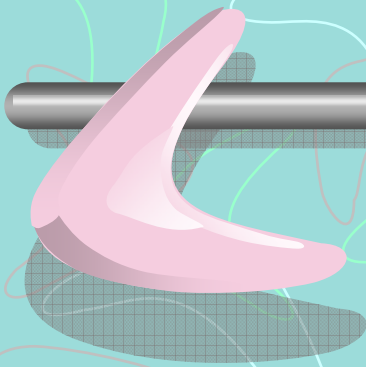


INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SOLVING RADWASTE DISPOSAL PROBLEMS IN THE LENINGRAD REGION OF RUSSIA (DIALOG FOR OPTIMAL SOLUTION)



Igor Rybalchenko (*VNIPIET, Russia*)

Valery Safutin (*VNIPIET, Russia*)

Curt Bergman (*SKI ICP, Sweden*)

Hans Johansson (*SKB IC, Sweden*)



VNIPIET, Saint Petersburg



PURPOSE AND SUBJECT OF JOINT ACTIVITIES

- To find optimal solution of radioactive waste disposal problems in the Leningrad region of Russia.
- To propose a way for a final isolation of accumulated radwastes from biosphere

In many places of the Globe, hundreds of sites for interim storage of radwaste exist filled with a significant amount of radwaste. Their future is not determined and they can become a potential danger for regional radioactive contamination in case of any accident.

Final isolation — is the only solution.



FORM OF COOPERATION

- Agreement between Swedish company SKB International Consultants (SKB IC) and Russian design institute VNIPIET to evaluate existing disposal concepts and to recommend a concept for further detailed studies and implementation

“Concept and programme for the creation of a radioactive waste disposal facility in the Leningrad Oblast”.



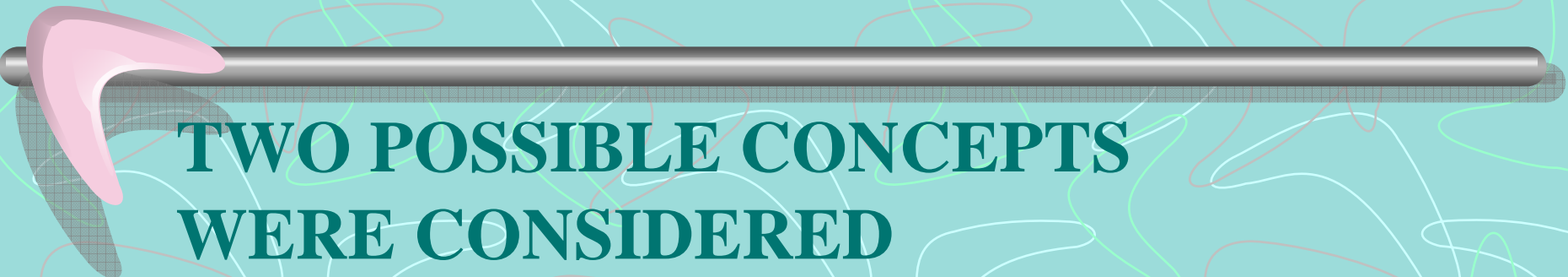
PREREQUISITE

- Regional facility Spetzkombinat "Radon" (LSK "Radon") at Sosnovy Bor is a specialized enterprise to collect radwastes from various facilities, to treat wastes for volume reduction, solidify liquid wastes and condition the radwaste for interim storage.
- LSK "Radon" is operational for more than 30 years and its storage capacity is almost exhausted. Reconstruction and modernization of LSK "Radon" can not solve the problem.
- New facilities for final disposal are needed.



