



EURAJOKI

The Heart of Health and Wellbeing
Vesa Lakaniemi, Mayor of Eurajoki

Local Community Involvement

Facts Of Eurajoki Municipality (1)

- 9250 inhabitants
- 53 % work in industry
- 41 % in services
- 6 % in agriculture
- Active and dynamic many-sided electricity producing municipality



Facts Of Eurajoki Municipality (2)

- Three power plant units in operation
- First power plant unit has been in operation 1978
- In Olkiluoto also: an interim storage for spent nuclear fuel, a repository for low and medium-level waste and a final disposal tunnel
- Disposal for spent fuel will be in operation in 2024-25. The first place in the world.



Photo: TVO

Energy Municipality

- Oosinselkä Wind Mill Park
 - 26 Wind Mills (6 MW/mill)

- Solar Energy Parks
 - Few Projects (200 MW)



OLKILUOTO NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OWNED BY TEOLLISUUDEN VOIMA OYJ (TVO)



OLKILUOTO NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OWNED BY TEOLLISUUDEN VOIMA OYJ (TVO)



Eurajoki before Site Selection (1999)

- In 1999 59 % of the inhabitants were in favour of final disposal
- Positive attitudes towards final disposal come from the well-operating NPP and the related experience
- Local people compared impacts of final disposal to those of Nuclear power plants
- Some of the local people were concerned about the external image of the municipality



Photo: Posiva Oy

Motivation for a Deep Repository in Finland

- Early days (late 1970s-1980s)
 - Shipping spent fuel permanently abroad a primary option
 - From Loviisa NPPs spent fuel was shipped back to Soviet Union until 1996
 - From Olkiluoto spent fuel was never shipped abroad
 - Power company TVO did not find reprocessing abroad economically possible
- Later on (1990s)
 - Export and import of nuclear waste prohibited by law (1994)
 - Geologic disposal only option to manage the responsibility
 - TVO and IVO (now Fortum) established Posiva to take care of spent fuel disposal

Essential for Municipality (1)

- Safety is the most important factor of all
- We have to take care of our own nuclear waste (fairness and responsibility)
- No need to delay final disposal without important reason
- Retrievability option, but without safety risks
- Long-term political commitment (several strategic decisions-in-principle)



Photo: Posiva Oy

Essential for Municipality (2)

- Municipality has a right of veto when making decisions in principle
- Solutions have to be today's technology
- Roles and responsibilities have to be clear
- Up-to-date requirements and control over whole life cycle - STUK (regulator) verifies safety at all stages
- STUK is a highly valued regulator – independent of subscriber, supplier and political decision making



Photo: Posiva Oy

Legislation

- Two important laws regulating nuclear investments, Environment Impact assessment (EIA) and Nuclear Energy Act (NEA)
- These laws include processes that increase transparency and local acceptance
- The most important parts of the NEA-law are local councils' right of veto and STUK's safety assessment
- According to law, Finland cannot export or import nuclear waste

