**Integration Group for the Safety Case (IGSC) Symposium 2024***MOVING TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SAFE DGR – GETTING REAL*

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| **Abstract Title:**  Designing a knowledge management approach for the French DGR project “Cigéo” to be integrated with Andra's organisational strategy for the preservation and transmission of key knowledge over time. | |
| **Abstract (300-500 words):**  The safety case for the final phase of a disposal may eventually serve as a comprehensive compilation of evidence, analyses, and arguments. Its purpose is to quantitatively and qualitatively substantiate the assurance that the disposal will remain safe following closure and beyond the period when active control is feasible.  Considerable scientific and technical knowledge has been acquired in the field of the French deep geological disposal over three decades. The current achievement of the “Cigéo” project, and particularly the submission of the successive project files, including the safety case to support the licensing application, are the result of an accumulation of documented knowledge combination and decisions. This “journey” corresponds to one or two generations of staff only, and the risks of losing important knowledge are obvious. There are also opportunities for improving knowledge preservation and transfer to the generations who will be in charge of operating the facilities for over a century.  The knowledge required shall therefore be managed accordingly throughout the project’s stages. While synthesis production, historical file creation, experience sharing, training development and succession planning for key staff may nurture an organization’s capacity at a given moment in time, building a knowledge management system and implementing a knowledge management strategy shall articulate with both ongoing, day-to-day operations and the decisive key milestones of the project. Knowledge management systems and strategies do extend beyond mere remedial action and are integral to organizational functioning. The key knowledge supporting the safety case and that to be passed on to the next generations indeed emanate from the very knowledge mobilized daily during the successive phases of the projects.  Strategic analysis and capitalisation of key knowledge assets may thus be deployed to: identify the “critical” knowledge associated with the demonstration of the safe performance of the disposal ; investigate the related knowledge cycles and ecosystems to assess the risk of loss or non-coverage of required knowledge over time ; locate, within the organization, the professionals involved in the related knowledge cycles and ecosystems (as contributors, beneficiaries, integrators, etc.) ; define and support control measures for the development of knowledge repositories, the federating of knowledge-sharing communities, the implementation of collaborative knowledge management practices, etc. In a nutshell, to support staff in accessing and managing the knowledge they need for decision and action.  This paper aims to highlight the knowledge management approach being implemented to the Cigéo project and how its different applications may support Andra’s organisational strategy for knowledge preservation and transmission over time. This primarily concerns developing some of the project’s specialized information collections to comply to regulatory requirements: the safety case, as well as the set of essential records (a selection of records deemed essential to aid future generations evaluating repository safety and making informed decisions). | |