

## Swiss Radioactive Waste Disposal

*Adapted from Information by Daldrup & Söhne AG and Nagra*

Drilling technology and geothermal specialist Daldrup & Söhne AG was awarded a contract for deep drilling by Nagra, the national company for the storage of radioactive waste in Switzerland.

Nagra is looking for a suitable site for a deep geological repository for radioactive waste in Switzerland. The Swiss waste management foresees two deep repositories, one for high-level waste and one for low- and intermediate-level waste.

The repositories will be constructed at a depth of several hundred feet in suitable rock formations. Depending on the type of waste, the repositories complex will

consist of disposal tunnels or caverns, a pilot facility for monitoring a representative component of the waste, facility for underground geological investigations, infrastructure installations, and access tunnels or shafts.

During construction and operational phases, additional structures will also be required at the surface, where the waste will be delivered and prepared for placement in the repository.

A system of staged engineered safety barriers will isolate the waste in the repository, ensuring the long-term protection of man and the environment. These barriers will include suitable packaging of the waste and backfilling of the disposal tunnels.

Once the monitoring phase is over, the repository and accesses will be back-filled and sealed. Closure will be carried out in steps, with periodic observation phases.

Nagra has commissioned Daldrup to drill to a depth of around 6500 feet to examine the subsoil of possible siting areas in detail. These exploratory wells should allow a comprehensible assessment of the long-term safety of a deep geological repository. Drilling is scheduled to begin in early 2019.

CEO Josef Daldrup said, "We are pleased to be able to support Nagra with our drilling expertise in the coming years. We have also drilled numerous geological exploration wells for deposits in Germany. We will coordinate closely with our client on the legitimate interests of the public regarding the deep drilling."



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