



From 'siting' to 'hosting': building sustainable relationships with (future) host communities

Anne Bergmans (UAntwerpen)

First observation

Participation of all stakeholders as the prevailing standard



Remaining ambiguity / lack in shared norms about

- What to participate in?
- What to participate about?
- How to organise participation?

Second observation

(part of) The waste is already out there



Consequence

Any decision on (LT) management - including decision not to act - has implications for communities where waste is currently being produced, treated, and/or (temporarily) stored.

Involvement in defining LT solution to start with those communities.



Ownership of the problem

GD as an ongoing sociotechnical experiment

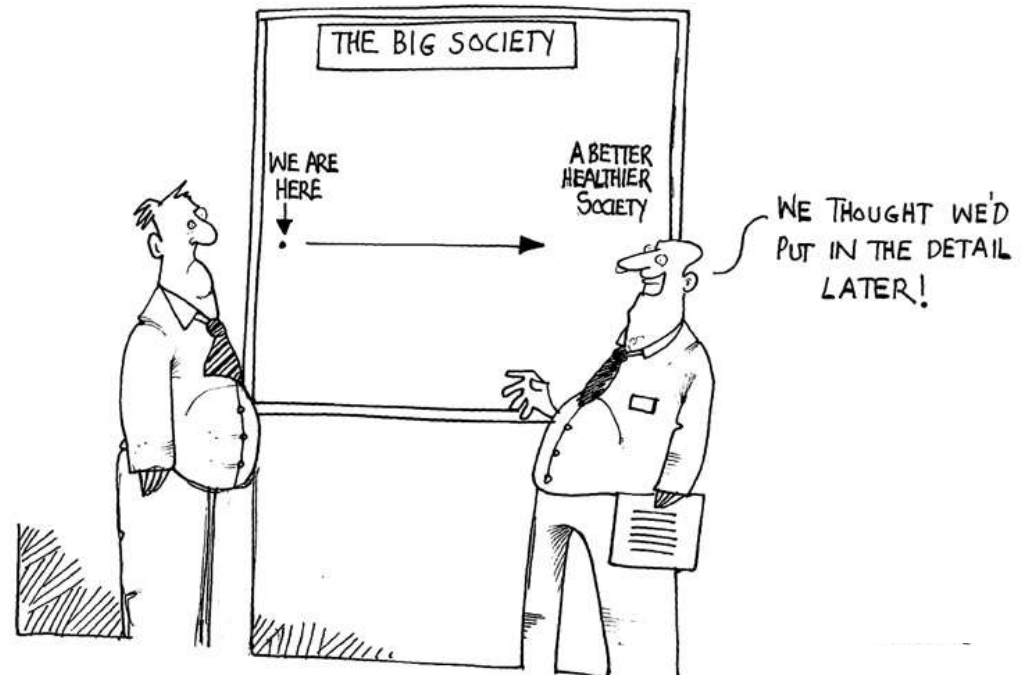
[cf. Van de Poel (2011) : a social experiment in technology]

A (scientifically) controlled, open-ended exploration towards a possible solution

- Process of testing a techno-scientific idea
 - Final goal of passive safety cannot be guaranteed today and will not be reached in the next generation(s)
- ⇒ Promise of a long-term relationship between the surface and the underground
- ⇒ Long-term relationship between the facility and its host community : at least several decades before (final) closure

Third observation

Geological disposal is a technology in the making



Challenges

Involvement in NWM begins, nor ends with siting

Sustainable LT NWM implies

- A continuous process of Technology Assessment
 - in R&D, for facility siting, during construction, operation, closure, active memory keeping, ...
- The 'art of hosting'



Ownership of the solution

⇒ Engaging in GD is about **'buying into'**
a process, not a product

Based on insights collected through, among others:





THANK YOU !

anne.bergmans@uantwerpen.be

 Universiteit
Antwerpen