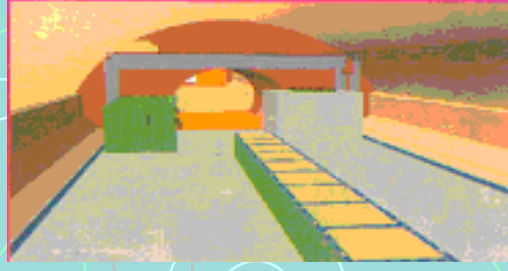
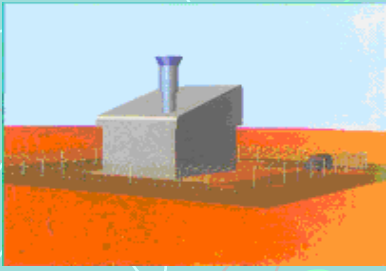
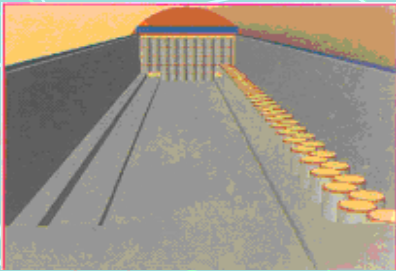
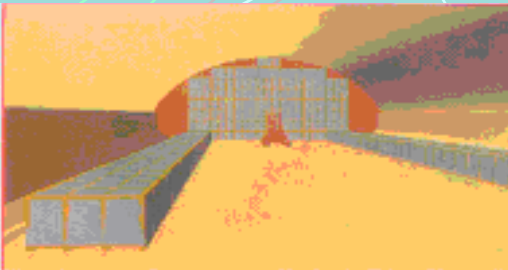
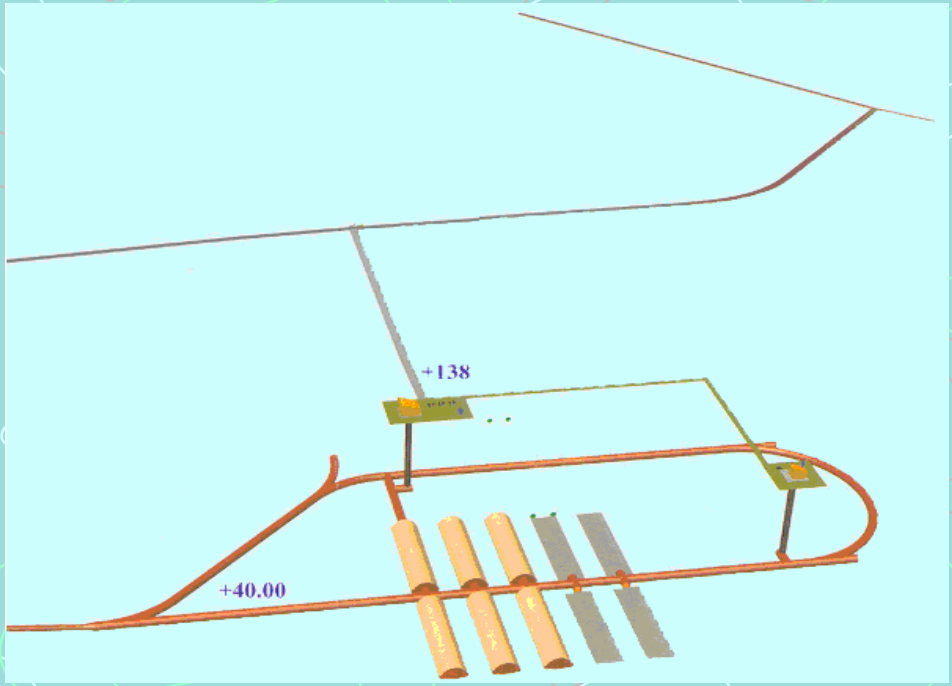
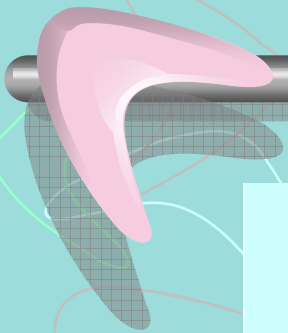
REQUIREMENTS TO THE DESIGN

- compliance with international convention and good international practice, regarding radwaste disposal, environment protection etc.;
- design based on proven, locally available technology;
- cost efficient design and construction;
- definition of key criteria to be met to obtain public acceptance for siting of a repository.

