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NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Expert Group on Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory across Generations

Summary Record of the Meeting of the Task Group “Set of Essential Records” of the RWMC’s Initiative
“Preservation of Record, Knowledge and Memory Across Generations”(RK&M)

2-3 April 2014

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**PRESERVATION OF RECORDS, KNOWLEDGE AND MEMORY ACROSS GENERATIONS
(RK&M)**

**MEETING OF THE TASK GROUP “SET OF ESSENTIAL RECORDS”
2-3 APRIL 2014**

ISSY-LES-MOULINEAUX

SUMMARY RECORD

Participants: Jean-Noël Dumont (ANDRA), Patrick Charton (ANDRA, day 2), Miroslav Kučerka (RAWRA), Sofie Tunbrant (SKB), Simon Wisbey (NDA), Claudio Pescatore (NEA), Marine Formentini (NEA), Radu Botez (NEA), Anne Claudel (NAGRA, via phone).

1. Welcome and opening remarks

This document is the summary record of the meeting of the task group “Set of Essential Records” within the RWMC’s initiative “Record, Knowledge and Memory Preservation Across Generations” (RK&M), which took place on 2 and 3 April 2014.

Claudio Pescatore welcomed participants and explained the context of the SER, which started in Phase-I and would continue in Phase-II of the RK&M project.

The main aim of the meeting was to discuss the current understanding of the SER objectives and deliverables, after more than one year of work, and prepare Phase-II. For this purpose, the participants were given, and could discuss, the responses to a questionnaire sent to all RK&M members about the SER. In addition, findings from the so-called “pre-pilot study” were reviewed and reassessed.

2. The First International Appraisal of the Detailed Memory of the La Manche Disposal Facility

Jean-Noël Dumont (ANDRA) presented efforts to preserve RK&M in the case of the La Manche disposal facility.

In 2009, on the occasion of preparing for the decennial review of the safety report of the now-closed La Manche disposal facility (CSM), the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) wondered if the provisions for memory preservation would be sufficient for the needs of future generations over three centuries (which is the specified duration of oversight according to regulation). ANDRA organised the first international decennial appraisal of RK&M for the CSM in September 2012. Experts from European counterparts, retired persons as well as members of NGOs and local representatives proposed by the local follow-up committee participated in this appraisal. As there is no available convincing feedback on this subject, the appraisal process was based on a role-playing game simulating “future memory needs” in the somewhat far future of the year 2262. The experts were given access to a “numerical image” of the “Detailed Memory” archives (more than 60 meters of archive boxes, several thousands of plans related to the CSM site) and were further helped by summary documents. Information available on the origin and nature of CSM varied according to the scenarios. The experts had to answer practical and plausible questions which had been envisioned when the first set of Detailed Memory had been constituted (1995-2000). This appraisal provided fruitful comments and suggestions, which are being taken into account for the upgrading of the RK&M provisions for the CSM. Experts emphasised the need for renewing such appraisal on a periodical basis, which, by itself, would also constitute a kind of local ritual contributing to memory preservation.

The “Detailed Memory” is one of two archival provisions, which, together, constitute the documentary components of the RK&M solution developed for the CSM. The other archival provision is the “Summary Memory” (around 170 pages), one single volume describing the repository in more widely understandable terms: its history, its inventory as well as land use restrictions. The Detailed Memory is copied in two sets; one is kept at ANDRA, the second is kept in the national archives. It is also available for download from ANDRA’s website (<http://www.andra.fr/download/site-principal/document/editions/memoire-csm.pdf>). The Summary Memory is written for decision makers and for the public. As the Summary Memory is intended to describe the final situation of the repository, which is still undergoing changes (for instance, the slope of the cover is being modified), it has not been finalised yet. Once completed, the Summary Memory will be distributed in large numbers of copies, maybe

thousands: one copy per decision maker (mayor, notary ...), one per audience (NGO...) and one per organization or state agency.

Another part of ANDRA's RK&M provisions consists in communication activities vis-à-vis two types of audiences: (i) institutional counterparts, such as the Safety Authority (ASN) and the local follow-up committee (CLI), and (ii) the public in general.

The meeting participants agreed that the French example could prove useful for guiding the reflection with regard to the SER. Participants pointed out that this presentation also allowed identifying French regulations pertaining to the preservation of memory, to be added to the RK&M regulatory catalogue.

