

Ninth International Symposium on the Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management

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The Ninth International Symposium on the Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management was held in Stockholm, Sweden, September 9 - 11. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Materials Research Society and the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Swedish National Board for Spent Nuclear Fuel, Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate, and National Institute for Radiation Protection. The meeting was organized by the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB). P.-E. Ahlstrom of SKB served as the meeting chairman, and Lars Werme, also of SKB, served as the scientific secretary.

This was the second time that this MRS symposium has been held in Europe (the first time was in Berlin in 1982). Over 250 participants from 31 countries gathered in the Grand Hotel of Stockholm to hear approximately 100 papers covering all aspects of the isolation of nuclear wastes. Delegates to the meeting were treated to a reception at the Grand Hotel and a buffet dinner at the magnificent City Hall as guests of the city of Stockholm. The opening session featured seven invited speakers each of which summarized national programs (Sweden, United States, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Canada) and identified key areas of future research. The scientific sessions dealt with all phases of nuclear waste isolation: waste form performance, canister corrosion, properties and behavior of backfill materials, near-field interactions, radionuclide speciation and sorption, transport in fractured rocks, groundwater flow, transport modeling, and long-term risk assessment of repositories.

The meeting was followed by field trips to the Stripa underground test station, a central repository for disposal of low and medium level wastes under construction at the Forsmark reactor site (SFR), a study site for the disposal of spent fuel, and the Studsvik research station. Additionally, other meetings of interest to members of the nuclear waste community were held after the MRS meeting: a meeting on the fundamentals of rock joints in Lapland, Sweden; a meeting on the use of copper canisters in Stockholm; and a meeting on ceramic waste forms at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

In summary, this was another very successful European meeting, and one which

I hope will lead to regular occurrence of this MRS symposium in Europe. This type of international scientific cooperation is essential in the field of nuclear waste isolation. The next meeting of this series (the tenth anniversary of this symposium) will be at the 1986 MRS Fall Meeting in Boston.

The proceedings of the Ninth Interna-

tional Symposium on the Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management will be published by MRS in early 1986 as Volume 50 of the Materials Research Society Symposia Proceedings series. Prices are: \$50 (MRS members), \$55 (U. S. nonmembers), and \$60 (foreign nonmembers). Contact MRS for details.



Scientific Secretary for the Symposium, Lars Werme (left), greets Carol Jantzen (Du Pont, Aiken, SC) and Rod Ewing (University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM) in Stockholm. Jantzen and Ewing were co-chairs, with J. A. Stone, for the Eighth Symposium on the Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management held in Boston, December 1984. Ewing also served on the Program Committee for the Stockholm meeting.



Over 250 scientists attended the Stockholm meeting, only the second symposium in the series to be held outside of the United States.

Announcing Proceedings of Scientific Basis for Nuclear Waste Management IX

(Stockholm, September 1985)

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