

Asse2-Advisory Group





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Starting point / issues (1)

- Between 1965 und 1978 large quantities of nuclear waste were stored in an unacceptable manner in the salt mine
 - 125000 barrels LAW waste on the 725 m and 750 m level
 - 1300 MAW waste barrels on the 511 m level
- Since 1988, approximately 12 m cubic meters of brine have flown into the mine every day
- A sharp rise in water levels, the flooding of the mine and a subsequent contamination of the environment are to be feared
- The mine is only limited stable
- A long-term safety cannot be guaranteed



Starting point / issues (2)

- The former operator had no convincing concept to protect and restore the nuclear waste deposit
- The public was inadequately and partly misleadingly informed
- There was a lack of confidence with respect to the operators and responsible authorities
- The concerns and demands of the citizens were largely ignored



Starting point / issues (3)

- The opportunities for participation of the public were very limited
- The mining law and not the nuclear law was in force
- Public participation would only be taken into consideration in a formal procedure at a very late stage – too late in our view



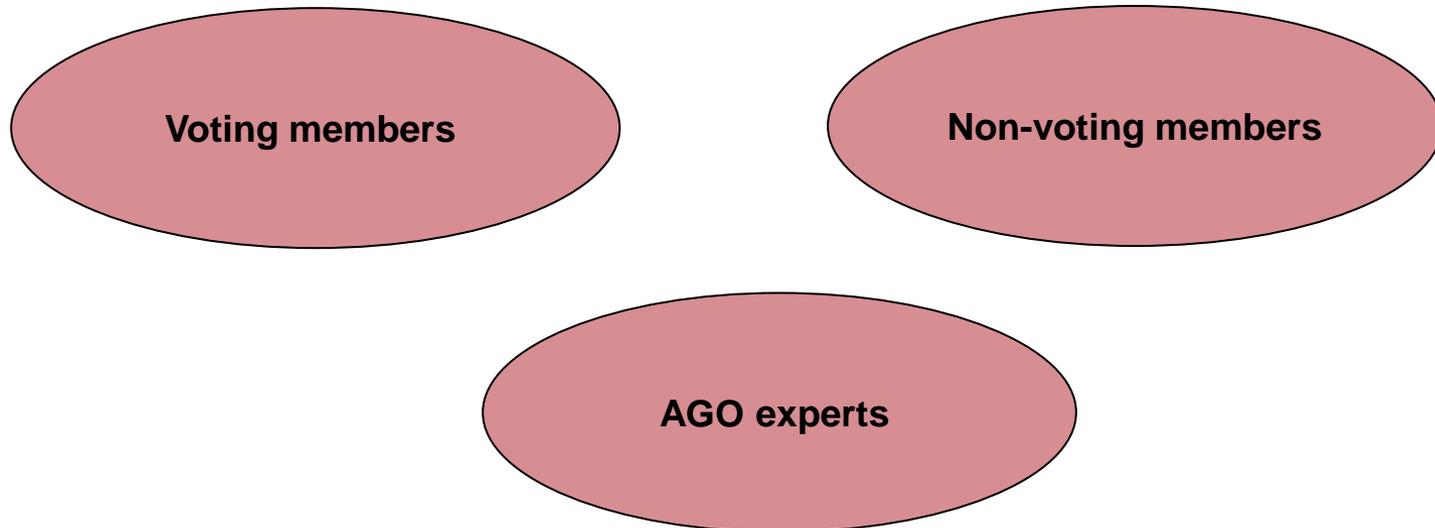
Emergence of the Asse2-Advisory Group

- 20.03.2006 Resolution
- 21.11.2007 Information meeting Landkreis Wolfenbüttel
- 21.11.2007 Joint Statement of the ministries
- 21.01.2008 Constitution of the Asse2-Advisory Group
- 05.03.2008 Constitution of the Asse Expert Advisory Group (AGO)



