

Engaging with intergenerational justice in radioactive waste management

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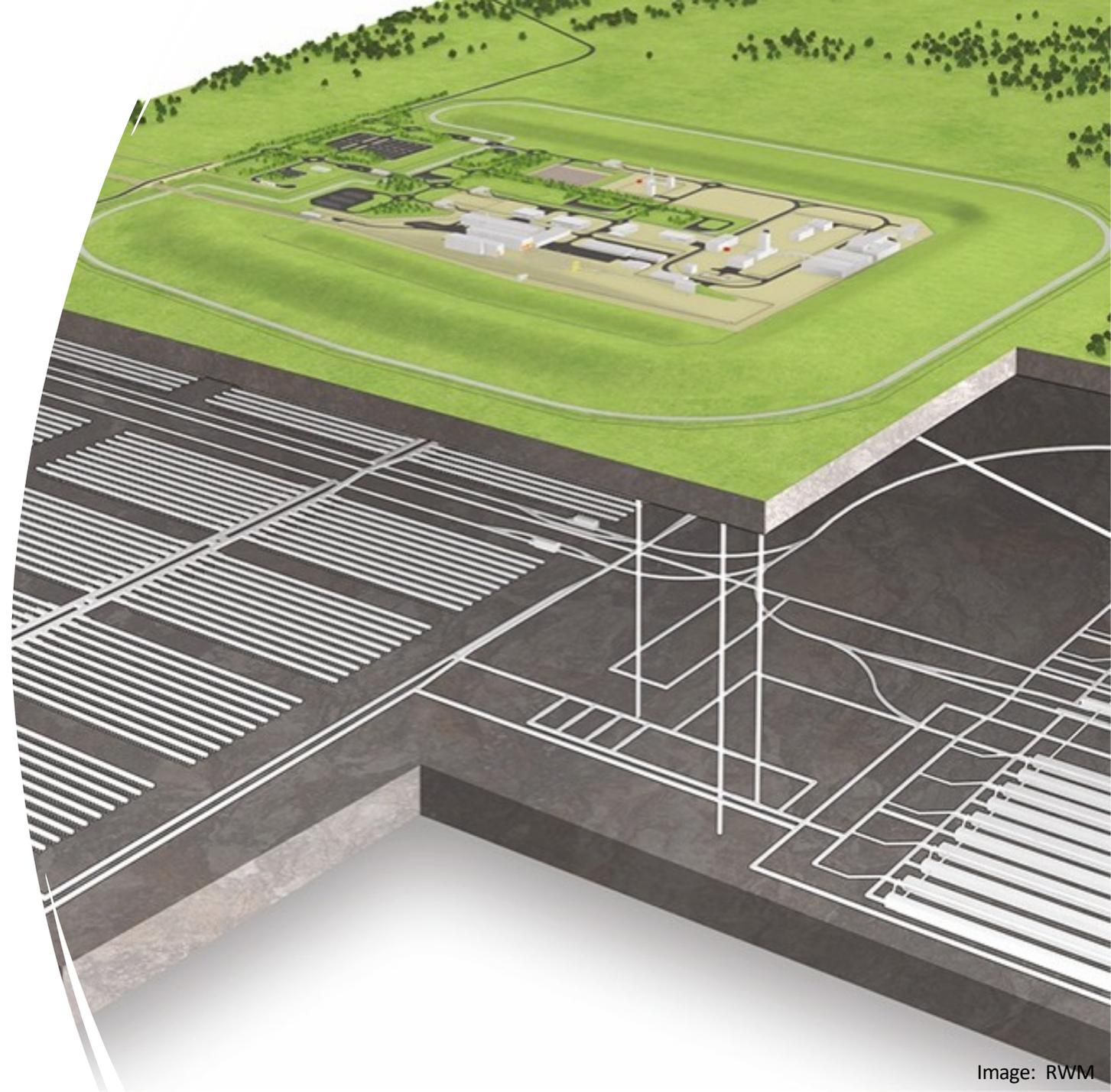
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Radioactive waste and future generations

- The geological disposal facility concept requires thinking across 'deep time' – longer than any previous human civilization
- Communication of risk messaging into the future
- Stewardship of wastes with host communities
- Connection between contemporary (and historic benefits) and current and future harms
- Balancing current and future needs under conditions of scarcity



Intergenerational equity

- Non-reciprocity
- The 'non-identity' problem
- Post-Brundtland Sustainable Development
- Rights, or welfare
- Distributional justice
- Discounting
- Temporal horizons – familial and kinship, ancestral, or deep time



Radioactive waste policy

- Working With Communities policy framework
- Designed to ensure no harmful quantities of radioactivity ever reach the surface environment
- National geological screening exercise undertaken by Radioactive Waste Management (RWM)
- Updated planning and regulatory matters for implementing geological disposal
- Policy and process for working with communities in order to find a location to develop a GDF
 - 1. Initial discussions and forming a Working Group**
 - 2. Community Partnership**
 - 3. Community Partnership Agreement**
 - 4. Right of Withdrawal**
 - 5. Test of Public Support**

Integrated empirical ethics

- Need for policy and planning focused *ethical tools*
- Provide social intelligence to (for example) local authority-led working groups, to NWS in the production of engagement materials, to aid community partnership working or decision-making following a test of public support.
- Future generational interests can sometimes remain 'voiceless' without some form of institutionalised proxy representation during participatory engagement processes
- Visualisation and imagination of future generational needs and interests

The postdoctoral fellowship

1. **Systematic review**

- *Thematic synthesis analysis* of intergenerational justice literature (social policy, environmental management, economics, applied ethics)

2. **Visualising future generations**

- Using 'elicitation devices' including VR of GDF to imagine future generational interests.
- *Social representations* – the anchoring and objectification of future generations

3. **Backcasting radioactive waste management futures**

- Q-method, interviews, *comparative qualitative analysis*

4. **Synthesis, policy engagement and participatory tool development**

- An engagement toolkit (inc. handbook) for using the research in the Working With Communities framework



Any questions?

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