medium-level short-lived waste could be stored in a surface disposal installation on the territory of the municipality of Dessel, in the province of Antwerp. To this end, ONDRAF/NIRAS was tasked with developing the integrated project for surface disposal proposed by STOLA-Dessel and to continue the participative process.

## Cooperation between ONDRAF/NIRAS, STORA and MONA

In their proposals, both STORA and MONA had stated that the continuation of the participative process and the central role of the partnerships were vital for the continuation of the disposal programme. They were of the opinion that after the choice of one integrated disposal project on the territory of one of the two municipalities, the other municipality and its partnership also had to be able to participate in the further decision-making process. In its decision of 23 June 2006, the Council of Ministers confirmed this wish. ONDRAF/NIRAS also wished to develop the project further, with all the conditions it contained, in close cooperation with STORA and MONA with the goal of developing a valuable integrated project. To continue the principles of cooperation and consultation applied during the preliminary design phase between ONDRAF/NIRAS, the partnerships and the municipalities, the cooperation was given concrete form at two levels:

- an administrative level of integrated decision-making and project orientation by means of a common ONDRAF/NIRAS-STORA-MONA steering group
- an operational level of preparatory discussions, monitoring and implementation of studies and activities through the partnership workgroups



An integrated project for the surface disposal  
in Dessel of the Belgian low and  
medium-level short-lived waste

Together we can make it possible

### **Development of the integrated project**

The partnerships continue to play a major role in the development of the integrated project. All aspects of the integrated project will be refined further in detail studies: technical aspects, safety aspects, financial and legal aspects, drafting a safety report and an environmental impact report, application for the necessary permits... Also the measures that must ensure a positive impact on the local community and additional social, economic and cultural value in the short, medium and long term will be developed further, such as the communication centre and the fund.

## **How will this be achieved?**

### **A project-oriented approach**

To meet the deadlines, a project-oriented approach is necessary for the development of the integrated project. For that reason, ONDRAF/NIRAS has set up a project team on site that must ensure that all (partial) objectives are attained on time. The design phase will run from 2007 to 2011. An interim milestone is planned for the end of 2008, when a detailed description of the integrated design for surface disposal will be submitted to the federal government, including cost estimate and financing modes. After that comes the construction and implementation phase, which will run from 2012 to 2016. Operation is planned to start in 2016.

### **Co-design**

In the development of the various project components there will be an open spirit of co-design, or "designing together". This must guarantee that the final result of the cooperation between ONDRAF/NIRAS and all the local people concerned gets the approval of the partnerships and municipalities.

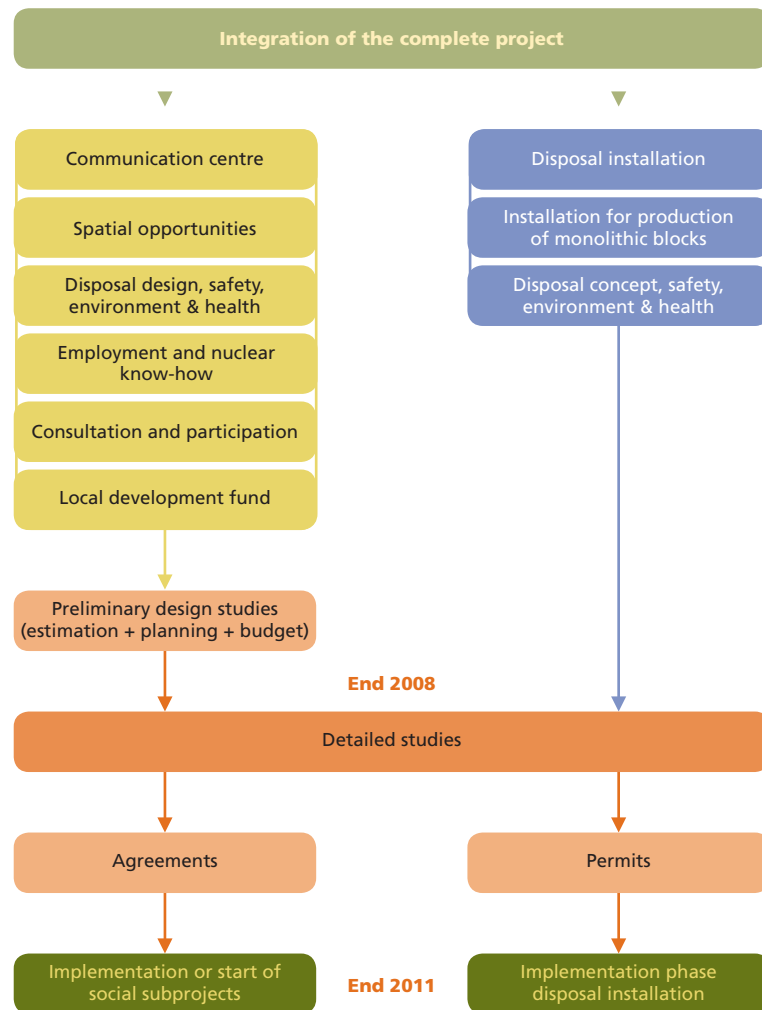
### **Division of the integrated project into subprojects**

