

NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY  
RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**NEA Project on Long-term Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RKM)**

**Glossary of Terms - Draft**

*The RK&M glossary defines important concepts and terminology for the purposes of the RK&M project. Compiled by the members of the project team, it is intended as a source of terms that are commonly used within the project in order to achieve more efficient communication and thus better understanding of RK&M issues. It should be pointed out that some terms may be used and defined differently in other areas of science and technology. The glossary is a living document: it will be improved upon and grow as it is used.*

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**NEA Project on  
Long-term Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RKM)**

**Glossary of Key Terms**

**Draft**

Note: The asterisk (\*) indicates that the term is defined in the glossary.

data	Facts and ideas in the form originally collected.
dual-track strategy	<p>This strategy refers to the necessity to set up a system relying on simultaneous, redundant and independent pathways in order to ensure records* and, ultimately, message survivability.</p> <p>The strategy relies on both direct and indirect transmission of records* to a future generation receiver. In the case of direct transmission, the presence of intermediaries is not foreseen and the record* is conveyed directly from the present time to the future receiver. In the case of indirect transmission the record* is passed on from one generation to another. The two tracks may address different target audiences and consider different levels of detail, different time scales and different technical means to achieve message survivability.</p> <p>(see also marker*)</p>
information	Organised data* that may or may not be recorded on a medium.
knowledge	The ability to understand and utilize the available data*, information* and records*.
long term	<p>In connection with Fig. 1, this term refers to the period of time with no repository oversight. This period extends over the time of concern in the safety regulations, typically in the thousands of years.</p> <p>(see also very short term*, short term*, and medium term*)</p>

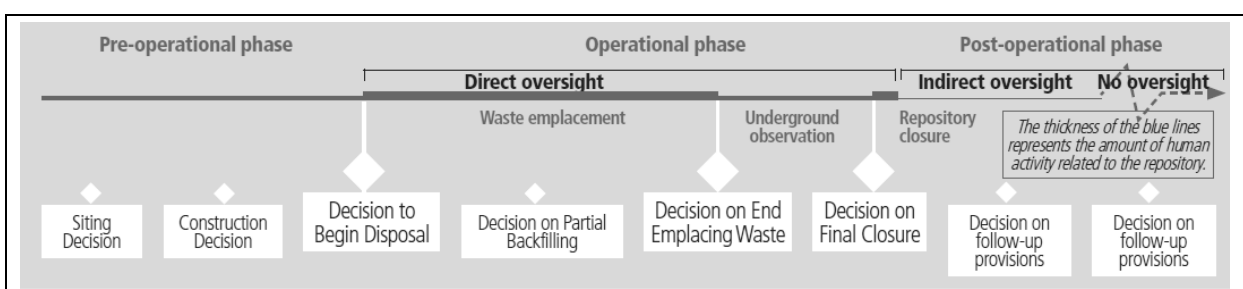


Fig. 1: Repository life phases and examples of associated decisions

marker	<p>A long-lasting object and type of record* that indicates an area of influence, power or danger.</p> <p>In the RK&amp;M dual track strategy*, a marker is a record* meant to reach out to future generations in the medium to long term*. Any marker is conceived to be immobile (i.e., in permanent association with a site), robust, in order to maximize survivability on its own (passive control), and providing a set of messages that are likely to be readable and understandable across generations.</p>
medium term	<p>In connection with Fig. 1, this term refers to the period of time of indirect oversight activities that would follow repository closure<sup>1</sup>. Time scales are of the order of a few hundred years.</p> <p>(see also very short term*, short term*, and long term*)</p>

<sup>1</sup> At that time environmental and repository monitoring may still be ongoing, even if surface facilities may no longer exist.

memory	The awareness of events, people, places and levels of knowledge* in the past.
record	An object or a selected piece of data* / piece of information* that has been committed to a medium and that is kept, together with the appropriate context and structure, for later uses.
short term	In connection with Fig. 1, this term refers to the period of time that ends with repository closure. This period includes both the pre-operational and the operational phases of the repository. Timescales are of the order of 100 years. (see also very short term*, medium term*, and long term*)
very short term	A period of time consistent with staff stability in role, cycles of organisational change, and regulatory expectations of periodic safety reviews. Typical time scales are 10 to 20 years. (see also short term*, medium term*, and long term*)