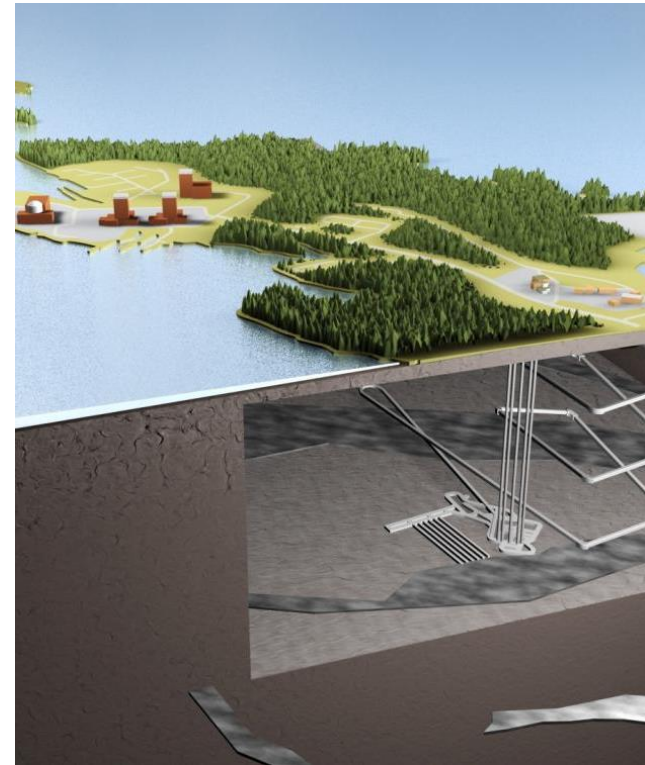
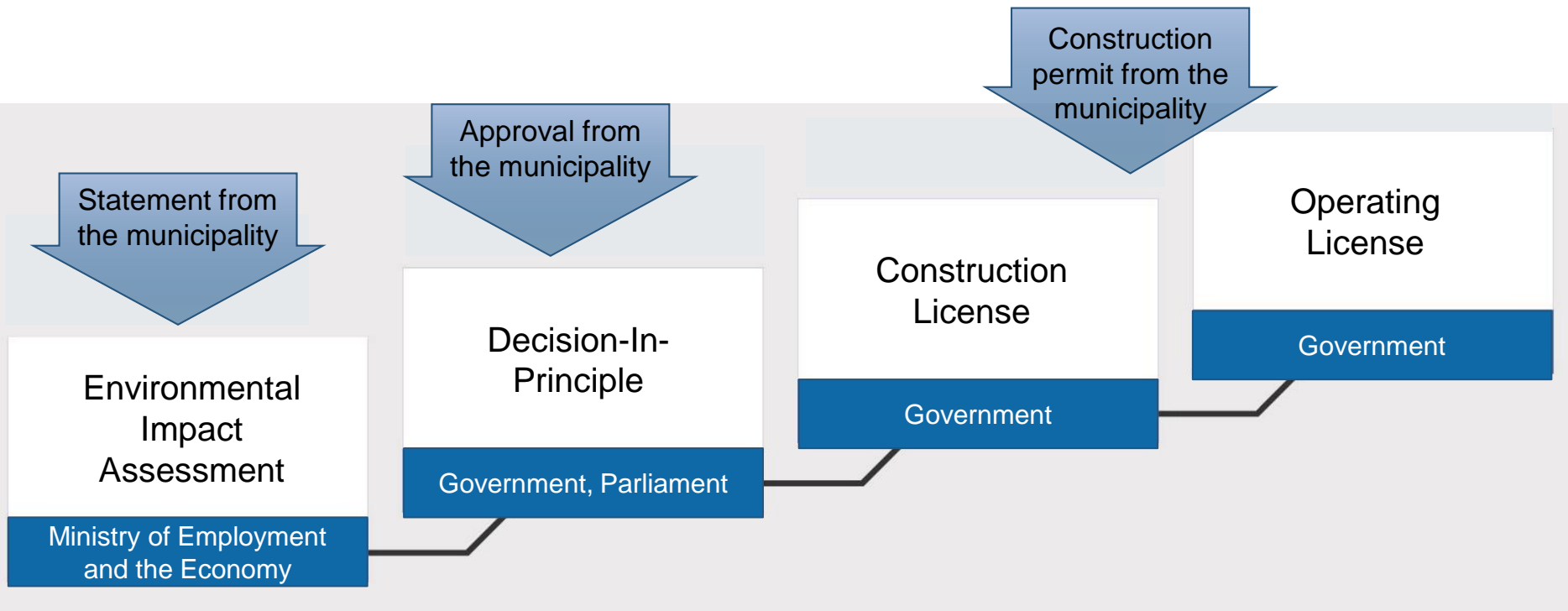
