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Legal regulation of subsoil use relations for the construction and operation of geological facilities for the radioactive waste disposal in the Russian Federation

The disposal of radioactive waste is inextricably linked with the issues of subsoil use and legal regulation of subsoil use relations.

To ensure long-term safety and reliable isolation of radioactive waste at a subsoil site for radioactive waste disposal, it is necessary to obtain the sufficient geological information.

In the Russian Federation, the procedure for the use of subsoil and the requirements for geological studying, complex rational use and protection of subsoil are established in the Law of the Russian Federation of February 21, 1992 N 2395-1 "On Subsoil".

The Law "On Subsoil" establishes that the use of subsoil can only be carried out if there is a special state permit in the form of a license for subsoil use and in accordance with the approved project documentation that has passed the necessary expertise and approvals.

The subsoil legislation also establishes the stages of geological exploration, which in general can be correlated with the roadmap steps for geological disposal projects. At the same time, the results of each stage of geological exploration are subject to special geological expertise and are issued in the form of geological reports that are different from safety case reports.

The article will consider the issues of legal regulation of subsoil use in the radioactive waste disposal, including licensing, geological exploration, creation of underground research laboratories and organization of subsoil monitoring in accordance with the goals of sustainable development in terms of subsoil rational use and protection.

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