





Monitoring requirements for deep geological repositories with retrievability

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Outline

- Why geotechnical Monitoring?
- Generic Model for deep repository models
- Host rock properties
- Questions to be answered by a monitoring program
 - Monitoring Scenario
 - Examples of near-field monitoring
- Conclusions







Why geotechnical Monitoring?

- Gather data about the state of the repository system
- Verify models
- Confidence in the repository system
- Basis of decision if closure or retrieval







Monitoring in the life-cycle of a deep geological repository

- Monitoring starts at the beginning of the operational phase of the repository.
- Monitoring ends at closure of the repository mine.









Generic Model for a deep geological Repository









Goals of the generic deep repositories

Long-term Safety

Hardly any loss of integrity at the geological and geotechnical barriers

Accessibility of the HAW & Operational Safety

- Radiation Protection
- Protection against heat
- Stability of underground openings















Generic Model: Host Rock Systems

	Clay	Shale	Crystalline Hard Rock	Rock Salt
Backfilling		Bentonite based		Crushed salt
Abutment		Salt concrete		
Seal				









Main Properties of Host Rock

Property	Rock Salt	Clay	Shale	Crystalline Hard Rock
Primary state of Stress	isotropic	slightly anisotropic	anisotropic	anisotropic
Plasticity and creep ability	creeping	plastic / creeping	slightly plastic	brittle
Joint system	no open joints	latently joints	highly fissured	joint system
Long-term self-supporting properties of host rock	low	low	moderate	high
Convergences	high	high	moderate	very low
Excavation Damage Zone (EDZ)	big	big	big	small
Groundwater in repository	none	stagnating ground water	stagnating groundwater, possible flow paths on joints	joint aquifer







Host rocks: differences regarding retrievability









Five Questions to be answered in a Monitoring program



according to MoDeRn (2011)







Why to measure? Model verification

- Salt: dry repository mine
- <u>Clay</u>: little formation water, no groundwater flow
- <u>Shale</u>: Little formation water, groundwater flow may be possible on fissures
- Crystalline Hard Rock: groundwater

Hardly any loss of barrier integrity

Monitoring help to prove if the repository system develops as expected







Where and when to measure?



<u>When:</u> to obtain reference values: At the excavation beginning of each drift



seal & abutment





Time and place limitations

- reliability of sensors
 - defective sensors can lead to wrong data
 - change possibility is required
- data transfer
 - wireless technology available, only short distances possible
- energy (for more than 10 years)
 - stand-alone power supply is not available
 - \rightarrow Cables required from the surface
 - no cables through geotechnical barriers









When to measure: Monitoring as a process









What to measure?









What to measure?









How to measure: differences regarding retrievability









Convergences in emplacement drift



no stress reduction, EDZ grows as in open drifts



- Abutment reduces stress deviator in emplacement drift
 - reduced convergence in emplacement drift

Stahlmann et al. (2016)







Swelling Pressure in Soft Rock



b) $\rightarrow B$ P = B P = B P = B P = B P = B P = BP = B

- Swelling pressure can not built up, as wall displaces; no reduction of stress deviator
- Without displacement of the Abutment, swelling pressure can rise and reduces stress deviator in emplacement drift
 - EDZ does not expand

Stahlmann et al. (2016)



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More Aspects of Monitoring

- Up to now, only geotechnical Monitoring was looked upon. Futher aspects to be discussed are:
 - Who will be in charge of monitoring?
 - Who will control the monitoring staff?
 - How will be the data interpreted?
 - How will be communicated these Interpretation?
 - public access to raw data or interpreted data
 - Is there enough interest of the society to proceed a monitoring program?







Conclusions

- Monitoring at deep geological repository is both technical and societal very complex issue
- A compromise between monitoring short-term evaluation and reducing longterm safety need to be found
- Monitoring and retrievability are raising the technical risk of disposal as more open drifts are necessary...
- ...but on the other hand, there is the possibility to react immediately if something not expected happens







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"Beobachten ist gut, solange das Hauptaugenmerk auf "achten" liegt." (E. Schumacher)

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