

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 *30 December 1991 Waste Act*. 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.

A large stream of foreign officials visits Andra's waste disposal facilities this week

From 3 to 6 May 2010, Andra's facilities are welcoming an impressive number of visitors from international delegations interested in the technologies being used in the Aube, Meuse and Haute-Marne districts. Guest countries include Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Japan and South Korea!

Andra's overall facilities are frequently visited and have accounted in 2009 for more than 10,000 visitors from foreign delegations that are greatly interested in the technologies being used in France for managing radioactive waste. However, it is rare that, within a single week, so many countries are represented in Eastern France by so many eager official visitors to study the solutions implemented by Andra.

On 3 May, a delegation from the **Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)** was first greeted at the Meuse/Haute-Marne Centre (CMHM, at Bure-Saudron) to visit the underground laboratory.

The next visitors represented the **Korean Radioactive Waste Management Corporation (KRMC)**. Expected on 3 and 4 May at the CMHM and at the 2 waste-disposal facilities located in the Aube district (CSA), the group took advantage of its trip to France to formalise the signature of a partnership agreement with Andra.

On 4 May, a **Croatian delegation from the University Hospital Centre of Zagreb**, visited the specific disposal facilities for low-level and intermediate-level waste and for very-low-level waste, located in Soulaïnes-Dhuys and Morvilliers, respectively.

On the same day, **German delegates from the Ministry of the Environment of the Land of Lower Saxony** paid a visit to the Underground Laboratory, before travelling to both CSA waste-disposal facilities.

Lastly, that very international week was topped off by the visit of a group of 32 people from a **Belgian cultural association from Veurne-de-Panne (Western Flanders)**.