

Worldwide radioactive Contamination



Info sheet to be mailed on your own responsibility Initiative for the Immediate Phase-out of Nuclear Energy

The "Initiative for the Immediate Phase-out of Nuclear Energy" is politically independent, nonetheless it seeks support inside the political parties. Only united, we can achieve phasing out nuclear energy! The initiative currently consists of more than 2000 individuals and over 100 associations. In addition, it intends to encourage initiatives in other countries to phase out nuclear energy.

*Incredible: Since the end of the seventies the release of radioactive remnants has been allowed in Germany under certain conditions on garbage dumps and for recycling and reuse in conventional areas. *)¹*

Now this practice shall be adapted to the demands of the EU-guideline 96/29 Euroatom. Therefore elimination of weakly radioactive waste on garbage dumps and recycling of weakly radioactive scrap metal to eg. dental braces or beverage cans (Oeko-Test 7/2000) will continue, only now in large amounts *)¹. The EU guideline specifies the limit at 10 µSv/year per person. In Germany this limit has only guiding character. *)¹

The Environmental Ministry of the Environment for the Protection of Nature and Reactor Safety (Umweltministerium für Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit) has informed the 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." (abbreviated quote) *)²

According to the statistic of disease types compiled by the AOK West (that is, General Local Health Insurance, West Germany) in 1997 cases of hospitalisation due to tumours have increased **50%** between 1985 and 1997 and those due to dietary illnesses, metabolic diseases and disturbances of the immune system increased by about a third

¹ W. Neumann, "Freigabe von schwachaktiven Reststoffen..." S. 79 + 86 + 87, Bericht 21-22, Otto Hug Strahleninstitut

² Ralph Graeb, "Der Petkau-Effekt"

The release of weakly radioactive substances is ethically and financially unacceptable:

Disease and human suffering are being caused and long-term damage ignored!
Health insurers are made to face unnecessary costs.

- **We demand the immediate phase-out of the release of weakly radioactive substances, especially on garbage dumps, and the prohibition of recycling weakly radioactive scrap metal into articles of daily use. Weakly radioactive substances must be stored in special containers.**

The radioactive contamination of our environment keeps increasing

- because weakly radioactive substances are placed on regular garbage dumps and weakly radioactive scrap metal can be recycled into articles of daily use.
- because accidents caused by nuclear waste tourism are predictable and Castor containers give off neutron radiation to the surroundings.
- because reprocessing plants continuously introduce radioactive substances into the air, the oceans and the rivers.
- because 90% of our nuclear waste is being transported to the reprocessing plant La Hague. In 1998 this reprocessing plant introduced 56 000 Becquerel per cubic meter of the radioactive gas krypton 85 and another isotope, carbon 14, into the air. These measurements were performed by Greenpeace and the University of Gent, Belgium. From La Hague the radioactive cloud spread across large parts of Europe. According to Greenpeace and a study by Kollert and Donderer, krypton 85 contributes to the destruction of the ozone layer. It takes 21.4 years to decay. Carbon 14 has a half life of 5 730 years. It is being taken up by all living organisms.
- because 10% of our nuclear waste is being transported to Sellafield. Examinations have shown that the British Health Ministry has found plutonium and strontium in the teeth of 3300 youths. Plutonium can cause all forms of cancer, it takes 48 000 years to decay. Sellafield's doves are contaminated with up to 280,000 Becquerel per kilogram. In comparison: EU rule forbids importing food loaded with more than 1000 Bq per kilo since Chernobyl.

- because reprocessing plants and nuclear power plants keep producing highly radioactive waste which can not be disposed of and continuously release radioactivity.
- because a reprocessing plant produces considerably more radioactive waste than a nuclear power plant
- **because, according to Greenpeace, the contamination with radioactive substances from the three European reprocessing plants has a significantly larger impact on the European North Sea, the Canadian coasts, the Barent sea, the east coast of Greenland, the Canadian Baffin bay and the north coast of Siberia than the radioactive fallout from the reactor catastrophe of Chernobyl in 1986.**
- **We demand the immediate phase-out of the reprocessing of nuclear waste and the immediate shut-down of all nuclear power plants**

Uranium mining makes people lose their homes,

- because in uranium processing plants (like Seelingstedt and Crossen near Zwickau) uranium was chemically washed out of the ore leaving muddy lakes of radioactive ore several square kilometres in size
- because wind carries radon and radioactive dust from the slag piles and lakes across residential areas and fields. Rain washes radioactive particles into the rivers from where they can also seep into the ground water. Between the town of Gera and the Erz mountains a total area of 200 km² is so heavily contaminated that it will be uninhabitable for millennia and can no longer be used for agriculture. According to "Friends of the Earth", Australia, the uranium mine "Jabiluka" has stored 20 million tons of radioactive rubble (radiation energy up to 300 000 years) in reservoirs or, mixed with cement, returned it to the tunnel. Because the rainy season in this area lasts for months large parts of the country are flooded each year and one strong flood is enough to inundate the tunnels and let the reservoirs run over.