Asse2-Advisory Group

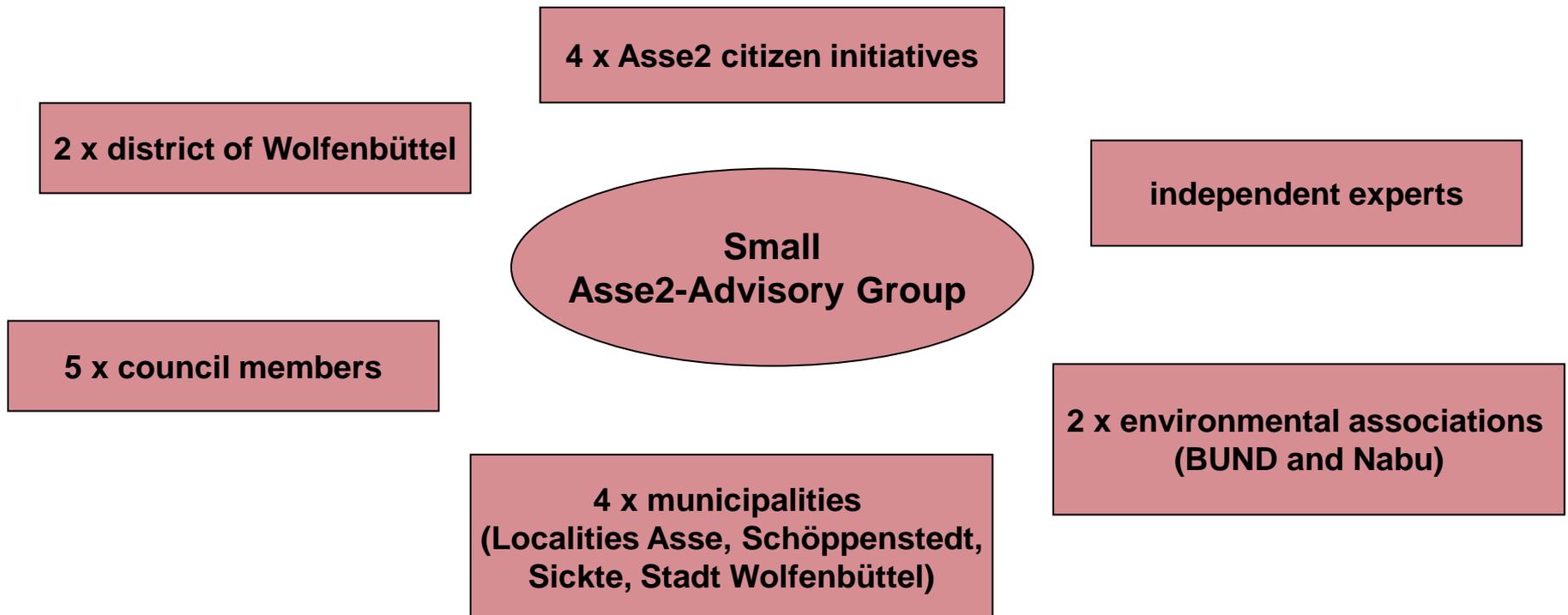
Who is involved?





Small Asse2-Advisory Group

Composition of the voting members





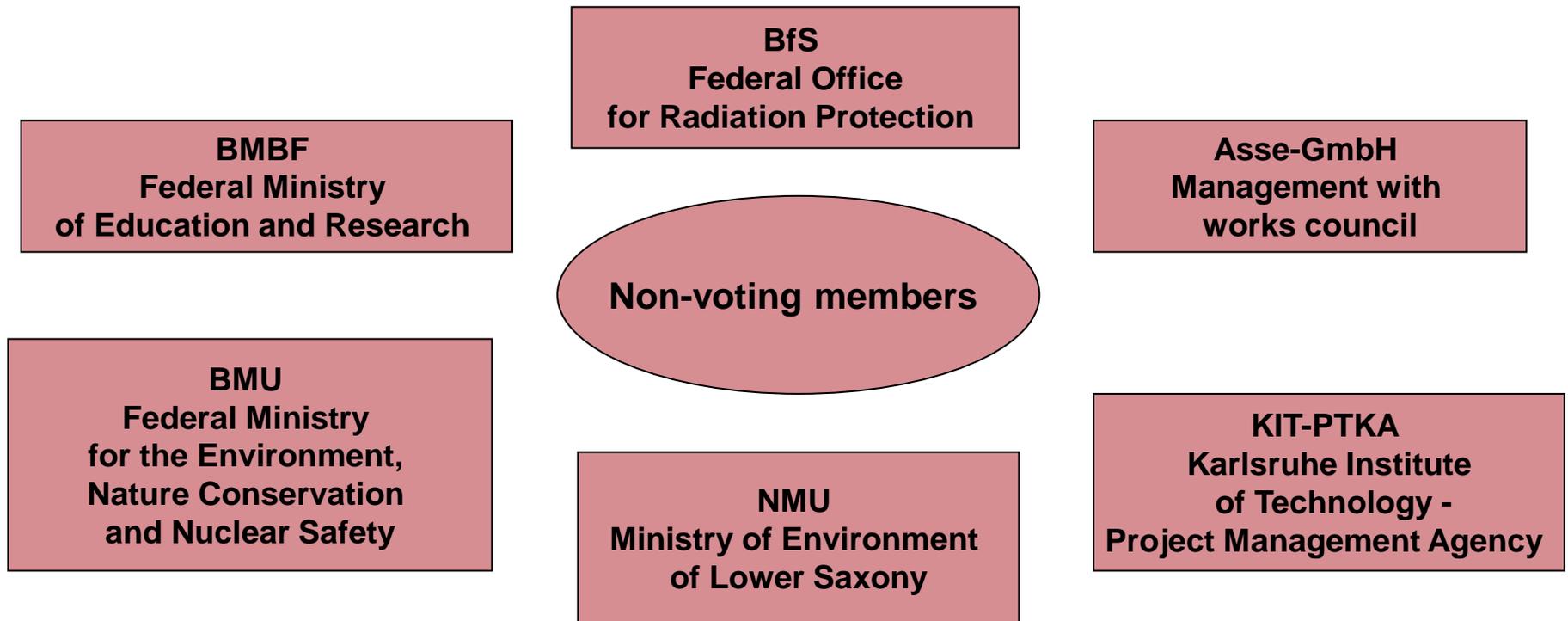
Composition of the Asse Expert Advisory Group (AGO)

