



Initiative for the Immediate Phase-out of Nuclear Energy

(currently comprised of more than 100 associations and over 2000 individual members)

Final storage and disposal of nuclear waste – high risk and tremendous cost

The safety of the experimental nuclear end storage depot at Asse, Germany, is being endangered by the penetration of 11 cubic meters of brine (saline solution) each day. Partial filling costs the tax payer 125 million Euros. ¹ The nuclear end storage depot Morsleben, Germany, is being endangered by chunks of salt weighing a ton each, threatening to fall onto the barrels containing the atomic waste. Filling the storage chambers with salt is very expensive. In the pilot reprocessing plant in Gorleben, Germany, fuel elements are intended to be regrouped and liquid wastes vaporised. This plant runs up to 400 million Euros in costs. ²

Cheap release and “disposal” of nuclear waste for nuclear power operators as agreed with the current government.

- high risk for the health of the population
- release of large amounts of radioactively contaminated materials from nuclear plants being dismantled with still high radioactive concentrations into the environment and residential areas. The European Union’s guideline sets a limit of 10 microsievert /year per person. The above mentioned release leads to an accumulated exposure dose in individuals which is 600 times higher than the intended 10 microsievert ³ (e.g. after the purchase of a radioactive chair, coffee cups, silverware – the exposure accumulates!)
- tritium containing water may be released without limits as long as its specific activity remains below 1 million Becquerel per litre (about 4 million Becquerel per gallon), even to baby food production. For comparison: ground water has a tritium content of 0.5 Bq/l! ⁴
- elimination of radioactive remnants on garbage dumps as well as recycling of weakly radioactive scrap metal (allowed under certain conditions since the end of the seventies) ⁵ is possible today in large amounts ⁶, e.g. as dental braces or beverage cans. ⁷
- increase of the introduction of radioactive substances from nuclear facilities into air or water from 0.3 millisievert to 1 millisievert ⁸.
- construction of interim storage facilities (cement halls) for the storage of fuel rods near atomic power plants causes an increase in the gamma and neutron radiation in the surrounding areas and poses a serious danger due to possible terrorist attacks.

The Federal Ministry for the Environment Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

(Umweltministerium für Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit) has told our initiative in a letter from Dr. Greipl that scientific literature meanwhile cites numerous cases of mutations of normal cells to malignant ones caused by low intensity radioactivity. As early as 1972 the Canadian scientist Petkau noted damage to cell membranes due to chronic exposure to weak radiation. Intact cell membranes are indispensable for a healthy immune system. Prof. Dr. John Gofmann who participated in the development of the atomic bomb, said: “Now that we know the dangers of weak radiation the crime we committed was no longer an experiment we made, but murder.” ⁹ (abbreviated quote)

According to the statistic of disease types compiled by the AOK West (German health insurance company) in 1997 cases of hospitalisation due to tumours have increased by about 50% between 1985 and 1997 and those due to dietary illnesses, metabolic diseases and disorders of the immune system increased by about a third.

The right to life and to be free from bodily harm is being violated.

(Article 2 of the German basic law)

Please, help yourself and us by switching to ecologic energy providers and by printing and mailing the information given by the following internet addresses.

www.bbu-online.de

www.sofort-atomausstieg.de.vu

www.veganleben.de.vu

1. Schaumburger Nachrichten, 27.02.2001; 2. Newspaper Widerstand Nr. 1 1/2001 p. 3; 3. Messerschmidt, H., Strahlentelex mit Elektrosmogreport Nr. 344-345/2001, p. 3; 4. Dr. Pflugbeil, S. (Präsident der Gesellschaft für Strahlenschutz e. V.) Strahlentelex mit Elektrosmogreport Nr. 348/349, 2001, p. 7 ;

5. Neumann W. „Freigabe von schwachradioaktiven Reststoffen“, report 21-22, p. 86 Otto Hug Strahleninstitut Berlin, April 2000; 6. Ebda, p. 86, Otto Hug Strahleninstitut Berlin, April 2000; 7. Öko-Test 7/2000; 8. Dersee, T., Berlin Strahlentelex mit Elektrosmogreport Nr. 342/343, 2001, p. 2;

9. Graueb, R., „Der Petkau-Effekt“ Bern 1990, introduction and p. 113