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PRESS RELEASE

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About Andra

The French National Radioactive Waste Management Agency (*Agence nationale pour la gestion des déchets radioactifs - Andra*) is a public industrial and commercial establishment instituted by the *Law of 30 December 1991*. Its missions were enhanced by the *Planning Act of 28 June 2006 Concerning the Sustainable Management of Radioactive Materials and Waste*.

Andra is **independent from radioactive-waste producers** and placed under the supervision of the Ministries for Energy, the Environment and Research.

It provides the French government with its **expertise and know-how** in order to **design management solutions** and to **operate and to monitor** disposal facilities for radioactive waste by **protecting human beings and the environment against their effects over the short and long terms**.

On 31 December 2008, Andra had **415 paid employees working on five different sites**, as follows:

- the Head Office in Châtenay-Malabry, Hauts-de-Seine District
- two disposal facilities in service in the Aube District
- one disposal facility in its post-closure monitoring phase in the Manche District
- the Underground research Laboratory straddling the Meuse and Haute-Marne Districts

## Andra signs its 2009-12 Quadrennial Contract with the French Administration

**On 15 May 2009, the French Administration and Andra signed their new quadrennial contract until 2012, thus allowing the Agency to fulfil its mandate with regard to the sustainable management of all radioactive waste in France.**

By signing a new quadrennial contract with Andra, the French authorities are confirming the Agency's supporting role in the enforcement of the public radioactive-waste management policy. The contract provides Andra with a set of objectives to be achieved between 2009 and 2012 in order to meet the guidelines and deadlines prescribed by the *Planning Act of 28 June 2006* and the French National Plan for the Management of Radioactive Materials and Waste.

The new quadrennial contract is also taking into account the commitments made at the Grenelle Environment Summit and shows how Andra, as a signing Party of the Charter of Public Establishments and Public Corporations for Sustainable Development, assumes its responsibility and reaffirms its commitment to outreach, accountability and transparency.

The objectives entrusted upon Andra refer to the four areas of its activities, each one being attributed a few key goals to fulfil namely as:

- **a model industrial operator of existing disposal facilities**  
The determination not only to optimise the consumption of repository volume, but also to operate all disposal facilities in full transparency, with a special concern for dialogue, while contributing to territorial development;
- **an innovative designer-assembler having peak-level research resources**  
Andra must prepare two disposal-facility projects for low-level and long-lived (LLW-LL) waste and for high-level and intermediate-level long-lived waste (HLW/ILW-LL) respectively, while ensuring their territorial integration. Andra must also promote the scientific excellence of its activities and its role as a programme agency co-ordinating research activities in its own fields of competence. In order to accompany the design of disposal facilities and to promote its activities, Andra will adopt a special intellectual-property policy as early as 2009;

– **a public expert guaranteeing the comprehensiveness of radioactive-waste management solutions**

Andra must track down all French radioactive materials and waste in a national triennial inventory. The next updated issue to be published in June 2009 will be enriched by a few additional sections. Andra is also responsible for securing certain sites contaminated by radioactivity when the relevant entities are defaulting and for ensuring the collection of old radioactive items for family use, and

– **a knowledge dissemination and promotion centre in France and abroad**

The French government requests Andra's contribution in creating a climate of confidence for the sustainable management of radioactive waste in order for it to be well understood in the framework of its mandate to promote its high scientific and technical level and its purpose to protect human beings and the environment. Andra will also participate in the national efforts to develop special graduate-study curricula on nuclear sciences and techniques. The Agency will also reinforce its European and international exchange programmes and promote its high-level expertise at the international scale.

A total of 24 objectives cover Andra's activities, with each objective being given indicators and specific targets to be reached. Other transversal objectives regarding management, financing and corporate governance are also involved.

***Conclusions of the last quadrennial contract (2005-08)***

Among the conclusions that were drawn at the end of the second State-Andra quadrennial contract for the 2005-08 period, the Agency's industrial and scientific status, as well as its international outreach, stand out as highly consolidated. Some features of particular interest concern:

- a strict operation of surface facilities with a constant concern for dialogue with local stakeholders and waste producers;
- the creation of a National Assistance Commission on Radioactive Matters (*Commission nationale des aides dans le domaine radioactif* - CNAR) in order to manage waste and polluted sites when relevant entities are defaulting;
- the conduct of studies and investigations leading to the *Dossier 2005* in order to demonstrate the feasibility of a deep geological waste repository for HLW and ILW-LL within the transposition zone located around the Meuse/Haute-Marne Underground Laboratory;
- the resumption of studies and of the site search for a LLW-LL disposal facility;
- the publication of the second *French National Inventory of Recoverable Materials and Waste* in 2006, and
- the development of R&D partnerships in France and around the world.