The complete integrated project has been subdivided for further studies and implementation into a number of subprojects. Each subproject consists of activities and studies that form a logical whole and can therefore best be studied and worked on together. All subprojects are actually interrelated.

#### **1. Integration project**

One of the specific characteristics of the project is its integrated character. All components of the integrated project, the disposal installation, all auxiliary buildings, the communication centre, the environmental opportunities, ... should however form a single whole, to underline the integrated character of the project and to indicate that it concerns a total concept that can offer additional value for the entire region. The umbrella of integration of the project includes, amongst others:

- detailing a common architectural approach for the whole site and for each of the subprojects
- a carefully considered choice of the spatial arrangement of the project (location of the various buildings and installations, access roads,...) which reinforces the feeling of a coherent whole
- a well-considered choice of the opening up and accessibility of the various functions and components of the project



## 2. Communication and reception centre

One of the conditions that must ensure a positive impact on the local community and the realization of social, economic and cultural added value in the short, medium and long term is the establishment and operation of a communication centre. This centre must be developed as a reference and junction for all information concerning radioactivity and as a meeting place for the local population. The communication centre must include the physical integration of:

- a contact and reception centre for all nuclear matters
- a digital and interactive network
- a theme park/science park on radioactivity

## 3. Financing of the integrated project

The financing of the complete integrated project must be ensured. In addition to the existing long-term fund, a new fund must be set up: the medium-term fund. All the studies necessary for this fall under this subproject.

## 4. Local development fund

In the short term, but also in the long term, resources are needed for creating a real added value thus making public support for the disposal as large as possible. The establishment of a fund for local development can cater to the changing needs of society and also gives future generations the possibility of determining its own priorities. The purpose of the fund is to support or carry out projects that contribute to the improvement of the quality of the social, living, and working environment of the local

population. The projects can be diverse in nature: social, economic, cultural, focused on the environment, health, welfare and so on. This subproject includes the detailed development of all aspects of such a fund.

#### 5. Spatial opportunities

This subproject is focused on traffic development and on the possibility of using the Bocholt-Herentals canal as a supply route for materials. Other aspects also belong to this project, such as the modification of the spatial structure plan for expansion of the small and medium business area or additional construction grounds.

#### 6. Disposal design, including safety, permits, control and emergency planning

This project embraces further development of the disposal concept, the disposal modules and its roof structure, the monolithic blocks, the building for the production of the monolithic blocks, the protective covering and test tumulus, several auxiliary buildings,... This subproject also includes all forms of monitoring of the disposal, including emergency planning. The required permits, as well as the studies (environmental, health, radiological safety,...) necessary to prepare these permit applications, are also part of this project.

#### 7. Employment & preservation of nuclear know-how

In this subproject an investigation will be made into which measures are necessary for the preservation of nuclear knowledge in the region. This can be done among other ways by investment in the training of future employees and by developing new activities and research fields in the nuclear sector. An investigation will also be carried out into which re-conversion measures are possible for the complete or partial run-down of nuclear activities, such as rezoning, the prompt redevelopment of buildings and lands, and the stimulation of compensatory economic activity. The aspects of employment and maximizing the employment impact for the construction and the operation of the disposal installation are part of this subproject.

#### 8. Continuation of consultation and participation

In addition to monitoring and sharing in decisions about the concrete development of the integrated disposal project right up until the permit applications, the way in which consultation and participation can be given shape in the implementation and operation phase will also be checked. An investigation will therefore be made as to which management structures can be set up for the various project components (for the disposal site itself but also, for example, for the communication centre and the local development fund).



**ONDRAF/NIRAS**

**ONDRAF/NIRAS**

Avenue des Arts 14

1210 Brussels

Tel. +32 (0)2 212 10 11

Fax +32 (0)2 218 51 65

[www.nirond.be](http://www.nirond.be)