

The Environment Agency's interests and role in RATE

Andy Mayall
Senior Advisor
Radioactive Substances Regulation

RATE Launch Event
Manchester 6 March 2014

Key roles and responsibilities

Environmental
Regulator



Environmental
Adviser



Environmental
Operator



Radioactive Substances Regulation

- ➔ Radioactive waste disposal
 - ➔ discharges to air and water
 - ➔ solid waste disposal to land
- ➔ Nuclear and non-nuclear industry sectors
- ➔ Contaminated land
- ➔ Multi-agency emergency response
- ➔ Protection of people and the environment
- ➔ Decisions based on best available evidence and R&D

Our RATE involvement

- ➔ Co-funder
- ➔ Helped develop the Science Plan
- ➔ Help steer the programme through the PEB
- ➔ Provide access to information, data and guidance where required
- ➔ Help to turn research findings into effective policy and management advice, and practical output
- ➔ Contribute where possible in science and end user workshops.

Key Drivers?



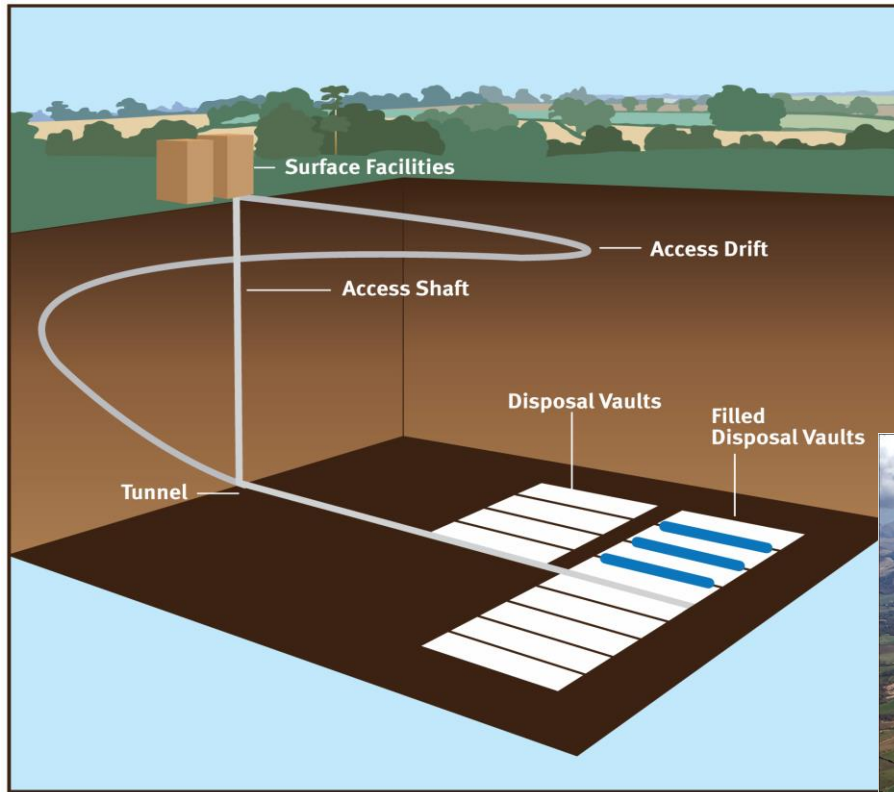
Generic Design Assessment and Environmental Permitting



Decommissioning and clean-up



Solid waste disposal



Geological Disposal Facility



Low-level Waste Repository

Benefits 1

- ➔ Enhance knowledge of radiological impact and radionuclide behaviour in the environment
- ➔ Support the change in approach to environmental and non-human species radiation protection
- ➔ Robust scientific evidence to help ensure up to date and defensible regulatory decisions
- ➔ Improved scientific and public confidence in the outcomes of environmental safety assessments.
- ➔ Contribute to meeting the policy driver to develop a GDF and related R&D

Benefits 2

- ➔ Help rebuild the UK's environmental radioactivity research capacity – fill skills gaps
- ➔ Future developments of nuclear energy generation and decommissioning programmes means that risk assessment and safety case R&D increasingly important – long term commitment
- ➔ Co-ordinated approach - working closely with NERC, NDA, STFC and academic consortia to develop understanding > best chance to influence future policy and operational decision-making

Summary

- ➔ Many important and high profile drivers – very long term
- ➔ Ongoing need for realistic and fit for purpose radiological assessment
- ➔ Assessments and decisions need to withstand public scrutiny
- ➔ Innovation important including how results are presented and communicated
- ➔ Clear path to outcomes important

Conclusion

- ➔ RATE will make an important contribution to the continued effective and efficient regulation of an expanding sector, which requires the best possible knowledge base, and to rebuilding research capacity.
- ➔ The Environment Agency is committed to RATE and having the best available scientific evidence to support its regulatory decision making.