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

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| **Abstract Number:** | **Session 4.1** |
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| **Abstract title: Keynote lecture 2 – Learning from Experiences in Mining** | |
| **Abstract (300-500 words):** BGE is the German federal company responsible for the disposal of radioactive waste. BGE’s tasks include the selection of a site for a repository for high-level radioactive waste that will guarantee the highest possible level of safety for one million years. The BGE also operates deep geological repositories for low and intermediate level radioactive waste in different stages: construction of the Konrad repository, preparation for the decommissioning of the Morsleben repository, and planning for the retrieval of radioactive waste and subsequent decommissioning of the Asse II mine. In addition, the BGE also closes the former exploration mine at the Gorleben site. The BGE and its predecessor organisations thus have more than 40 years of experience in repository projects. The facilities cover all relevant phases of a repository’s lifetime and different host rocks. The Konrad site is currently under construction and is expected to be operational by the end of this decade. The Konrad site is an old iron ore mine covered by layers of clay several hundred metres thick. Lessons can be learned from the ground control system as well as from retrofitting the shafts. The other facilities are located in salt formations. Lessons can be learned from all the facilities in terms of the licensing process and design planning. In general, it can be observed that the NIMBY/ NIMTO effect (not in my backyard, not in my terms of office) makes long term political support necessary. Repository projects are technically highly complex and extremely time-consuming. Therefore, laws and regulations are an additional challenge and may change during the project. The complexity and the long project duration can lead to mistakes. Learning from such mistakes is essential. Better collaboration and communication within the project, but also between stakeholders, can help us avoid mistakes. Digitalisation offers the opportunity to optimise collaboration, communication and costs. The keynote will present lessons learned from the operation of BGE facilities and give examples from different projects. | |