Participants commented that 170 pages would probably be too long for civil society. Also, it is likely that a person who is not doing documentary research would stop at the shorter document and not seek corroboration. Non-experts would look rather for clear messages.

One participant noted that, from the point of view of the initiative, ANDRA's "Detailed Memory" of 10,000 documents seems to match the idea of the SER, more for the expert and those who "need to know", whilst the "Summary Memory" appears to illustrate a more generic memory for the future.

It was remarked that, in terms of memory, some would prefer records, while others were primarily interested in information. The SER initiative should look at pros and cons of each idea. Anyhow, it would be worthwhile to trace records and understand why certain regulations have emerged and how they were formulated.

3. Questionnaire: Re-conceptualising the SER¹ – Discussion of results

Before the meeting, a questionnaire was circulated by the Secretariat to the RK&M membership with the purpose of better understanding the perspective on and expectations concerning the SER. While the phrasing of some of the questions was ambiguous, the exercise provided useful insights, which informed the ensuing discussion about future steps to be taken.

4. Way forward

Participants agreed the SER is part of an information system that is structured, ideally, in three different levels.

- The bottom, basic level consists of documents sent to the archives due to legal and regulatory requirements. Typically, public bodies have to send all the documentation in their internal archives to the national archive. This documentation goes beyond safety case documents. (This is the case, for instance, in the Czech Republic).
- At a second level, a selection would take place that aims at extracting the documents that are related to the post-closure safety. These documents would be identified as such and also kept in the national archives and elsewhere.

¹ The SER wording emerged as a title over the summer period in 2013 when a consultant was working on the concept. Previously, it was called the Minimum Set of Records (MSR).

- The top, third level would consist of a summary of the previous documentation in a format and language accessible to a public of non-specialists. The summary would contain information not necessarily limited to safety, but referring also to the history of decision making concerning the repository.

This is depicted graphically in Figure 1.

It was pointed out that it will be difficult to decide in the future which elements to extract from the full records. The summarising exercise is all the more relevant at this point when all documents and the context are fully understood. As times goes by, the lower level documents can be expected to become less and less important, with attention focussing on the top-level document. Namely, the emphasis may shift gradually from the waste itself to the facility as a whole. This situation is depicted in Figure 2.

In order to reflect the revised vision for the documentation, the participants decided to refer to the top level document as the **Key Information File (KIF)**. The SER is the level 2 documentation.

Role of the KIF

The participants developed the KIF idea further. Ideally, the KIF would be a document (record) with concentrated information, and it is desirable that it does not exceed a few tens of pages having the following characteristics:

- It summarises basic technical and contextual information at a facility scale.
- It is meant for a wide audience of interested parties.
- It is part of a systemic approach to RK&M and refers to the other components of this approach such as markers and it would serve as a pointer to where more detailed technical information/documents may be found.
- Part or all of it may be translated into other languages.
- It is useful at all times and it provides a means to preserve information for the period when institutional presence can no longer be relied upon.
- It would provide a list of similar repositories and their locations.
- Its table of contents would be standardised internationally.
- The information and messages that it provides would be agreed nationally.
- It is prepared during operation and updated and re-issued regularly, e.g., when other documentation is updated or when important decisions are made during the period of institutional oversight/presence. (Connection to national waste management plans, on the occasion of safety reviews, etc.).
- Due to its importance, the KIF is expected to be more accessible, for instance by distributing copies widely and in different languages, in different countries, and more durable than subordinated documents, which, however, are more detailed than the KIF.

Figure 1 represents a schematic illustration of the place of the KIF and SER within the larger archiving effort in the field of radioactive waste management.

The purpose of the KIF is the following:

- Inform future generations by providing both a technical and contextual overview of the project in a concise form, this very conciseness making it cost effective and easier to distribute widely and therefore less vulnerable to loss.
- Provide a framework to create a basic record in a standardized format, which will allow easier preparation and interpretation, also across languages.
- Provide a pointer to other sources of information to help empower future decision makers and help fulfill our information responsibilities.
- Build confidence vis-à-vis present local communities by including them in the development of the KIF.

Decisions

The group agreed to work towards creating a KIF structure that would have been tested in a few national cases.