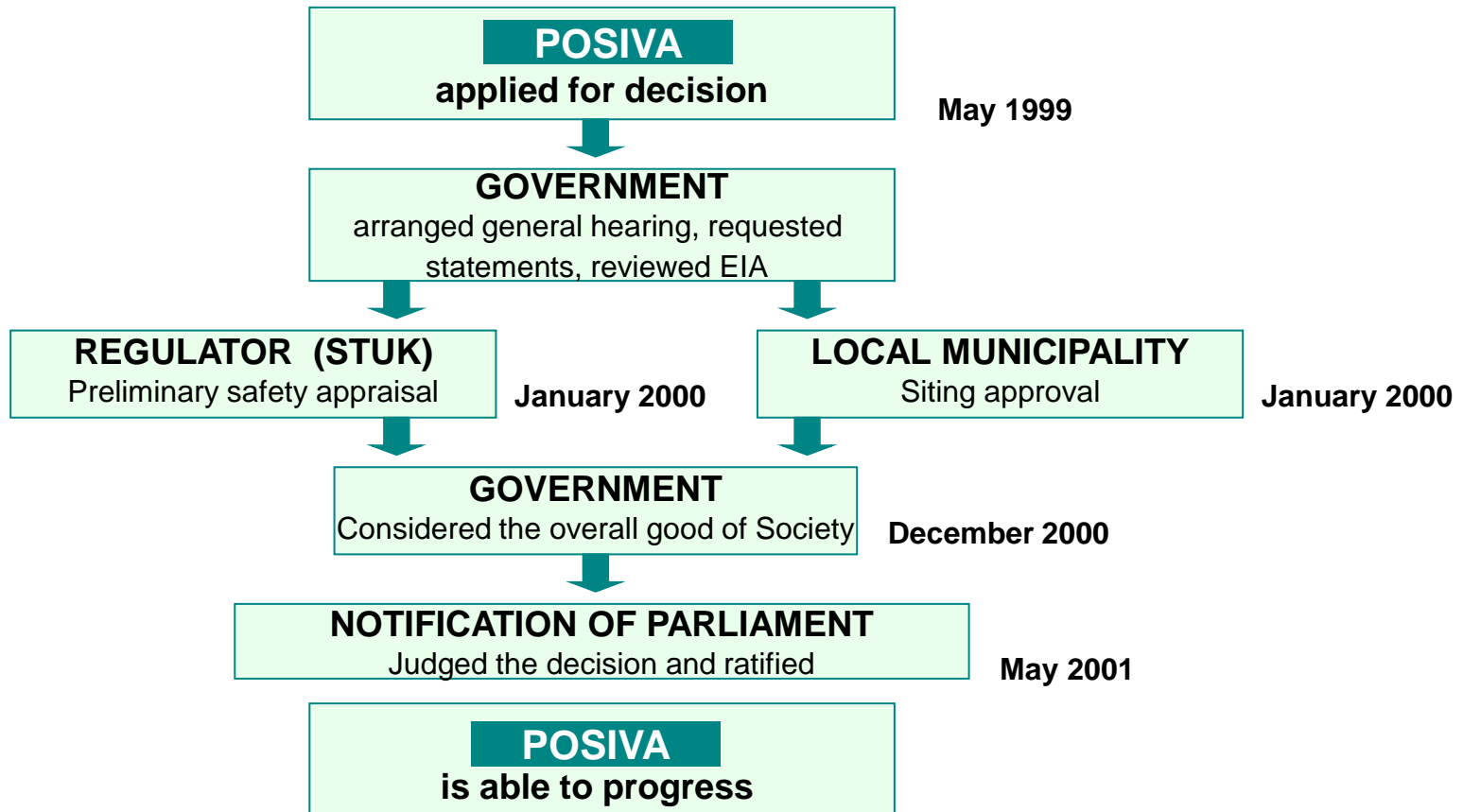


