

Concise Network: Workshop 1

A Research Overview from Sweden



Mark Elam and Göran Sundqvist
Göteborg University
Sweden



Projects and Organization

- Researchers based at Section for Science and Technology Studies in Department of Sociology GU, Sweden
- 3 Current Projects relating to Strategic Conflict Management in Nuclear Waste Management



CARL + FORMAS + ARGONA

- CARL (2005-07) - Swedish participation funded by SKB, SKI, SSI, Municipalities of Oskarshamn and Östhammar
- FORMAS Project (2006-09) - Communicating Environmental Hazards – Inventing Environmental Policy – Promoting Citizen Involvement in Siting of Nuclear Waste and Improvement of Urban Air Quality
- ARGONA - (2006-2009) -EURATOM FP 6 Project on Arenas of Risk Governance in Nuclear Waste Management



Swedish Success in NWM and its Transferability

- A Robust Technical Concept (KBS3) + Local Stakeholder Involvement
- NWM as a Politically-Enforced Technical Priority Connected with Idea of Phase-Out
- Spent Fuel = Waste. Success in NWM by Keeping Nuclear Life Simple
- NWM as foundation for alternative 'Nuclear Parks'
- KBS3 now a 'mutable mobile' supporting new European Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform?



Public Mediation of NWM via Demonstration versus Dialogue

- Demos and Dialogues Never Purely Technical or Political, Always Both!
- KBS 3 = R, D and Demonstration project. Programme of Technical Demonstrations, Expert Interrogations and Public Communications
- In Swedish NWM, political dialogue is (strategic?) local stakeholder involvement expression of 'democratic localism' (Hunold)
- In UK after 1997 some level of contrasting commitment to national stakeholder involvement and engagement in NWM
- How are 'nuclear publics' supporting programmes of NWM made through combinations of demonstration and dialogue?



Voluntarism and the Strategic Empowerment of Nuclear Communities

- NWM cannot manage nuclear waste in a political vacuum (self-defeating nature of technocracy)
- NWM needs a 'nuclear public' seeking empowerment and more influence over decisions
- Voluntarism tool for creating nuclear public.
- Voluntarism collapses nuclear waste technology and politics into established nuclear communities
- Comparing the successes and failures of voluntarism