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

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| **Author:** Bartol, J (1,\*)., Vuorio, M.R (1)., Neeft, E.A.C (1)., Verhoef, E.V (1)., McCombie (2), C., and Chapman, N.A.  **\*** [**Jeroen.bartoL@covra.nl**](mailto:Jeroen.bartoL@covra.nl)   1. Centrale Organisatie Voor Radioactief Afval, The Netherlands. 2. McCombie Consulting, Switzerland 3. Chapman Consulting, Ireland | |
| **Abstract Title:** A Dutch Rock Salt Conditional Safety & Feasibility study | |
| **Abstract (300-500 words):** Like neighbouring countries with long-lived radioactive wastes, the Netherlands has selected geological disposal as the official national policy with the implementation of a national geological disposal facility (GDF) set to be around 2130. In the period up to the implementation of a national GDF, all low, intermediate, and high-level radioactive wastes will be collected and stored above ground for 100 years by COVRA: the Dutch Central Organisation for Radioactive Waste Management. During the relatively long period of above-ground storage, research, and development (R&D) activities will continue with updated safety cases produced iteratively as data and methodology improves. Applying this strategy within the Dutch geological disposal programme has recently resulted in a Dutch Conditional Safety & Feasibility study for disposal in rock salt which will be published in 2024. This study includes an updated repository concept for the disposal of all Dutch wastes in rock salt in 2130, cost estimates and a safety assessment. In addition, it summarises the work that has been done as part of our latest research programme to increase the confidence in the long-term safety and to improve the cost estimate and disposability of the waste. It will be used to guide future work in the Netherlands on disposal in rock salt.  As part of the latest Dutch research programme on disposal in rock salt, for example, a salt database containing thermal, hydrological, and mechanical properties of rock salt was created. Having a single updatable database on these will help to reduce progressively the uncertainties. Other examples of research are studies on the long-term evolution of the permeability-porosity in granular salt backfill, solubility of radionuclides in brine and on diapirism and subrosion rates in the Netherlands. All reports and data will be made publicly available in publications and via our website. Together, the recent studies have contributed to the first rock salt safety assessment in two decades with an updated disposal concept. This rock salt safety assessment showed that in the normal evolution, no radiological releases are expected during a period of one million years. | |