

Unclassified

NEA/RWM/RKM(2014)6

Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

12-May-2014

English - Or. English

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)

3-4 April 2014

claudio.pescatore@oecd.org

JT03357159

Complete document available on OLIS in its original format

*This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.*



NEA/RWM/RKM(2014)6  
Unclassified

English - Or. English

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

**MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE “SET OF ESSENTIAL RECORDS”  
3-4 APRIL 2014  
ISSY-LES-MOULINEAUX**

**SUMMARY RECORD**

## 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 is now part of 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. For this purpose, the participants were given and could discuss responses to a questionnaire sent to the RK&M participants 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 Manche Disposal Facility

Jean-Noël Dumont (ANDRA) presented efforts to preserve RK&M in the case of the 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). As there is no available convincing feedback on this subject, 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. The appraisal process was based on a role-playing game simulating “future memory needs” in the somewhat far future of 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. They 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. This would also constitute a kind of local ritual contributing to memory preservation.

The “Detailed Memory” is one of three archival provisions, which, together, constitute the documentary components of the RK&M solution developed for the CSM. The other two archival provisions are 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 on 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 yet been finalised. 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 partners, such as the Safety Authority (ASN) and the local follow-up committee (CLI), (ii) the public in general.

The participants agreed that the French example could prove useful for guiding the reflection with regard to the SER. Claudio Pescatore commented 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 rather look for clear messages.

Participants 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 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 SER – 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 following discussion about future steps to be taken.

### **4. Way forward**

Participants agreed the SER is part of an information system that consists, ideally, of 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 case. These documents would be identified as such and also kept in the national archives and elsewhere.
- 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.

It was pointed out that it will be difficult to decide in the future and not now 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 understood most correctly. As times goes by, the lower levels can be expected to become less and less important, with attention focussing on the top-level document.

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

The participants developed the KIF idea further. Namely, the KIF would be a document (record) of several tens of pages, probably around 50, 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 serves 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 plan, 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, 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.

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 *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.

