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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.

Andra is in charge of ensuring the sustainable management of all French radioactive waste. 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.

## Andra publishes the new *French National Inventory of Radioactive Materials and Waste*

Three years after the last edition of the *French National Inventory of Radioactive Materials and Waste*, Andra is now publishing the 2009 issue. Beyond the role it plays with regard to information and transparency, Andra's inventory has now become a truly effective tool for managing radioactive waste in France. The new edition provides information on the overall radioactive waste generated in France as of 31 December 2007, as well as forecasts until the end of 2020 and 2030, thus ensuring the implementation of a well-adjusted management policy over the long term. The 2009 edition also focus especially on older waste, such as obsolete radioactive items, historical disposal sites, etc.

The 2009 edition of the *French National Inventory of Radioactive Materials and Waste* that Andra is issuing today is the first since the adoption of the *Planning Act of 28 June 2006*. Financed by the Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea, in charge of Green Technologies and Climate Negotiations, the inventory is published every three years and constitutes one of the three missions of general interest entrusted by law upon Andra.

### **The National Inventory: a long-term management tool**

The *National Inventory* represents input data as referred to in the National Management Plan for Radioactive Materials and Waste (PNGMDR), published by decree in April 2008 and describing relevant solutions and objectives in the framework of the overall management of French radioactive waste.

The *Inventory* serves as an effective tool to manage radioactive waste in France, because it provides a sound opportunity to know and to track down radioactive materials and waste in full transparency by taking stock of the existing waste volumes and of their location throughout the country. It also proves valuable, because it structures information in relation to the relevant waste-management systems, and because it offers a prospective assessment with forecasts, notably on expected waste quantities in 2020 and 2030, with reference to the hypotheses associated with the French energy policy at those future dates.

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## Radioactive waste

The *National Inventory* deals with all existing and forecasted French radioactive waste. All figures appearing in the 2009 edition were valid on 31 December 2007. At that date, **approximately 1,153,000 m<sup>3</sup> of radioactive waste spread over 1,121 sites were recorded throughout France.**

The *National Inventory* mentions the origin of the waste (nuclear-power industry, research, medicine, national defence, industry, etc.) and establishes reasonable hypotheses for every activity sector likely to generate radioactive waste in order to forecast future outputs. Hence, until 2030, the Inventory foresees a total volume of 2,250,000 m<sup>3</sup> of waste that Andra is already taking into account in the design and operation of its own disposal facilities.

Volumes are presented by waste category and in equivalent conditioned cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>), which means the volume of every waste category once conditioned.

	2007	2020	2030
<b>Very-low-level (VLL)</b>	231,688	629,217	869,311
<b>Low-level and intermediate-level short-lived (LL/IL-SL)</b>	792,695	1,009,675	1,174,193
<b>Low-level long-lived (LL-VL)</b>	82,536	114,592	151,876
<b>Intermediate level long-lived (IL-LL)</b>	41,757	46,979	51,009
<b>High-level (HL)</b>	2,293	3,679	5,060
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,152 533</b>	<b>1,804,142</b>	<b>2,251,449</b>

The *National Inventory* also indicates evolutions in waste volumes since the 2006 edition. Such evolution is obviously due to the increase in waste streams during 2005, 2006 and 2007. However, in the case of certain waste categories, such as LL/IL-SL and IL-LL waste, the volumes decreased in spite of three years of additional production, due mostly to evolutions in conditioning modes allowing for a reduction in volumes or to a classification change for certain waste.

## Assuming responsibility for historical waste

For the sake of transparency and exhaustiveness, the *National Inventory* also includes all radioactive waste resulting from past activities. Some of the residues involved date back to the 1920s and 1930s, and will be or have already been taken over by Andra in its own dedicated disposal facilities. In that framework, they are included in the total waste volumes.

Such residues encompass:

- old radioactive items, everyday products (care creams, lipstick, watches, alarm clocks, etc.) or medical or paramedical equipment (water fountains, probes, etc.), which are still in the possession of private individuals. Every year, Andra collects about 100 of such items, and
- waste resulting from the cleanup of sites contaminated with radioactivity (approximately 300 m<sup>3</sup> per year). In France, today, 24 of those sites are undergoing or pending cleanup.

Other “historical” waste was handled in accordance with the management methods in use when it was produced and will not be taken over in any disposal facility as we know them today. Hence, none of them is taken into account in the total waste volumes, especially in the following cases:

- residues from the processing of uranium ore, which are disposed of either on or near any former uranium-mining sites placed under Areva’s responsibility;
- radioactive waste that has been deposited in “historical” disposal sites (mounds, embankments, lagoons, Polynesian atolls) placed under the responsibility of the site owners, and
- immersed waste in the Atlantic Ocean during the 1960s.

### **2009 edition of the French National Inventory**

The *National Inventory* includes three separate volumes:

- A “**Summary Report**” describing **in full** all current or planned **systems for the long-term management of all French radioactive waste**. It includes notably the major notions and the key definitions, specific balances in figures, analyses per management system and activity sector, as well as information on similar foreign inventories;
- A “**Geographical inventory**” listing the 1,121 French sites on which there was still some radioactive waste at the end of 2007: 163 of those sites are presented in the form of individual fact sheets and the other 968 are laid out in tables, and
- a “**Descriptive Family Catalogue**”, presenting 116 waste families in the form of fact sheets, since families cover various waste types with similar characteristics, such as conditioning.,  
as well as an “**In Summary**” intended for the public at large, and a **CD-ROM**.