

UK long-term nuclear waste management:

Next steps

Regulatory Perspective

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Aim



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- Set out a joint regulatory overview – no detail
- Provide the regulatory context
- Regulatory process pre Government response to CoRWM report
- Regulatory process post Government response to CoRWM report
- Anticipated uncertainties

PHILOSOPHY OF GB LEGISLATION



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- **Goal-setting**
- **Responsibility lies with ‘duty holders’**

Health & Safety at Work Act 1974



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- Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999
- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994
- Nuclear Reactor (Environment Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations 1999
- Concept of SFAIRP

Nuclear Installations Act 1965



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- Implements Paris and Brussels Conventions
- Provides legal basis for licensing and inspection
- Establishes special controls and a security regime

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT 1993



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- **controls on the keeping and use of radioactive materials, and the disposal of radioactive waste.**
 - Registration
 - Authorisation
 - Concept of BPEO and BPM

Regulatory Cooperation



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Joint Goals

- to deliver effective and efficient regulation of the nuclear industry
- to maintain and improve standards of protection of people and the environment from the potential hazards from ionising radiations
- to ensure that radioactive wastes are appropriately managed in both the short and long term, in accordance with legislation, UK Government policy, and international obligations

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Memorandum of Understanding

- Effective & consistent regulation by ensuring that:
- activities [...] are consistent, coordinated and comprehensive
- the possibility of conflicting requirements being placed on licensees [...] is avoided
- public confidence in the regulatory system is maintained

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Tripartite working

- Early communication of issues by operators:
- avoids surprises
- minimises the danger of an operator's investment being put at risk

Organisational responsibilities



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- NII responsible for the issue of a nuclear site license to an operator at a site
- Environment Agencies responsible for issuing an authorisation to dispose of waste
- NDA responsible for letting contracts to develop and operate the site
 - Existing SLC SMC model anticipated

Regulators expectations at existing sites



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- Minimise accumulations of radioactive waste
- Passive safety
- Waste characterisation
- Site based waste strategies



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Current Regulatory Process

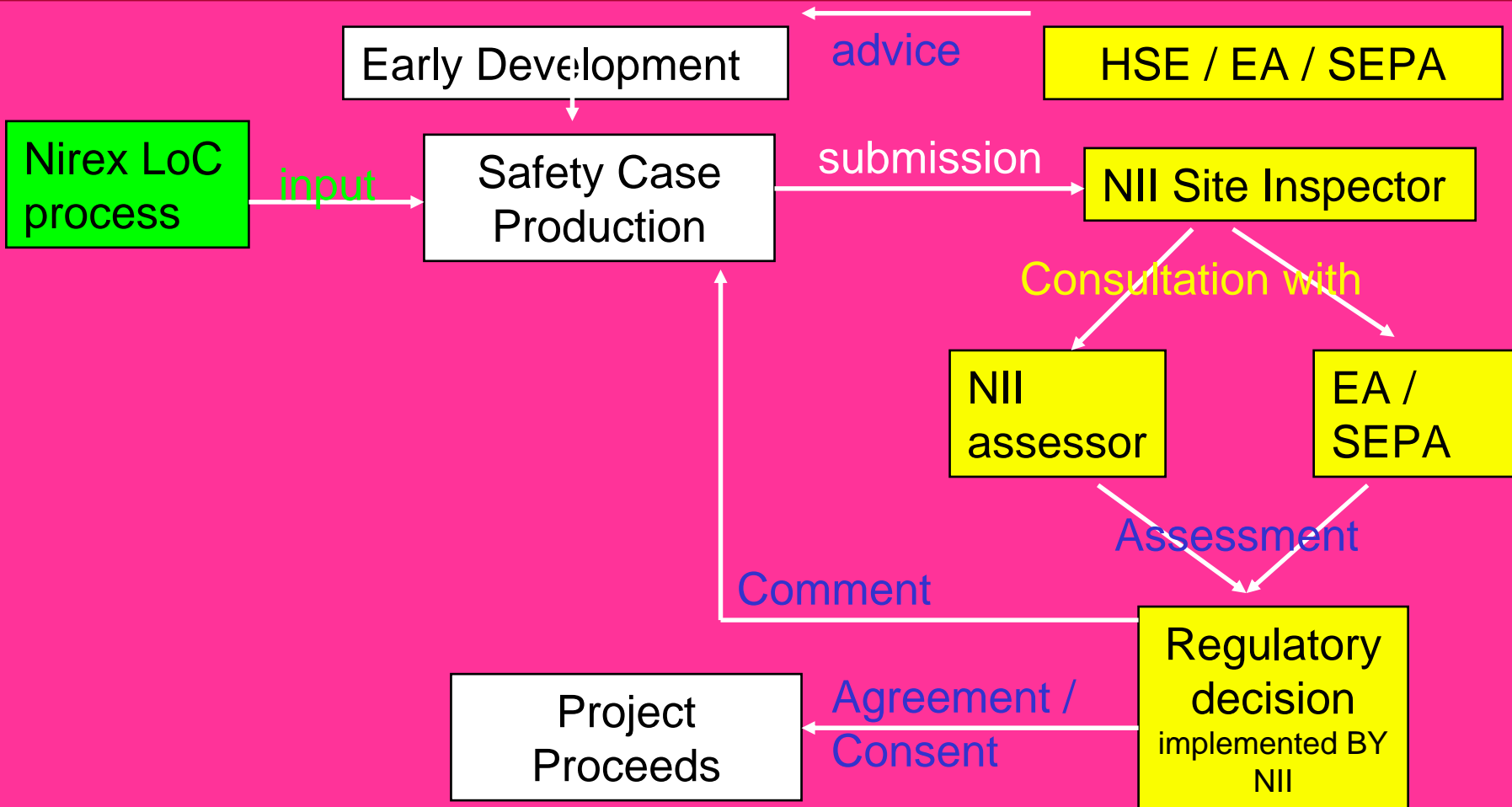
TYPICAL FLOWCHART FOR A RADIOACTIVE WASTE PROJECT



