# Mont Terri Project
# Underground Rock Laboratory

## Report period: October 26, 2026 – November 2, 2026

Assembled and edited by swisstopo, St-Ursanne



**Spotlight of the week:** V. Roos (DVCI sàrl) trained the Mont Terri staff and the drivers in firefighting. We learnt about the different classes of fire, became aware of the dangers of smoke and lithium batteries, and practised using various fire extinguishers and fire blankets.

## CI (Cement-Clay Interaction) experiment

- On Monday, October 26, U. Mäder (RWC) marked the new boreholes BCI-25 and BCI-26 (sampling of BCI-24 in Ga08) and BCI-27 to BCI-31 (sampling of BCI-7 and BCI -6), which are expected to be drilled next January.

## CL (CO2LPIE-CO2 Long-Term Periodic Injection) experiment

- On Thursday, October 29, M. Ziegler (swisstopo) moved the seismic DAS from PF-A to CL to continue seismic monitoring and conduct active seismic transmission surveys. The acquisition system was deinstalled on October 28th for measurements at the PF-A site.

## DR-B (Long-Term Diffusion) experiment

- On Monday, October 26, U. Mäder, M. Kiczka (Univ. Bern), R. Wüst (Nagra) and S. Schefer (swisstopo) planned the new coring campaign of DR-B on site.

## DR-C (Diffusion in a Thermal Gradient) experiment

- On Monday, October 26, S. Schefer and J. Windisch (swisstopo) took sample #14 from sampler #3 from BDR-C1 and BDR-C6 and measured the pH. Contamination tests showed no activities above background.
- On Tuesday, October 27, Y. Lettry (Solexperts) refilled the heating module, adjusted the flow and packer pressure and repaired a broken temperature sensor (bdr-c1-tem01).

## DR-D (Heterogeneity of Sandy Facies by Geophysical Characterization and Diffusion Studies) experiment

- On Monday, October 26, S. Schefer and J. Windisch (swisstopo) took sample #14 from BDR-D3 (sampler #3) and measured the pH. Contamination tests showed no activities above background.

## DR-E (Long-Term Diffusion Experiment in the Main Fault-Zone) experiment

- On Monday, October 26, M. Kiczka (Univ. Bern) and R. Wüst (Nagra) took samples #21 and measured the pH of the BDR-E1 and BDR-E2 boreholes.

## FS-B (Imaging the Long-Term Loss of Faulted Host Rock Integrity) experiment

- On Thursday, October 29, S. Schefer (swisstopo) opened the valves to BFS-B15 and P. Cook (LBNL, remote) performed a pulse test during 2 minutes.
- On Friday, October 30, J. Windisch (swisstopo) opened the valves to BFS-B2 and P. Cook (LBNL, remote) performed a pulse test during 2 minutes.

## PF-A (Progressive Evolution of Structurally-Controlled Overbreaks: Long-term monitoring, hydromechanical simulation and rock testing) experiment

- On Wednesday, October 28, M. Ziegler (swisstopo) moved the seismic DAS from CL to PF-A to conduct active seismic transmission surveys. The transmissions were manually started.

## SW-A (Large-Scale Sandwich Seal in Opalinus Clay) experiment

- On Thursday, October 29, J. Windisch (swisstopo) refilled the HPT of shaft 1.

## TE (Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage in Fractured Limestone) experiment

- From Monday to Friday, October 26–30, A. Eul and A. Stoppeich (Eul GmbH) drilled BTE-1 down to 66.5 m. A. Spellina (ETHZ) documented, mapped and scanned the cores.

## Varia

- On Wednesday, October 28, the trafo for Deborah was disconnected. Therefore, the power to the lab had to be interrupted. The outage started at 10:45, the generators were running properly and all the experiments on backup power kept on running. S. Schefer and J. Windisch were on site to control the experiments. On 14:15 power was restored and another labcheck confirmed all experiments running smoothly. Please check your data acquisition system for proper operation nevertheless.

- On Thursday, October 29, the fire brigade of St-Ursanne inspected the drillcore storage facility and practised together with D. Müller (Siemens) for potential fire scenarios.
- From Thursday to Friday, October 29–30, BKW changed the old oil-filled transformer in front of the Mont Terri office. An emergency power unit provided energy for the office during the power outage without any interruption. The laboratory was not affected by this work. (**Figure 1**)

## Visits

| Day | Date | Group Name | Group Size | Visitors Guide |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thu | 29.10.2026 | **Gymnasium Kirschgarten Basel** | 22 | C. Sonino (freelance) |
| Fri | 30.10.2026 | **Groupe OA De La CISOTI** | 14 | C. Nussbaum (swisstopo) |
| Fri | 30.10.2026 | **Axpo Power AG** | 16 | H. Sager (Nagra) |

## Figures




**Figure 1: Varia:** The flying new transformer shortly before installation. (J. Windisch, swisstopo)