

How to Cope with Nuclear Power Plants and Final Disposal?

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Facts of Eurajoki Municipality (1)

- 6000 inhabitants
- 53% work in industry, 41% in services and 6% in agriculture
- State takes care of income distribution, municipalities of public services



Facts of Eurajoki Municipality (2)

- 60 % of costs come from healthcare and social services, 20 % from education and 12 % from infrastructure
- Municipalities have an independent right to taxation
- 78 % of income come from taxation, 14 % from state and 8 % from payments



Facts Of Eurajoki Municipality (3)

- Two power plant units in operation, one under construction, one under planning
- First power plant unit has been in operation 1978
- In Olkiluoto also: an interim storage for spent nuclear fuel, a repository for low and medium-level waste and an underground research facility for final disposal
- Disposal for spent fuel in operation in early 2020



Repository for low and medium-level waste

Electric power line

Training Centre

OL4

OL3

OL1

OL2

Ship lane

Interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel

Gas turbine plant

Road network

Final repository for spent nuclear fuel

Visitor Centre

Accommodation village

40 Years' Journey

1978 Investigations for Geological solution begins

1983 Government decided the schedule for final disposal

Site investigations

Site selection

2001 Parliament ratified the governments positive decision

Above-ground investigations in Onkalo

2012 Construction licence application

Site construction

2020 Operation licence application

Test operation

2022 Final disposal begins

Eurajoki before Site Selection (1999)

- Originally TVO announced that the waste would never be sited in Eurajoki
- In 1999 59 % of the inhabitants were in favour of final disposal
- Positive attitudes towards final disposal come from the well-operating NPP and the related experience
- Local people compared impacts of final disposal to those of NPP
- Some of the local people were concerned about the external image of the municipality, but:
 - only 16 % of the Finnish people knew about the municipality

Important for Municipality

- Safety is the most important factor of all
- Safety risks have to be minimized
- We have to take care of our own nuclear waste (fairness and responsibility)
- Retrievability option, but without safety risks
- Long-term political commitment (several strategic decisions-in-principle)
- Up-to-date requirements and control over whole life cycle
- STUK makes preparations, defines and controls safety requirements
- STUKs independence of nuclear industry and political decision making
- Municipality has a right of veto when making decisions in principle

Legislation

- Two important laws regulating nuclear investments, EIA-law and Nuclear Energy Act
- These laws include processes that increase transparency and local acceptance
- The most important parts of the NEA-law are local councils' right of veto and STUK's safety assessment
- According to law, Finland cannot export or import nuclear waste

Decision-in-principle about Final Disposal

- Political decision
- Key issue is overall interest of society
- Site suitability and environmental effects
- STUK's preliminary safety assessments
- Final disposal facility = nuclear facility
- Decisions-in-principle
 - 2001 (OL1-2, LO1-2)
 - 2002 (OL3)
 - 2008 (OL4)
 - 2008 (LO3) application (no decision)
- Total 12000 tU

Acceptance of Eurajoki Municipality

Municipality Council

Result of the vote January 2000: 20 for, 7 against

Factors behind:

- Exceptionally, the Green Party has never existed in Eurajoki.
- Decision of the municipal council was based on individual opinions regardless of the party opinion.
- People were used to nuclear facilities and benefited from them.
- Nuclear facilities have served well and created trust.
- Principle of continuous improvement of power plants
- Final disposal offers employment opportunities.

Finland Compared to Sweden

- In Sweden, the possibility of undersea final disposal exists.
- In Finland, discussing technical details is less important at local level.
 - Difficulties in choosing the relevant information
- In Finland, only relevant information interesting for the local decision-makers
- Finnish decision-making relies more on the regulator (STUK). STUK has earned its reliability by being independent.
- In Sweden issues are wanted to be discussed more by local council.

Welfare

- TVO and Posiva pay real estate taxes.
- 27 % of the municipality income comes from real estate taxes.
- Municipality's strategy has succeeded: We are one of the richest among Finland's about 300 municipalities.
- Municipal tax rate is one of the lowest in the country .
- Steady income, easy to make longstanding plans
- Employees and workers pay income taxes.
- Business opportunities for local companies
- New jobs, a lot of local people work at the site
- Cooperation with Posiva concerning Vuojoki mansion, economical benefit straight away site selection

International Cooperation

- Eurajoki is involved in cooperation of European cities having final disposal.
 - Led by Sweden
 - Gathered for the first time in Brussels in 2012
- In 2012 Eurajoki took part in Safety and Welfare Conference in Busan, South-Korea.
 - Attendants globally from cities with NPPs, like Three Mile Island, USA
 - Organized for the first time
 - Meets every second year

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