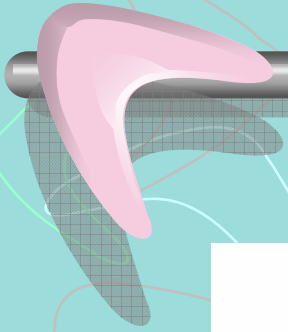


TWO POSSIBLE CONCEPTS WERE CONSIDERED

- Underground Disposal Facility (UDF) as previously studied by VNIPIET jointly with international experts (TACIS project RU/05/94).
- Surface Disposal Facility (SDF) as studied by Swedish experts for Lithuania. SDF concept was developed for Lithuania in 2001 by consortium lead by SKB IC and funded by the Swedish government.



UDF concept (VNIPIET)



SDF concept (SKB IC)



RESULTS OF 2 CONCEPTS EVALUATION (UDF AND SDF)

- Both concepts were considered to be technically achievable. Preliminary economic comparison shows that UDF concept is more expensive, but requires less surface area for siting the facility. SDF concept is less expensive but requires larger territory for siting storage modules.
- Results of this study can become a valuable input for making an official design stages ("Declaration of Intent" and then "Justification of investment").



WHO IS TO MAKE A DECISION

There are many stakeholders upon whom final decision depends in this particular case for the Leningrad region. They are:

- on a federal level — Rosatom, Rosstroy, Rostekhnadzor...;
- on a regional level — Administrations of the Leningrad Oblast and Saint Petersburg;
- on a local level — Administration of Sosnovy Bor;
- waste producers and holders — LSK "Radon", LenNPP, Ecomet-C et al.;
- expert organizations — VNIPIET et al.;
- public organizations — Nuclear, Technical, Ecological Societies, the Green activists.

All are important and their opinion should be taken into consideration in a decision making process.



HOW TO GET CONSENSUS?

- Special Communication programme was developed.
- Information Seminar was organized in Saint Petersburg for public organizations and mass media.
- Special Demonstration Seminar for Stakeholders was conducted in Sweden with visit to operational storage facility SFR.
- Survey of various public organizations activities in Russia was organized to clarify position of different societies to nuclear development in the Region.











WHAT ARE POSITIVE RESULTS ALREADY ACHIEVED?

- An evaluation of two possible options (UDF and SDF) for radwaste disposal center at the Leningrad Oblast (region) were made and specific criteria for comparison were suggested. Positive and negative aspects of options were formulated and compared.
- A number of stakeholders are involved in the process of discussion and further elaborations.
- Representatives of public organizations and groups were informed on purposes of the project and possible ways of solving ecological problems, connected with radwaste in the region.
- Practical international cooperation of expert organizations from Russia, Sweden and Germany is established.



