

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.

Through its expertise and know-how, Andra supports the French government to develop, operate and ensure safe management solutions for all French radioactive waste in order to protect current and future generations against the risk of such waste.

## The “Blue Ribbon” Commission on the Future of Nuclear Energy in the United States pays a visit to the French Meuse/Haute-Marne Facility

**On Tuesday 22 February, eleven members of the American “Blue Ribbon” Commission on the Future of Nuclear Energy in the United States were on a visit at the Meuse/Haute-Marne Facility operated by the French National Radioactive Waste Management Agency (Andra). The “Blue Ribbon” Commission is in charge of proposing recommendations on the management of American spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.**

Set-up a little over a year ago by the American Secretary of State for Energy, Mr Steven Chu, the *Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future* is a group of fifteen very-high-level experts in charge of enlightening the Obama Administration on issues relating to the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in the United States. The Commission, co-chaired by Mr Lee Hamilton, former member of Congress, and General Brent Scowcroft, former National Security Advisor, is reviewing the different solutions proposed by various countries, including France.

Yesterday, eleven members of the Commission visited the Underground Laboratory at Bure and the Technological Centre at Saudron, in Eastern France, and witnessed the progress made by the project for a deep geological reversible repository for French high-level (HL) and intermediate-level long-lived (IL-LL) waste. The facility is known as the *Centre industriel de stockage géologique (Cigéo)*, and is developed by Andra. Its construction is scheduled to start in 2017, after a public debate in 2013, licensing in 2015 and passing of an act in 2016 detailing the applicable reversibility conditions. Plans also call for the industrial commissioning of the facility to be effective in 2025.