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

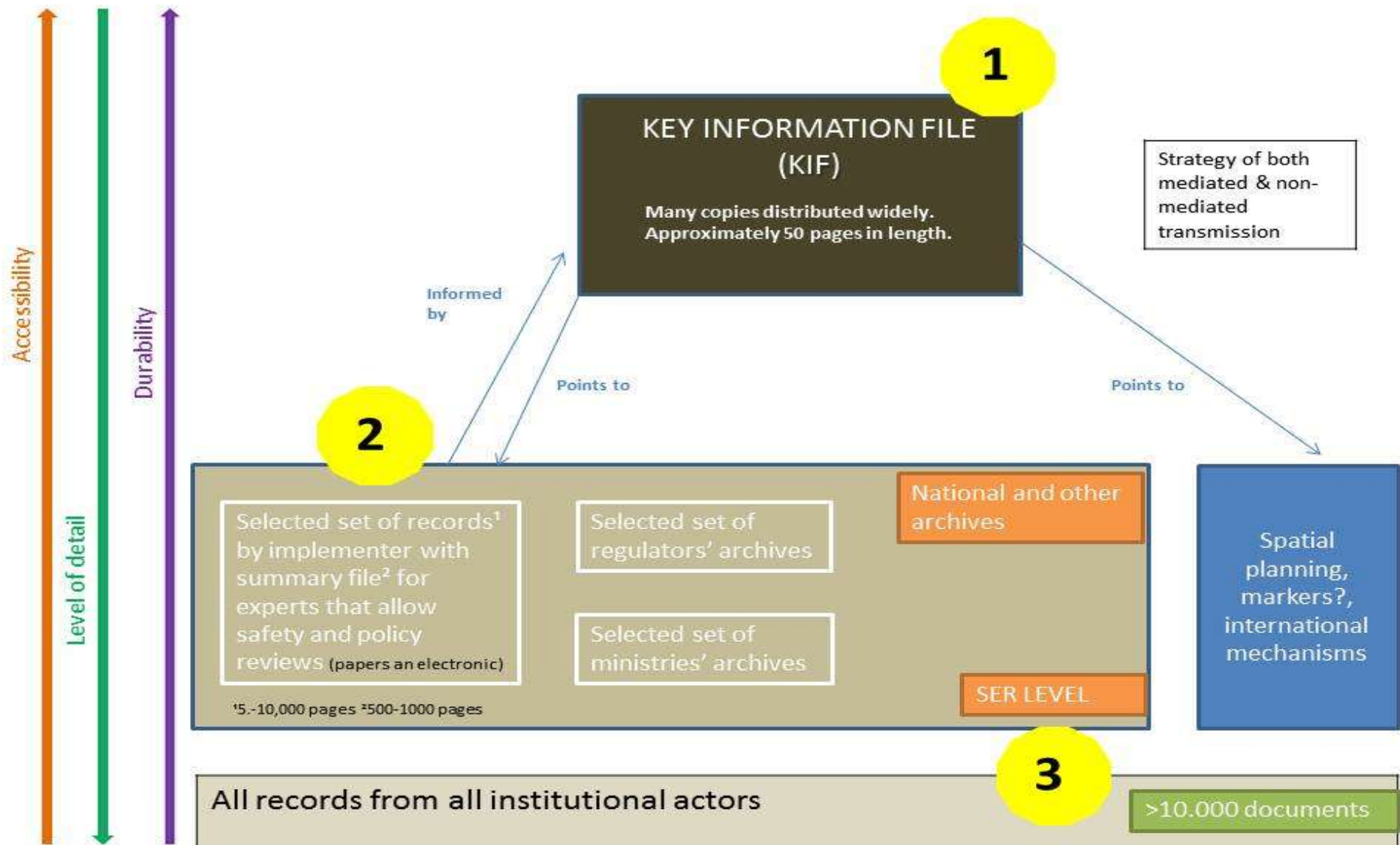


Fig. 1 – KIF and SER in context

The SER, whose preparation should be a continuous process, is now defined as a rather 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 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.

In addition to the KIF and SER, specific messages can be created, for instance stating 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 drilling into the repository.

To underline the temporal dimension of this framework, Figure 2 has been developed.

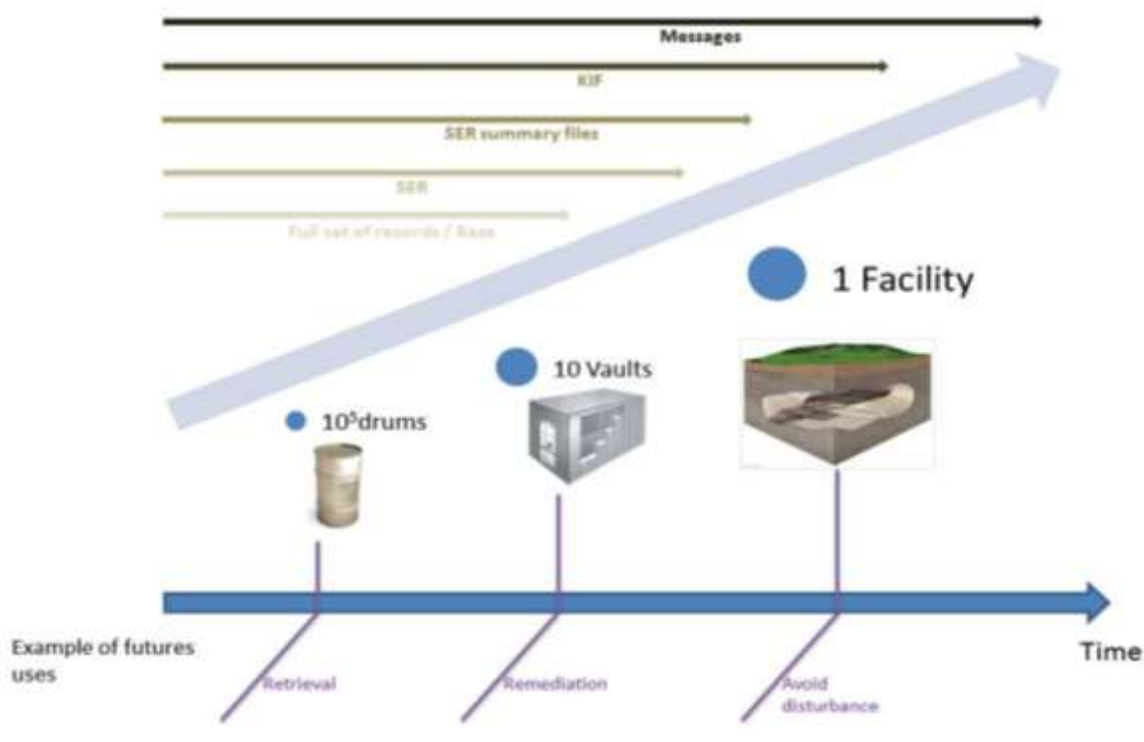


Figure 2

This figure illustrates the perspective of the 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. 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.
- Discuss within RK&M how to address the issue of transfer of responsibilities upon repository closure and how it could be prepared.

## **6. Pending issues**

- The KIF group could participate in ANDRA's future review work of the Mémoire de synthèse.
- As the KIF group, would we also work on the document 0 "messages"?
- It seems important to have all implementers getting together to organise / structure a set of essential records (Document 2) vis-à-vis the KIF.
- We should link the EU waste management report to our project.