

Buffer questions

Interesting issues have been identified in the sample questions of 14 and 18 November. Issues that could be addressed during the visit of the Äspö and the bentonite lab are as follows:

Bentonite Lab / Äspö

INITIAL STATE

1. Feasibility of the canister emplacement operation in the deposition hole. Available demonstration tests.
2. Advantages and disadvantages of increasing the buffer thickness.

TIME EVOLUTION OF THE INSTALLED BUFFER

3. Sealing capacity of the bentonite.
 - Relationship swelling strain-applied pressure, for different bentonites and temperatures.
 - Time evolution of the swelling strain upon wetting and heating
4. Buffer erosion and colloid release conditions
5. Comparison of the available buffer materials: advantages and disadvantages related to their hydraulic, mechanical and geochemical performance.
6. The answer to Round 2 indicates that no performance confirmation activities related to bentonite piping and erosion are planned. Is this correct? Given the potential importance of SKB's assessment of these properties to overall performance, would it not be prudent that SKB provides multiple lines of evidence regarding their assessment.