Photo: Posiva Oy

Political decision making according to Nuclear Energy Act



Political decision making – case Posiva



Why Eurajoki was chosen?

- Technically and economically the best location
- Majority of the inhabitants support final disposal
- Municipality has a strong will to host the repository



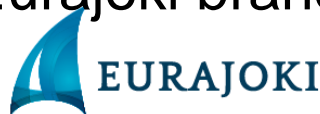
Photo: Posiva Oy

Why Eurajoki said yes?

Municipality Council vote January 2000: 20 for, 7 against

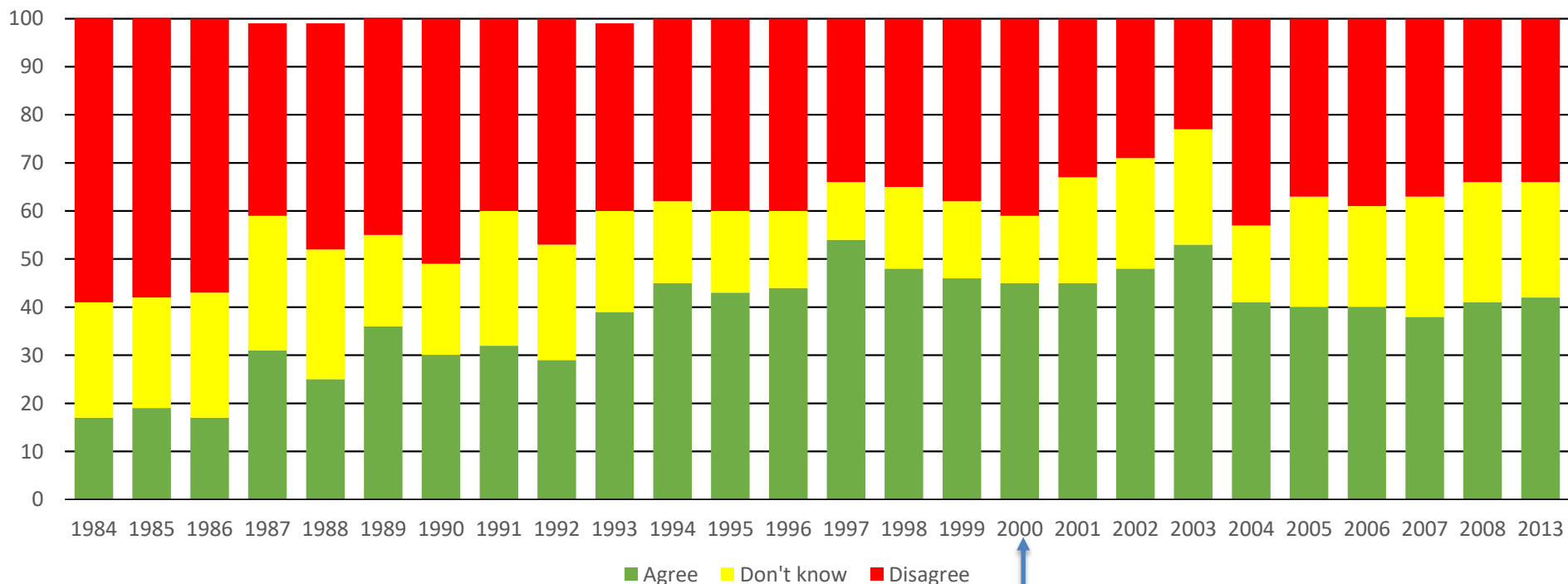
Why?

- Well-operating power plants and high safety culture in Olkiluoto
- People were used to nuclear power and benefited from them.
- Active and open dialogue between Eurajoki and TVO, from the 1970's
- TVO and Posiva's main policy is unconditional transparency which has developed necessary confidence
- Opportunities for more jobs ja taxes
- Opportunity to build the Eurajoki brand: the most electrified municipality



