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COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

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About Andra

Andra, the French National Radioactive Waste Management Agency, is a publicly-owned industrial and commercial enterprise created by the French Act of 30 December 1991. Its role was expanded by the Planning Act of 28 June 2006 relating to the long-term management of radioactive materials and waste.

Andra is independent of radioactive waste producers and operates under the supervision of the ministries responsible for energy, the environment and research.

Andra's expertise serves the State by identifying, implementing and ensuring safe management solutions for all French radioactive waste for the protection of present and future generations from the risks inherent in these substances.

About BGE

The BGE is a federally owned company in the business area of the Federal Ministry for the Environment. On April 25, 2017, the BGE took over the responsibility as the operator of the Asse II mine as well as the Konrad and Morsleben repositories from the Federal Office for Radiation Protection. Further tasks include the search for a repository site for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste generated in Germany on the basis of the Site Selection Act, which came into force in May 2017. Managing Directors are Dr. Ewold Seeba (acting chairman), Prof. Dr. Hans-Albert Lennartz (commercial director) and Dr. Thomas Lautsch (technical director).

Andra signs partnership agreement with German counterpart BGE (Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung)

On Thursday June 28 in Paris, Pierre-Marie Abadie, CEO of Andra signed a partnership agreement with Ewold Seeba, acting chairman of management board, of BGE, Germany's counterpart agency created in 2017, as a result of merging federal organisations involved in the disposal of radioactive waste.

This partnership agreement lays down formal conditions to enable the information exchange between the two agencies and implementation of respective cooperation work, for the duration of five years with the option to extend the agreement.

As the German siting process for the high-level waste disposal facility has restarted, BGE intends to benefit from Andra's experience concerning the strategies implemented in France since 1991 with the objective to prepare the ground for Cigeo. In particular, BGE is interested in stepwise development of the French project including its organisation, in the knowledge in realising a repository project in a clay formation, especially on the basis of the scientific and industrial experience made in the URL Bure, as well as in Andra's strategy of communication and dialogue with the stakeholders to the project.

Andra, for its part, would like to explore in detail the siting process launched in Germany in the particular circumstances of ultimate nuclear phase-out adopted in 2011. Andra will specifically look at the dialogue and information strategy developed by BGE in Germany on the collective heritage that radioactive waste represents. Of further interest is the experience of BGE in actually constructing and operating deep geologic repositories.