Workers of nuclear power plants and in uranium mining suffer 10 to 15 times more cancer cases (lung cancer) than the average citizen.

According to Dr. med. Hoffmann from the Institute for Prevention and Social Medicine in Bremen, Germany, workers in nuclear power plants suffer the highest radiation exposure of all occupational groups. Particularly affected are so called temporary workers, constituting $\frac{3}{4}$ of the employees, because they come into contact with radiation more frequently than the regular staff.

Nuclear power plants are uneconomical

- because construction of a nuclear power plant costs between 1.75 and 3.5 billion € depending on the type of reactor
- because in addition to high investment and repair costs tremendous costs are created by the disposal of the atomic waste
- because only 1/3 of the energy is being used while about 2/3 of the input energy are lost to the environment in the form of heat during the production of electricity
- because nuclear energy including "disposal" costs 2.05 €/per kWh

Being that, according to Greenpeace, only about 34% of our electricity supply is provided by nuclear power, this portion could also be provided by block type thermal power plants (gas), renewable energies (sun, wind, water), re-growing raw materials (straw, hemp), and through energy conserving measures in the home, construction and industry.

Electricity from a wind facility costs 8.7 cent per kWh including disposal; solar energy on the other hand costs 81.8 cent incl. disposal!

The distribution of this info material is very important for the realisation of the immediate phase-out of nuclear energy. Those interested in additional material should visit:

www.bbu-online.de

www.sofort-atomausstieg.de.vu

www.veganleben.de.vu

Please, switch to ecologic energy providers in your country!

For a list of ecologic german providers see the above internet addresses.

Please, send this info sheet to the following addresses:

- Bundeskanzler, Gerhard Schröder Kanzleramt, D-10557 Berlin

- Herrn Jürgen Trittin, Umweltminister, Alexanderplatz 6, 10178 Berlin
- Frau Renate Künast, Bundesministerin für Verbraucherschutz, Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, Wilhelmstr. 54, D-10178 Berlin
- Frau Ulla Schmidt, Bundesministerin für Gesundheit, Am Probsthof 78a, D-53121 Bonn
- Frau Karin Göring-Eckhardt, gesundheitspolitische Sprecherin von Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, Platz der Republik, D-11011 Berlin
- Frau Hiltrud Breyer, Mitglied des Europäischen Parlaments (Bündnis90/Die Grünen), Atom, Energie, Gentechnik, Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brüssel
- Sekretariat des Ausschusses für Umweltfragen, Volksgesundheit und Verbraucherschutz beim europäischen Parlament (Bündnis90 / Die Grünen), z.Hd. des/der Vorsitzenden, Rue Wiertz, B-1047 Brüssel
- Herrn Michael Müller, stellvertretender Fraktionsvorsitzender (SPD) Umwelt und Gesundheit, Platz der Republik, D-11011 Berlin
- Wolfgang Klement Wirtschafts-, Arbeits -und Sozialminister, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie, Scharnhorststr. 34-37, D-10115 Berlin
- Frau Gudrun Schaich-Walch, gesundheitspolitische Sprecherin der SPD, Platz der Republik, D-11011 Berlin
- Herrn Klaus Kirschner, Vorsitzender des Gesundheitsausschusses der SPD, Platz der Republik, D-11011 Berlin
- Frau Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Koordinatorin der SPE Fraktion im Ausschuß für Umweltfragen, Volksgesundheit und Verbraucherschutz, Müller Str. 163, D-13353 Bonn
- Herrn Dr. Klaus W. Lippold, Leiter der Arbeitsgruppe Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (CDU), Platz der Republik, D-11011 Berlin
- Frau Ursula Schleicher, Ausschuß für Umweltfragen, Volksgesundheit und Verbraucherschutz (CSU), Leopold, 15E102, B-1047 Brüssel
- Frau Brigitte Behrens, Greenpeace e. V. D-22745 Hamburg
- Herrn Jochen Flasbarth, Präsident des Naturschutzbundes Deutschland (NABU), Herbert - Rabinstr. 26, D-53225 Bonn
- Frau Angelika Zahrt, Präsidentin des BUND, Bundesgeschäftsstelle, Am Kölnischen Park 1, D-10175 Berlin

Dear Mrs., Dear Mr. _____

we ask you to support the immediate phase-out of nuclear energy.
Thank you in advance for your support!

Name: _____ First Name _____

Street: _____

Zip Code _____ City: _____ Signature: _____