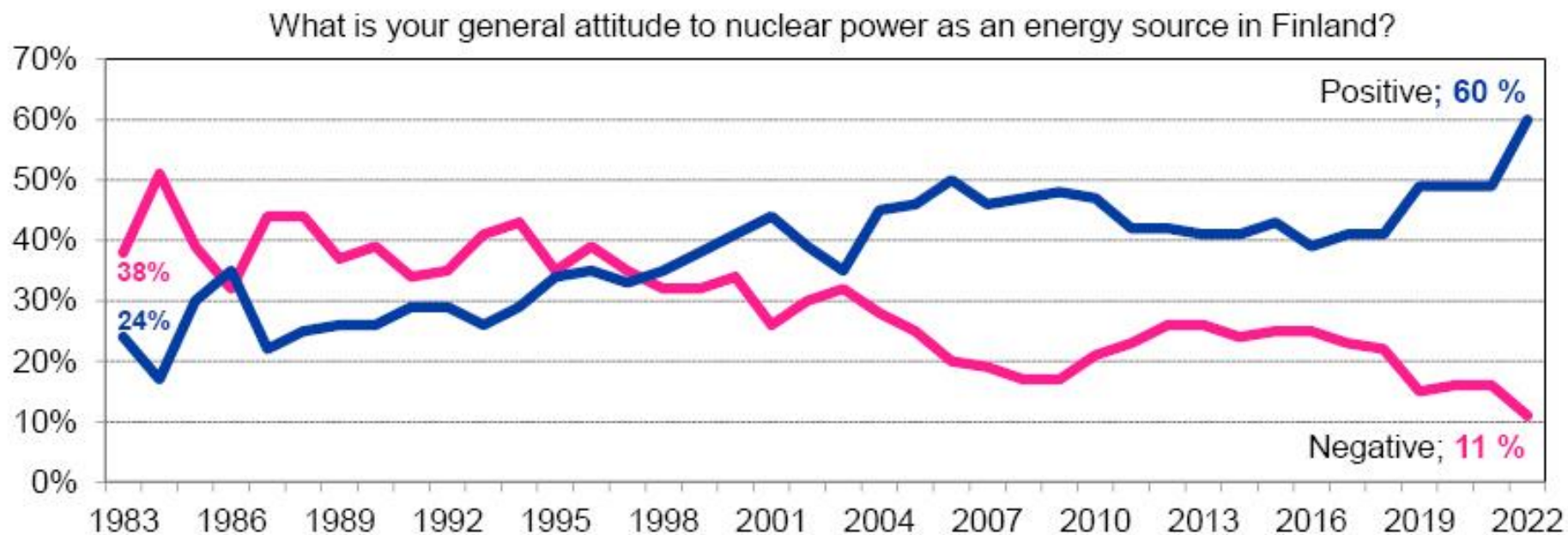
Attitudes of Eurajoki inhabitants to final disposal

”NUCLEAR WASTE CAN BE SAFELY DISPOSED OF INTO THE FINNISH BEDROCK.”



Municipality Council vote Jan 2000

General attitude to nuclear power



Source: Kantar TNS 2022,
Energiateollisuus ry

Active Communication

- Active and open dialogue between Eurajoki, TVO and Posiva
- Municipal Cooperation Committee since 1970s
- Cooperation group of Eurajoki municipality, TVO and Posiva since 1995
- Seminars and public info sessions at the site
- Visitor Centre (15 000 visitors every year)
- Official information and public hearings organized by the Ministry of Employment and Economy, Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK) and Eurajoki municipality



Welfare

- TVO and Posiva pay real estate taxes to municipality
- Steady income, easy to make longstanding plans
- Employees pay income taxes to municipality
- Business opportunities for local companies
- New jobs, a lot of local people work at the site
- Co-operation with Posiva concerning Vuojoki mansion, economical benefit straight away after the site selection
- TVO and Posiva's sponsorship to local organizations

Conclusions for Acceptance

- **Safe management** of spent fuel is a precondition for nuclear existence and new build.
- **Local level acceptance** plays a key role when selecting the site for spent fuel disposal. A long time is needed for acceptance and it is helpful if municipality has already nuclear facilities.
- **Locally (in nuclear municipalities) people are much better informed about nuclear issues than at national level** – communication has been ongoing since the power plants were commissioned (over 45 years).
- **Decision on geologic disposal is scientifically and technically informed social and political process**, in which trust plays a key role.

Thank you for your attention!

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