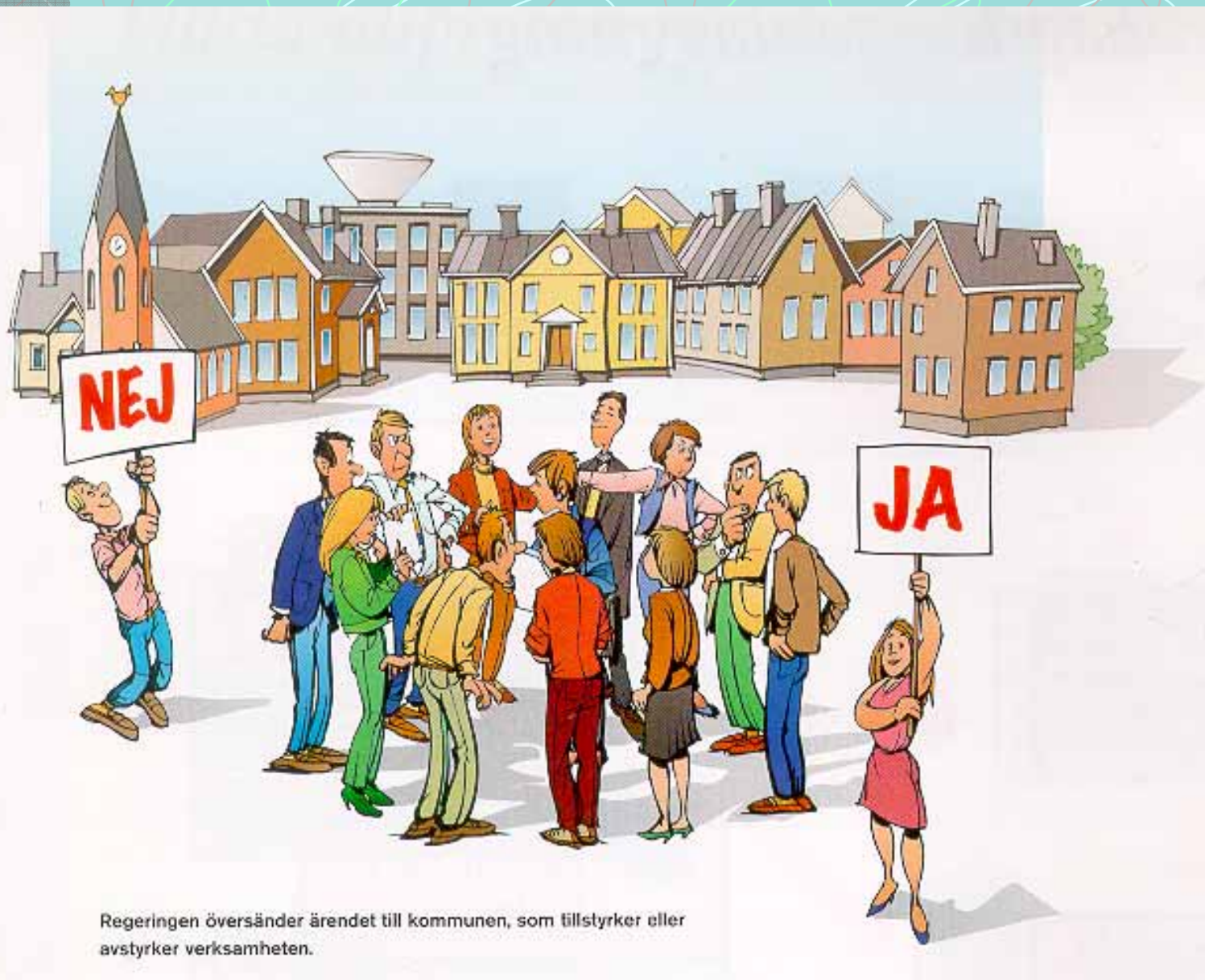
NEXT STEPS TO BE TAKEN

- Coordination committee should be formed, consisting of stakeholders and public organizations to monitor the development and provide independent expertise of the process. Russian and foreign experts should be participating in this committee;
- Activities on public information should be extended to gain finally full public support to the project. They should include — periodic information seminars, permanent expositions of the project at the Information Centres in Sosnovy Bor and in St. Petersburg on at a special web site, publications in mass media etc.



CONCLUSIONS

- Dialog for optimal solution should continue, because we are only at the beginning of the long process for the project development and implementation.
- Public communication programme and cooperation with stakeholders should be gradually implemented step by step with the purpose to reach consensus between industry, administration and public on all aspects of ecological, economical and organizational problems.
- Only this can lead to a full success of the project.



Regeringen översänder ärendet till kommunen, som tillstyrker eller avstyrker verksamheten.