Communicating the cAt-disposal project in Dessel, Belgium

STORA partnership, Dessel, Belgium

Herman Sannen, Vice-president STORA
Dessel municipality

- 9,000 inhabitants
- 2,703 ha
- 332 inhabitants / km²
- 2 communities:
  - centre Dessel
  - Witgoor
Nuclear activities

- nuclear site Dessel - Mol
- nuclear activities since 1952
- 7 nuclear companies
  - e.g. processing and storage of nuclear waste
  - no nuclear power plant
  - 2 companies in decommissioning
- 1635 people employed, 70 % lives in the area
- population is familiar with presence of nuclear installations
- no active antinuclear protest groups in Dessel
The partnership concept
Start of Community involvement

- 1980’s – 1990s’: purely technical approach
  - focus on natural barriers (geology)
  - no consultation
  - Failure! (N.I.M.B.Y.- O.M.D.B.)

- 1998: start of a different approach, involving the local community
  - ‘local partnerships’ on voluntary basis
  - political requirement: final, progressive, flexible and reversible solution
  - man-made barriers only
Community involvement

- 2 partnerships: NIRAS/ONDRAF with 2 municipalities
  - Dessel: STOLA/STORA (1999)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2 project coordinators

WORKING GROUPS:

- Siting & design
- Local development
- Environment & health
- Safety
Community representatives

- General Assembly and Board of Directors represent the 3 main groups in the municipality:
  - **Political** (e.g. political parties)
  - **Economical** (e.g. local industry, trade union)
  - **Social** (e.g. local organisations)
- Working groups: independent *individuals* join on a voluntary basis
- +/- 70 volunteers each partnership
Integrated approach

- Task partnership: **assess technical and social feasibility**
- Is a disposal facility in our community:
  a) technically possible?
  b) socially acceptable?
- Develop an **integrated project**
Partners in the project

- Beyond mere consultation
- **Co-design**
- Open forum for negotiation
- Recognition of local knowledge and expertise in technical and societal matters
  - several engineers with experience in civil engineering, construction and concrete
  - experts in environmental matters
  - experts in societal matters
2004: YES, a disposal site in Dessel is feasible and acceptable

BUT with conditions!

- health follow up, safety enhanced, environment
- positive local impact (investment, work,..):
- open communication on ALL « nuclear issues » (communications centre)

-maintaining and further development of nuclear know how in the region
- fund for local projects (300 years)
Outcome local partnerships

- final reports STORA/MONA in 2004/2005
- partnerships had a **decisive impact on the decisions of the municipal councils** in 2005
- **2005**: approved by municipal council (unanimously)
- federal government decision in 2006:
  - surface disposal site in Dessel
  - local conditions will be met
  - local participation will be continued
  - interests of Mol are taken into account
Dessel conditions

- Integral part of the disposal site project = ‘cAt-project’

SAFETY
- Maximum safety conditions
- Protection of the environment through monitoring

Open Communication
- Communication centre
- DIGICAT
- Ombudsman
- Continued local participation through STORA

DESSEL PLUS
- Local Fund
- Health study
- Science centre
- Meeting place for local people and organisations

DESSEL GROWS
- Nuclear knowhow
- Local employment
- Mobility
- Environmental planning

DESSEL 2300
- Comprehensive financing
- Continue all conditions
- During the entire lifetime of the cAt-project (300 years)
Participation after siting

- Continuation of the partnerships after site selection was one of the explicit local conditions
- Continued broad social basis
- **Continued follow-up** of the development of the various technical and non-technical components of the project in joint committees:
  - in main cAt-steering committee
  - in several project groups discussing specific parts of the project
Conclusion
Building confidence

- The long process of participation by partnership has contributed significantly to building **confidence in the safety** of the repository
- Among the STORA-members and among the local community
  - Communication has to be correct, objective, honest and as complete as possible.
  - Adapted to the audience (in understandable language)
  - No contradictions in publications to different audiences (Authorities, politicians, ... general public)
Involving larger population

- newsletter door to door
- article in municipal information periodical
- website, facebook
- information campaigns at local events
- small-scale polls
- debates
Het Kanon
Marcel Gillhaus

De geschiedenis van Het Kanon van Dessel.

Je dient ingelogd te zijn om je stem te kunnen uitbrengen.
92% vindt deze video leuk

Voor de spiegel... Armand Malis
Marcel Gillhaus
93% vindt deze video leuk

Muziek: Fantasie De Eendracht - Lenteconcert 2011
Geert Lauwen
93% vindt deze video leuk

Rubrieken:
- cA T
- Cultuur
- Evenementen
- Folklore en traditie
- Milieu en natuur
- Mobiliteit
- Nuclear
- Sport
- Toerisme

Overzicht van alle video's

Meest bekeken:
- 10 jaar BMX Dessel
- Erik Causens
- Bier- en wijnproeven
- Koon Schoolers
- Paardenbreedvoedsel
- Erik Causens

Meest recent:
- Graspop 2011 opbouw Hoofdgebouw
- Lucien Rottier
- Veiligheid voorop
- NIRA
- Gele voertuigen
- Willem-Jan Hendrickx
Doe mee met 3xG

U bent zwanger? U wilt de gezondheid van uw baby van nabij opvolgen? De relatie tussen gezondheid en het milieu in uw regio interesseert u?

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Website www.stora.org
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STORA promotional activities

- Promotional activities:
  - ad in local brochures
  - displays, banners, STORA-brochures
  - gadgets

- At gatherings, festivities, ... of local clubs and associations

- Objectives:
  - increase visibility and ‘brand awareness’
  - explain who we are and how we work
  - explain the cAt-disposal project
  - new members
We dont avoid
We invite
www.stora.org