

(22.1) What is the purpose of the clay buffer of a waste repository in granitic rock?

1. Provide mechanical protection against local movements and cracking of the rock.
2. Limit water access by swelling into water bearing cracks (swelling of clay in water).
3. Limit water transport rate to and from waste package (mainly by diffusion through clay).
4. Limit nuclide transport rate (mainly by diffusion through clay with sorption).
5. Provide heat transport from waste to surrounding rock.