IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRENCH POLICY FOR THE ROLE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY TOWARDS NET ZERO 2050

Hugo MOREL

Deputy Nuclear Advisor Embassy of France

February 11th, 2025

The French Strategy for Energy and Climate

After consultations of the public and member of Parliament, orientations for the French Strategy for Energy and Climate have been published in November 2023, with 5 main objectives:

- Lower French total energy consumption
- Increase low carbon energy production
- Adapt energy networks
- Ensure security of supply
- Protect purchasing power and competitiveness

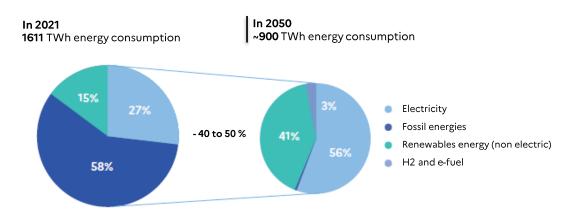


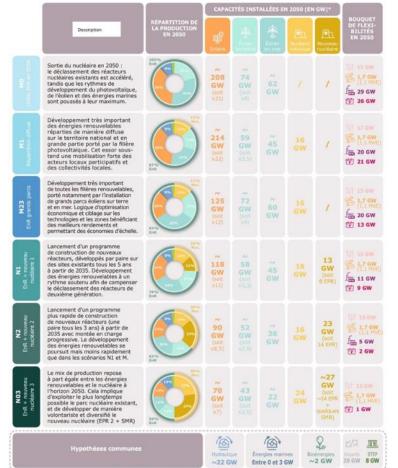


FIGURE 1. Consommation finale d'énergie 2021 et projections à horizon 2050 4

Energy pathways to 2050 (RTE study)

Main Takeaways

- Programmatic orientations for a very significant decrease in energy consumption is a prerequisite to reach climate goals.
- Going out of fossil sources of energy further requires electrification of a vast range of activities (transport, industry, etc.). The electrical system can cope with such evolutions and put France on track for carbon neutrality at a reasonable cost.
- Renewable sources of energy are needed for energy transition. Whatever the scenario, their development must reach a very high pace, for all renewable technologies.
- Hydrogen is an asset for decarbonation and will be needed in scenarios with a high ratio of renewable sources of energy. More generally, flexibilities and electrical networks must be developed.
- Building new nuclear reactors and big solar and onshore wind farms is economically relevant.
- Scenarios with very high ratios of renewable sources of energy (i.e. more that 85 % in 2050) or which rely on nuclear reactors' lifetime extension over 60 years would imply risky technological bets to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.



https://assets.rte-france.com/prod/public/2022-01/Energy%20pathways%202050_Key%20results.pdf

Advantages of nuclear energy

- 1. Energy with very low CO2 emissions and a small footprint on the ground
- 2. Controllable electricity generation to support the deployment of renewable energies
- 3. Contribution to sovereignty

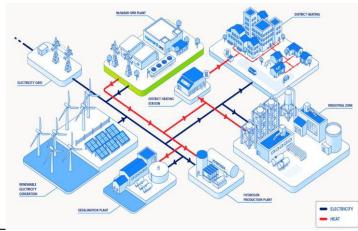
French nuclear energy policy (1/2)

- 1. Long term operation of existing nuclear power plant > 50 years (subject to safety requirements)
- 2. Launch of a new nuclear program targeting 25 GWe new capacity by 2050
 - → New build program with 6 EPR2 (3 pairs)
 - → Study for 8 more EPR2
- 3. Support for the Nuward Small Modular Reactor project



EPR2 at Penly (© EDF)





French nuclear energy policy (2/2)



Innovation program for Advanced Modular Reactor through a call for projects

https://www.entreprises.gouv.fr/fr/actualites/appel-projets-reacteurs-nucleaires-innovants-annonce-des-nouveaux-laureats







11 awarded projects













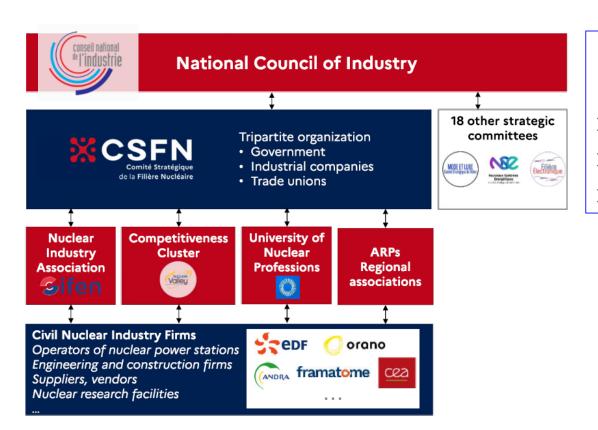






as a complement to Large scale reactors and SMR solutions, to develop solutions that contribute to the decarbonization of industrial sites and systems (direct use of heat, cogeneration, hydrogen, e-fuels, ...)

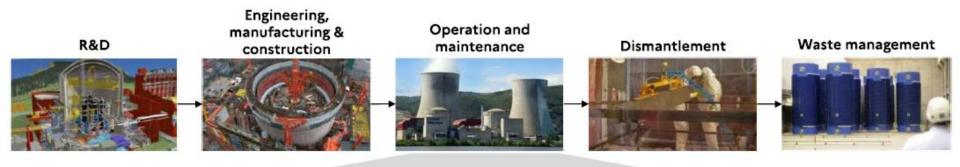
An organization to improve our delivery capacity

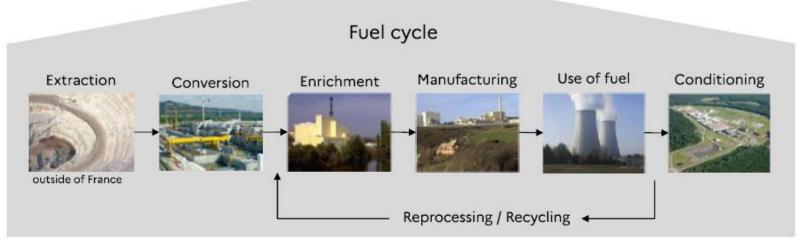


A Nuclear Alliance at European level

- Financing
- Supply chain
- Skills & competencies

Scope covered by the French nuclear industry





Waste management policy (1/2)

French National Plan for Radioactive Materials and Waste Management (PNGMDR)

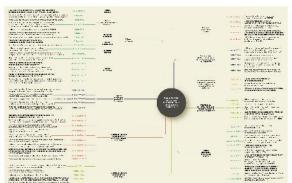


Transversal Issues

Particular Categories of Waste

High-Level and Intermediate-Level Long-Lived Waste (HLW and ILW)

Long-Lived Low-Level Waste (LLW-LL)



Governance

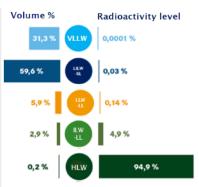
Energy Policy and Waste management

Materials Valorization and Anticipation of classification as waste
Spent Fuel Storage

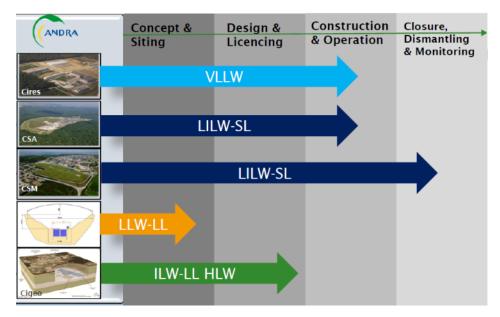
Very Low-Level Waste

Waste management policy (2/2)









THANK YOU