

**Response from ANDRA (French radioactive waste management authority) to the video entitled 'Would you like some nuclear waste with your champagne?'**

There are two disposal facilities that are mentioned in the video:

**1. CSM facility (At capacity and closed, under long term environmental monitoring)**

- The problem of tritium present in the groundwater / aquifer and in the surface water is not new – it is a well-known phenomenon which is constantly monitored and the environmental results are published.
- The presence of tritium can be explained by releases stemming from an accident that occurred in 1976 (there was a failure of the vault structure and the vaults inside). The accident has been since remediated, the packages in question removed or reconditioned.
- The source of the tritium has been removed but some tritium had already migrated into the environment, hence the readings that are still present.
- Operational activity of the site lasted 40 years. It is now closed.
- The results of ongoing environmental monitoring show that the CSM facility and its activities pose no danger, and the total calculated radiological impact on the environment of the CSM facility is more than 1000 times lower than that of the natural background radioactivity (.02 microsievert per year in 2015).
- Andra measures the level of tritium at over 61 control wells on and around the site. The highest reading often cited by Greenpeace comes from Andra's own publicly available monitoring report.

Key points:

- The tritium levels are below drinking water thresholds.
- The water coming from the aquifer and from the streams situated on the site is not drinkable, but this is due to other water quality reasons, not due to tritium or radiation levels.
- Tritium activity is in constant decline but is nevertheless continuously monitored.

## 2. CSA facility – in operation since 1992

- Like any industrial facility, CSA is authorised to release liquids and gases under certain thresholds. These releases have always been significantly less than threshold values (i.e. environmentally compliant).
- Diffuse releases of gaseous tritium from the CSA facility are well within CSA's license and the safety case of the facility.
- The environment is constantly monitored for these releases. The highest ever reading of tritium around the facility was to the order of 53 Bq/L in 2008 (over 1 or 2 piezometers which is not sufficiently representative of the general level in the aquifer).
- The potable water threshold is 10 000 Bq/L, a value defined by the World Health Organisation.
- The total radiological impact of the facility is 0.003 microsievert per year, which is 0.0003 per cent of the maximum permissible dose for the public (1 millisievert per year).
- Concerning the CSA activities, there has never been any impact on the agricultural produce of the neighbouring lands or the region, including the champagne vines.