

# Public Negotiation about Nuclear Waste Disposal in Russia

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# Research questions

- Nuclear waste strategy towards nuclear waste disposal
- Transition and periods
- Does the transition towards new nuclear waste strategy involves the participatory modes?
- **classification of waste - storage or disposal methods - public participation**
  1. History
  2. Classification/Management/Inventory (First Stage)
  3. Public Hearings (Second Stage)

## First Stage (2011-2015)

Development and implementation of a regulatory and procedural framework

## Second Stage (2015-2018)

A disposal system for low-level and intermediate-level waste

## Final Stage (2018-2021)

A disposal system for high-level waste

# Soviet nuclear waste policy

- Politics of ignorance
- Lack of institutional and legal frameworks
- Nuclear waste mismanagement
- Political Context
- Spent Nuclear Fuel Case
- No inventory of the accumulated waste
- Nuclear Safety Institute (IBRAE) - IEAE Safety Guide Requirements (2010):

## SOVIET PERIOD

Fallouts and Disaster at Mayak Facilities (1949, 1957, 1967)

## LATE SOVIET PERIOD

Chernobyl Disaster (1986)  
Kara Sea contamination (1970-1980)  
Andreev Bay storage accident (1982-1989)

## 1990s-2000s

Seversk (Tomsk 7) accident (1993)

# International requirements

<b>Legal and Regulatory Regime</b>	Absence of the law regulating final disposal of accumulated RAW
<b>A comprehensive approach to the nuclear safety</b>	Interdependencies between all stages of RAW management are not adequately taken into account
<b>RAW Management Stages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- monitoring of RAW storage conditions is limited and selective</li><li>- no incentives to reduce the volume of RAW</li><li>- the terms of temporary storage are not defined</li><li>- The issues of closure of disposal sites for liquid radioactive waste have not been elaborated</li></ul>
Special Waste (IBRAE, 2015: 47)	

# Classification, Management Inventory

- **Removable Waste**
- the risks of radiation exposure, costs associated with the extraction do not outweigh the risks and costs associated with the disposal of radioactive waste in their location
- Further classification and method of disposal
- HLW, ILW, LLW, VLLW, SIR
- Liquid Nuclear Waste Disposal Sites ?
- Public Hearings
- 20% of accumulated waste
- **Special Waste**
- the risks of radiation exposure, costs associated with the extraction outweigh the risks and costs associated with the disposal of radioactive waste in their location
- Historical Waste / Nuclear Heritage
- Methods: Conservation and disposal at the site
- Criteria: Collective effective irradiation dose, Potential exposure risk and Economic Costs
- No public involvement (situated out of settlements)
- 80% of accumulated waste



## Площадки для дальнейшего обоснования и выбора участков по созданию пунктов захоронения РАО



# Public Hearings

- Public Hearings: Zheleznogorsk, Sosnovy Bor, Uhta (Komi), Novouralsk Ozersk, Seversk
- Various Levels of Engagement and its Impact on the decision-making
- Nuclear infrastructure and Economies
- Safety Discourse
- Urban and Regional Development
- Possibility of Extraction
- Monetary compensation



Sosnovy Bor Site

# Conclusions and Recommendations

- Nuclear waste - blackboxed issue
- New strategy opens nuclear waste for public participation
- Removable waste - disposal - public hearings
- Special waste - no public engagement
- A technical approach
- Retrievability / Reversibility
- Compensation



Novouralsk Disposal Site