**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:**  **Lessons learned from Cigeo licensing process in France** | |
| **Abstract (300-500 words):**  Deep geological disposal is the solution selected in France for the management of high-level and long-lived intermediate-level radioactive waste. The Cigeo project, developed by the French national agency for radioactive waste management (Andra), aims to allow the disposal of about 85 000 m3 of radioactive waste in a clay layer at a depth of 500 meters. After more than 25 years of development of this project, a major milestone was reached in early 2023 with Andra’s application for authorization to build and operate Cigeo.  The proposed paper includes general information related to the regulatory framework associated with the Cigeo licensing process, which began its development in the 1990s when the first law on high level waste management was passed. It also covers the organization of Cigeo’s licensing review process, which started in 2023. Due to the significant amount of data and topics included in the safety case, the review process, expected to last two and a half years, has been divided into three sub-reviews: (1) input data for the safety assessment, (2) operational safety and (3) post-closure safety. A specific focus will be given in the paper to the outcomes of the first sub-review dedicated to input data to the safety assessment, expected to be published in Spring 2024.  Throughout the project's development, efficient dialogue between Andra (implementer), ASN (regulator) and IRSN (technical support organization) has been key to ensure successful pre-licensing steps. The paper also provides the main lessons learned from the regulator-implementer dialogue that has been carried on over the past decades in France, including early availability of regulation and guidelines, key role of Andra’s underground research laboratory and development of a common understanding of the iterative process associated with the development of the safety case. | |