Participants agreed on the following steps in view of developing a KIF:

- Study of relevant materials such as the La Manche “Summary memory” and regulatory guidance that may be available (also on SER).
- Study of the experience of the *decennial review* of the La Manche “Summary memory” and other examples.
- Discussions/exchanges with other stakeholders such as community leaders, regulators, and specialists. In this respect, the KIF vision should be also discussed with the FSC, RF, and the IGSC within the NEA.
- Propose a KIF structure and test it
- Finalise the KIF structure and its description by the end of Phase-II of the RK&M initiative

The preparation of the KIF should also allow the identification of key messages that it should contain and that could be released as separate, short two-page (say) documents. For instance, one message would state that the repository is safe as long as it remains untouched. Participants suggested that these messages should be conceived with the intention in mind to restrict potential disturbance of the repository (e.g. by surface drilling).

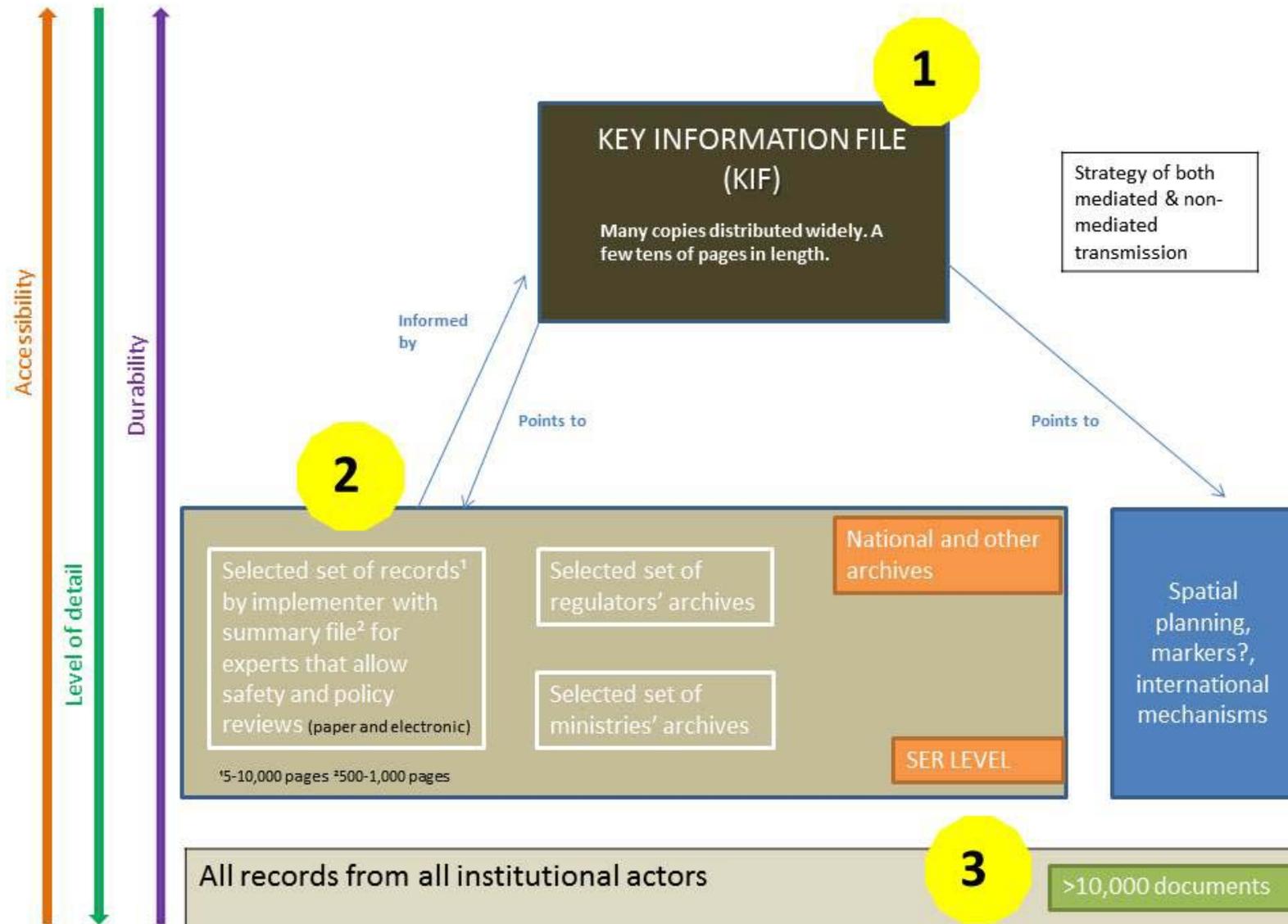


Fig. 1: Structure of the repository documentation at three levels

About the SER

With reference to Figure. 1, the SER, whose preparation should be a continuous process, is now defined as a fairly detailed set of records that is abstracted from the millions documents that various institutions produce during the lifetime of the project and that they eventually commit to the national archive.