Environment Agency



Scottish Environment Protection Agency



Next Steps



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- Waste will be disposed of to a repository
 - Authorisation required from EA or SEPA
 - Waste suitably packaged
 - Site licensed
 - New regulations required

Regulatory Approach Post CoRWM



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- No fundamental change
- Regulators remain independent and continue to use existing processes
- Evolve existing systems rather than revolution
 - e.g. revision of waste packaging guidance

Revision of current guidance



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First Stage

- Workshop held with Industry
- Included in 1st part of guidance document, issued Jan 2007 as draft for consultation

Second Stage

- More detailed technical guidance on contents of a safety case (production of a waste form; storage; disposability)
 - Modular form
 - To be developed by the Regulators over a longer timescale (~18 months)

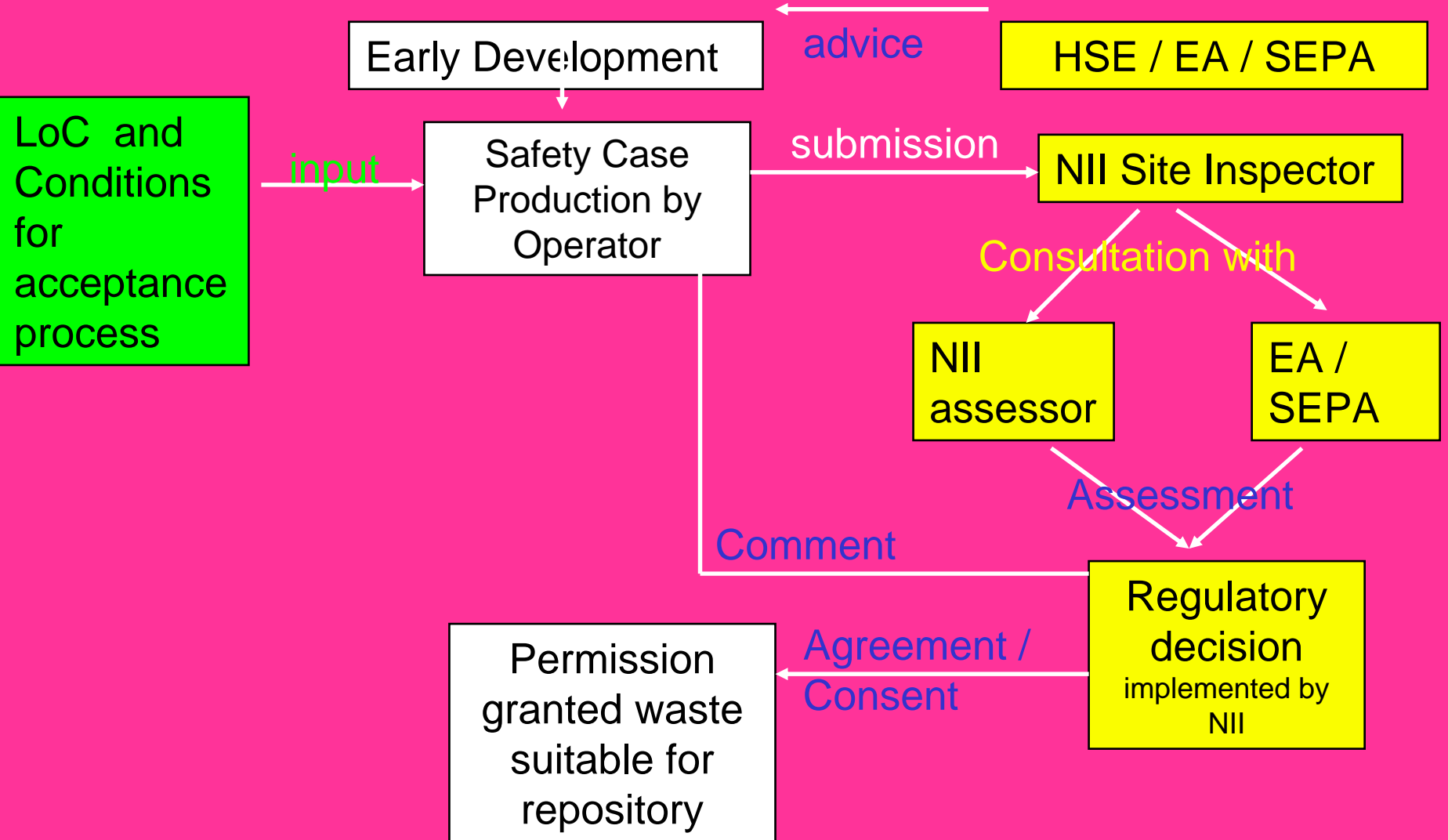
REVISED FLOWCHART FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE TO A REPOSITORY



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Uncertainties



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- Operator not yet defined, competition process likely
- Timescales
- Repository concept – impact on safety case
- Retrievability
- Site license footprint
- Delicensing

Health and Safety
Executive



Thank you for your attention