

Local opposition against final disposal of spent nuclear fuel in Finland

YOUR
UNIQUE
PARTNER

Antti Ikonen
Director, Nuclear Waste Management
Saanio & Riekkola Oy

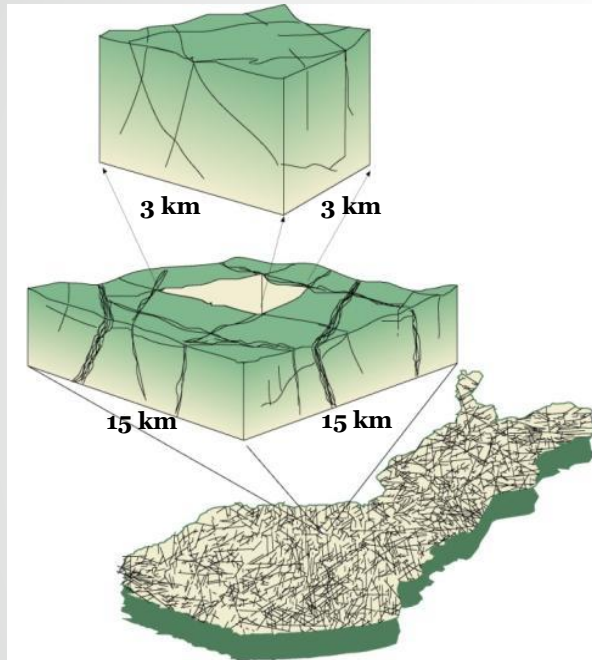
Timo Seppälä

22.11.2017
AtomEco 2017



Site selection research programme 1983 - 2000

Site Identification
1983 - 1985



More than 100 candidate sites were identified

Preliminary Site
Characterisation 1986 - 1992



Detailed Site
Characterisation 1993 - 2000



Site selection 2001

Picture EIA-report / Posiva

Non-nuclear candidate municipalities in the 1990s

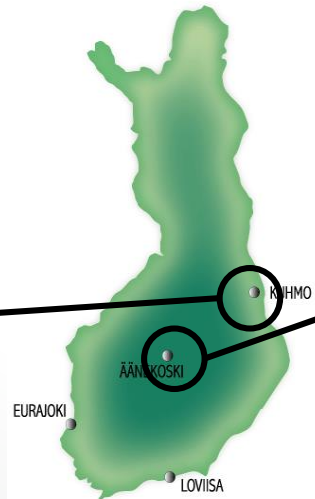
Kuhmo

- 12 000 inhabitants
- 5500 km²
- Main employer: service businesses, tourism
- Investigation site 30 km from down town



Äänekoski

- 14 000 inhabitants
- 1139 km²
- Main employer: pulp and paper industry
- Investigation site 25 km from down town



Nuclear candidate municipalities in the 1990s

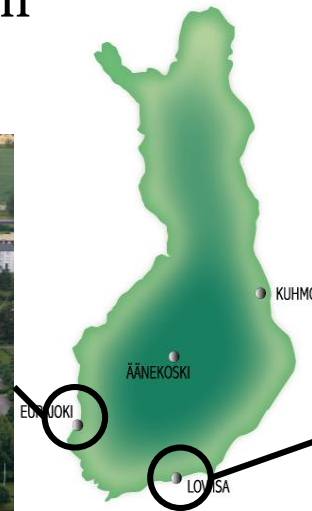
Eurajoki

- 6000 inhabitants
- 459 km²
- Main employer: Olkiluoto NPP
- Investigation site 14 km from down town



