OVERVIEW

The EDF centralised storage pool is to be located at La Hague, on a fifteen-hectare plot of land situated on the Western side of the existing Orano site, which will become the property of EDF. The facility, which will store 13,000 spent fuel assemblies, is designed to meet the latest safety requirements and to withstand all types of hazards. The cost of the project is estimated at approximately €1.25bn, and the pool is due to be commissioned in 2034.

At the beginning of 2021, EDF referred the matter to the National Public Debate Commission in France (CNDP), which decided on a preliminary public consultation. In order to ensure effective preparation and running of this public consultation, it has appointed two guarantors, Jean-Daniel Vazelle and Pascal Brérat.

Through this public consultation, due to take place from 22 November 2021 to 19 February 2022, EDF undertakes to provide the clearest possible information, and to answer questions and examine expectations, in order to ensure the best possible implementation of the project for the benefit of the region.

The arrangements for this public consultation are detailed below, and are available on the public consultation website (https://projet-piscine.edf.fr).

We call on all those wishing to do so to take part in this public consultation.
THE MAIN FEATURES OF THE PROJECT

The objective of the project

The EDF pool project sets out to meet two industrial needs:

- The need for new spent fuel storage capacity by 2030, resulting from the annual growth in the quantity of fuel to be stored.
- The need for a long-term storage solution for spent fuel derived from initial recycling, which will not undergo further recycling in the short term and must be stored for several decades, be it for later re-use or pending disposal.

In order to address these needs, EDF has opted to develop a centralised wet storage solution (in pools). This decision was reinforced in the wake of a public debate in 2019 on the National Plan for the Management of Radioactive Materials and Waste (PNGMDR), after which the French Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) confirmed the need for such a solution and requested “further work on a new centralised wet storage capacity”.

Safety and specific features of the facility

The planned facility includes a first pool designed to accommodate approximately 13,000 spent fuel assemblies.

Three main buildings will be used to receive the transport casks, to unload the spent fuel assemblies, and to store them in the pool. This “industrial unit” will form a structure approximately 200 m long, 100 m wide, and 25 m at its highest point.

The facility will be half-buried and protected by reinforced walls, the pool and civil engineering structures will be resistant to earthquakes and all types of hazards, and the main systems will have redundancies. All the safety options planned for the facility are subject to the oversight of the Nuclear Safety Authority, which ruled that they were satisfactory after examination of a Safety Options File (2019). These safety options aim to guarantee nuclear safety and the absence of any impact on persons or the environment, including in accident conditions.

An area of approximately fifteen hectares has been set aside for the facility and may subsequently accommodate a possible second pool.
The centralised storage Pool is to be located at La Hague, on a plot of land situated on the Western side of the existing Orano site, which will become the property of EDF.

Several criteria were used in selecting the location of the site: the availability of existing industrial land, the technical characteristics of the site (quality of the supporting soil and subsoil, low seismicity, etc.), logistics and transport considerations, the presence of a tried and tested industrial network, etc.

The La Hague site satisfies all these criteria, and moreover, has the added advantage of minimising the transportation of spent fuel since approximately 2,500 tonnes of fuel due for storage in the EDF Pool is already onsite, in Orano’s pools.

The impact of the Pool on its environment will be very limited. The pool does not require new land to be converted to industrial use and, once operational, its radioactive releases will represent 1% of current releases on the Orano site.

Economic spinoffs of the project

During the construction phase, scheduled for 2026 to 2034, an average of 300 people will be employed on the worksite, with up to 500 people at the peak of the civil engineering works.

During operation, expected to last about a hundred years, 100 jobs will be created onsite (direct employment and contractors), and approximately 150 additional regional jobs will be generated (maintenance, services, etc.).

Schedule

Provisional timeline for key process milestones up to commissioning. Subject to the different authorisations required.
Preliminary public consultation from 22 November 2021 to 18 February 2022

Why hold it?
The National Public Debate Commission (CNDP), an independent administrative body, guarantees the right to public information and participation in public projects and policies that have an environmental impact. It has decided to submit EDF’s project for a spent fuel pool at La Hague to a preliminary public consultation, the terms of which it has laid down and EDF is tasked with implementing.

A consultation under the aegis of guarantors
The National Public Debate Commission has designated two guarantors, Jean-Daniel Vazelle and Pascal Brérat. Their role is to:
• Ensure compliance with the principles and values of a public consultation process.
• Guarantee the adequacy of the public participation arrangements that are set up, as well as the quality, comprehensibility and accuracy of the information released.
• Make sure that the public is able to ask questions, give its comments and proposals, and obtain replies substantiated by the project owner.
• Produce a consultation report.

Following the public consultation, EDF will deliver a document detailing how it intends to take public opinion into account in its project, and how it will keep the public informed until the public inquiry at a future date.

You can contact the guarantors using the following email addresses:
jean-daniel.vazelle@garant-cndp.fr
pascal.brerat@garant-cndp.fr

Schedule of public consultation meetings
Several meetings will be held throughout the public consultation exercise, so that you can get information and have your say on the project.

In addition to the above meetings, visit the website to gather information or leave a comment on the project: projet-piscine.edf.fr

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With a capital of 1 578 916 053,50 euros
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Origin of electricity sold by EDF in 2019:
87.7% nuclear, 7.1% renewables (of which 5.6% hydropower),
0.6% coal, 3.5% gas, 1.1 fuel oil

Environmental impact indicators at www.edf.fr

Energy is our future, save it!