

7th 3D geological modelling meeting in Warsaw 2025 – Minutes of breakout session on **Stakeholder needs**

Chairs: Denise Maljers, Zbigniew Małolepszy

Minutes: Steve Thorpe

Attendance

A variety of attendees took part in the stakeholder session including 3D modellers within GeoSurveys, higher level managers, other public sector organisations using models.

We began with a brief discussion of examples of the types of stakeholders that use 3D models in order to ensure we are all talking about the same thing– these included current societal challenges such as:

- geothermal energy
- decommissioning nuclear facilities
- building new disposal facilities
- infrastructure and geo-engineering companies
- academic use
- various government departments
- water management

There was also a suggestion that we are internal stakeholders – a point which there was some disagreement. A very interesting point that needs more discussion perhaps?

Q: How do we speak with stakeholders?

Being more like Abigail Burt – go out to see people, spend time with key stakeholders and learn their business or spend a day with them to gain a better understanding of what they do, hold workshops for larger engagement events or to learn something specific from a bigger group of people.

Examples of engagement:

- There is a hope that 3D models are used by companies to help decision making
- 3D can help talk to non-professionals, investors
- Ground Source Heat Pump arena – 3D helps to visualise depths much better and therefore understand costs
- BIM requirements for geology to be included – this has been a desire for 10+ years but not many BIM models include it. Why?
- Smaller companies may not engage with 3D because it's too much of a technical jump and they don't appreciate the value
- Many attendees reported that 3D is already being used/discussed
- In Czech Republic – Railways always use 3D models

Different stakeholders require different forms of communication. Good example was the CostSuburban project which provided various formats of communication.

In summary, some key messages came out of the session:

- The role of the geological survey is the translation of geological data into something stakeholders can understand and use
- The 3D model may not necessarily be the right answer for the stakeholders but it helps to produce outputs that stakeholders need.
- Relationships are crucial and building them takes time and effort, and often geologists need to step out of their comfort zone to achieve this.