- KIT-PKTA - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology - Project Management Agency
- Independent experts of the Advisory Group
- BMU - Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
- NMU - Ministry of Environment of Lower Saxony
- BfS - Federal Office for Radiation Protection
- Asse-GmbH - Management with works council



Asse2-Advisory Group

Composition of the non-voting members





What is important for a participatory monitoring process?

1. The formal-legal framework

The competences and responsibilities have to be considered

Legislative

- Legislators
- Atomic Energy Act
- Mining Law

Executive

- The formal process remain intact
- The responsibility of the operator is beyond all questions



What is important for a participatory monitoring process?

2. To set and adjust goals

- Basis: analysis of the actual state
- In conflict situations, the goal orientation is central
- Goal-setting workshops



What were the goals at the beginning of the participation process?

- Pooling of interests in the region
- Discussing objectively and preparing an appropriate decision
- Monitoring the implementation of decisions of the three ministries concerned
- Promoting trust and acceptance
- Creating transparency due to qualified evaluation and documentation
- Ensuring consideration of the requirements of the Atomic Energy Act
- Promoting Information policies and public relations



What is important for a participatory monitoring process?

3. If possible, all parties concerned should be involved

Conflict:

- The larger the group the lower the similarities
- Possibilities and limitations of all the parties are respected
- If major parties do not participate, the whole participation process is of limited use

Problem:

How can we ensure that the individual groups keep being representative and do not form a small elite group?



What is important for a participatory monitoring process?

4. It is important to create a win-win situation for all the parties involved

z. B.

- Implementation of common objectives
- Establishing of a general consensus
- Acceleration of the whole process



What is important for a participatory monitoring process?

Key success factors

- An open and transparent communication
- The institutionalization of the dialogue
 - Advisory group meetings
 - A2B (about 4 times a year for the complete group)
 - A2B Small (about 6 weeks for part of the complete group/ voting members)
 - Expert meetings
 - AGO (about once a month)
- And of course...mutual respect, understanding and appreciation in spite of any conflicts and emotions



What is important for a participatory monitoring process?

5. The conditions must be right

- The provision of sufficient human and financial resources (some 400,000 € per year)
- The support of the ministries independently of any hierarchies
- The support from independent experts makes negotiations equal terms



What is important for a participatory monitoring process?

6. The process itself is more important than the final result

- Clearly regulations and rules are essential
(Business- and/or Rules of Procedure)
- Transparency and preparing a proper decision are the central goals



What are the goals?

- The best possible and also sustainable protection of human beings and the environment from danger of nuclear waste in Asse mine
- Recovering much nuclear waste from the Asse as quickly as possible. However, it needs to be guaranteed that no inappropriate risks are taken in this process!
- Establishing a transparency policy
- Active participation and information of the public
- Objective discussions and preparation of a proper decision



Conclusion

- The final disposal of nuclear waste in Asse has failed miserably
- The outstanding social importance of this issue is generally accepted by the politicians. For the administration is "Lex Asse" still a very difficult and painful process
- The process is also a sociological each with its own group dynamics
- We have achieved more than initially expected
- However, a lot of work is still lying ahead of all the involved parties in order to make this process a real success story!



Thank you for your attention



Source

Mangels-Vögt, Birgit (2012) Technical University of Braunschweig
Institute of Social Sciences
Legitimacy and trust through communication

Patrizia Nanz/Miriam Fritsche (2012)
Manual citizen participation
Federal Agency for Civic Education