

How to Cope with Nuclear Power Plants and Final Disposal?

Vesa Jalonen

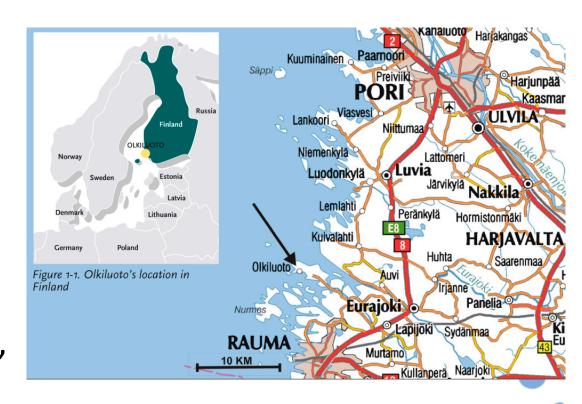
President of the Municipality Council, Eurajoki

WM Symposia in Phoenix, March 3, 2014



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





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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 mediumlevel waste and an underground research facility for final disposal
- Disposal for spent fuel in operation in early 2020





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 welloperating 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-inprinciple)
- 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 decions in principle

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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

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2001 (OL1-2, LO1-2)
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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.

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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

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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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!