

## **Recent Progress on High Level Radioactive Wastes Disposal in China: From Follow Suit to Science Driven**

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China initiated High-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Program in 1985 in realizing the potential importance of safe disposal of high-level radioactive wastes (HLW) in the development of nuclear industry, especially in the development of nuclear energy in China. At the beginning of the 21 century, when China's attitude toward nuclear energy was changed from moderate to active and fast development, the importance of safe disposal of HLW was again widely recognized. In Feb. 2006, a planning and policy document for the R&D on Geologic Disposal of High-level Radioactive Wastes was jointly released by the Commission of Science Technology and Industry for National Defense, the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China, and the State Environmental Protection Administration of China. This document outlines the research framework of the China's HLW Disposal Program (CHILRAWD). On the first annual meeting of the expert group held on October 27, 2006, the first 17 projects proposed by the institutions from the China National Nuclear Corporation, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Universities, covering radionuclide migration, safety assessment methodology, engineering design and site investigation were reviewed and approved. Currently, 12 sites are investigated and finally 3 site will be selected for the potential geological repository in China. In this paper, the CHILRAWD will be presented and discussed.