Loviisa

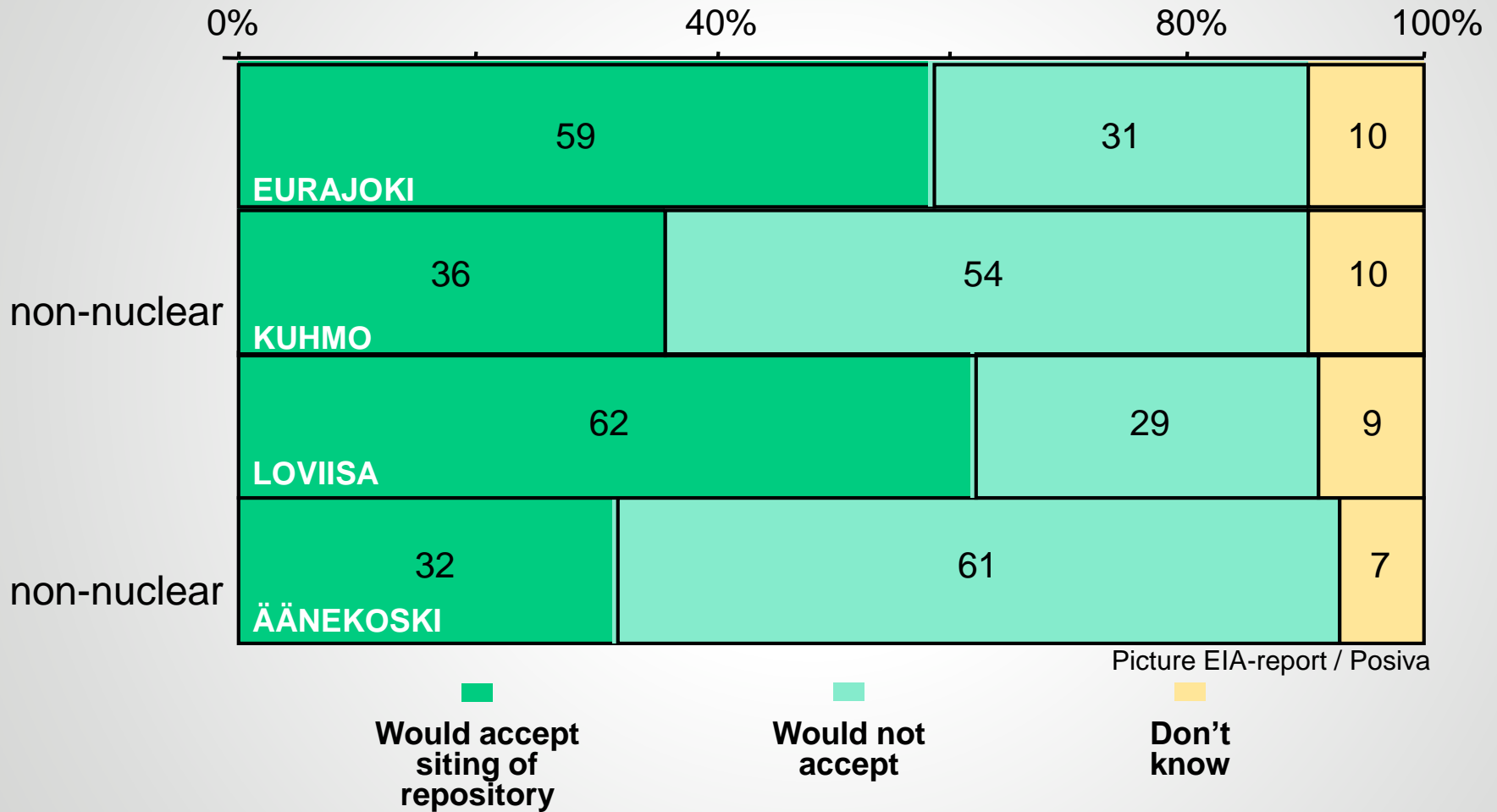
- 8 000 inhabitants
- 45 km²
- Main employer: service businesses
- Investigation site 14 km from down town



Main issues on the local level

- **Safety**
 - releases from the final repository
 - transportation accidents
 - scientific and technical possibilities to assess the long-term safety
- **Benefits**
 - tax revenues, employment opportunities
- **Impact on the *image*** of the municipality
 - impact on tourism
 - impact on markets of local agricultural products
 - impact on housing and real estate markets
 - impact on overall quality of life (psychosocial effects)

Local acceptance , April 1999



Municipalities' (veto right) stance on final disposal

Eurajoki

- Most of the people in favor of final disposal
- No opposition movement in the municipality

Kuhmo

- Most of the people against final disposal
- Active opposition – Romuvaara Movement

Loviisa

- Most of the people in favor of final disposal
- Active support for final disposal – For Loviisa Movement
- Active opposition – Loviisa Movement

Äänekoski

- Most of the people against final disposal
- Active opposition – Kivetty Movement

Notices

Local opposition movements and NGOs did not do very much co-operation - they had for example their own separate events (Green Peace did not have office in Finland).

Green Peace had one event in Loviisa and one in Eurajoki where the came ashore and had demonstration against disposal project – most of their events has been against nuclear power production.

Also Friends of the earth has campaigned mostly against nuclear power production, not so much against disposal project.

Local opposition movements were active. They had for example their own lecture events and wrote letters to the editor very actively – internet was not used in 1990's.

Local opposition - conclusions

In the non-nuclear municipalities communication was much more difficult than nuclear municipalities because:

- People did not have any previous experience of nuclear facilities
- People did not trust the safety of geological disposal
- People were afraid of stigmatization
- Situation was regarded unfair: NPP sites and their surrounding areas gained the benefits of nuclear power, whilst the non-nuclear municipalities were to receive the hazardous waste