The SER would allow future professionals to understand the technical details of the disposal, e.g., the existence of the SER would allow for safety reviews, and the implementation of new actions in a safe manner. In the case of the implementer, the SER would mostly coincide with the post-closure safety case documentation.

The role of the IGSC is important in connection with the SER and this group should be involved in defining what the SER would look like.

Decision

- The above ideas and proposals should be passed on to the IGSC for joint work

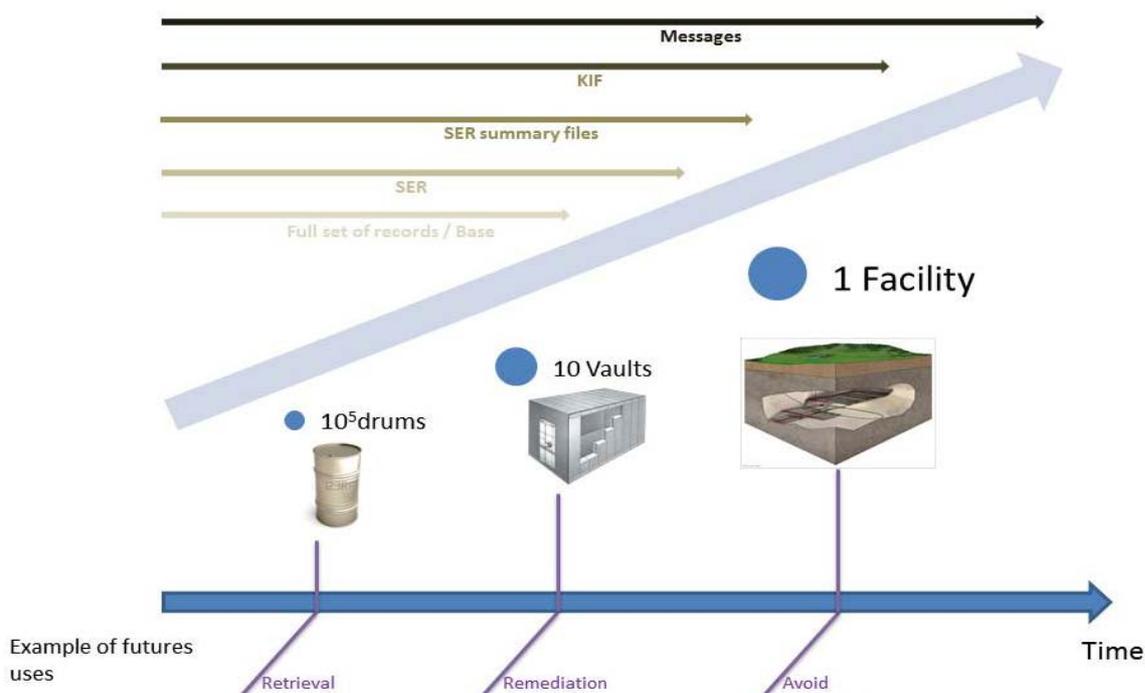


Figure 2: Expectation of use and survival of documentation over time

Figure 2 illustrates the perspective of the meeting participants regarding the longevity of the different archival levels. As indicated in Figure 1, durability of records is expected to differ: while the larger set of records may be reduced and eventually mostly disappear, the KIF is expected to endure the test of time better.

5. Additional decisions

- Considering the new understanding of the SER / KIF, we will not go forward with the survey that we discussed in the pre-pilot study.
- Secretariat to draft new vision document for the KIF and present it, alongside the evolution of the SER/KIF, at the RK&M meeting in May.
- Inform RK&M about new approach and proposal for action.
- Discuss within RK&M how to address the issue of transfer of responsibilities upon repository closure and how it could be prepared.