

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

Europäische Akademie presents a new interdisciplinary study:
“Gorleben plus”: strategies for the disposal of highly radioactive waste

Berlin, 10 October 2011. – In the public debate about nuclear power it has frequently been pointed out that the problem of final nuclear waste disposal has still not been solved. Now that the nuclear power phase-out in Germany has been decided upon, the question of final nuclear waste disposal, particularly of highly radioactive waste, arises under changed conditions and with much more current relevance.

An interdisciplinary project group at the Europäische Akademie zur Erforschung von Folgen wissenschaftlich-technischer Entwicklungen Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler has invested two and a half years in researching the final disposal of highly radioactive waste from a scientific, technological, ethical, sociological and legal point of view. In order to maximise the likelihood of the provision of a suitable final disposal site, the authors of the present study argue for a “Gorleben plus” strategy. This strategy proposes to further assess “Gorleben” as an option within a concrete timeframe, while gradually and simultaneously developing alternative options as a provision for a technological or political failure. From the project group’s point of view, this approach would increase the acceptance of assessing final disposal sites and it appears more promising with regard to time than a further assessment of Gorleben alone. In order to implement this strategy, the group has developed detailed decision trees outlining the necessary steps for the disposal site search and suggesting potential time frames.

The authors’ recommendation also entails a detailed elaboration of an institutional framework for the further course of action in the search for a site and in the setting up of a final disposal site. Moreover, they describe decision-making procedures which would allow for improved information about the arrangement and safety criteria for a final disposal site as well as for a suitable involvement of the public. This is meant to occur in a manner which takes into account the interests of future generations.

On 10 October 2011 the project group presented its final report, “Radioactive Waste. Technical and Normative Aspects of its Disposal”. The final report (published by Springer Verlag) is in English and also contains, in

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German, a comprehensive summary as well as a concrete recommended course of action. The public presentation at the Berlin-Brandenburg Science Academy was attended by a great number of interested parties from the spheres of politics and science as well as representatives of the companies responsible for the disposal and from the interested public at large.

Publication: Christian Streffer, Carl Friedrich Gethmann, Georg Kamp, Wolfgang Kröger, Eckard Rehbinder, Ortwin Renn, Klaus-Jürgen Röhlig (2011)

Radioactive Waste. Technical and Normative Aspects of its Disposal
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Excerpt from the study:

http://www.ea-aw.org/fileadmin/downloads/Projektgruppen/Excerpt_Radioactive_Waste_english.pdf

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Die Europäische Akademie zur Erforschung von Folgen wissenschaftlich-technischer Entwicklungen Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler gGmbH wurde 1996 vom Land Rheinland-Pfalz und dem Deutschen Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. (DLR) gegründet. Direktor der Gesellschaft ist der Philosophieprofessor Dr. Dr. h.c. Carl Friedrich Gethmann. Wissenschaftlich-interdisziplinäre Arbeitsgruppen widmen sich der Erforschung und Beurteilung von Folgen wissenschaftlich-technischer Entwicklungen für das individuelle und soziale Leben des Menschen und seine natürliche Umwelt. In wissenschaftlicher Unabhängigkeit führt die Akademie einen Dialog mit Wirtschaft, Kultur, Politik und Gesellschaft. Damit will sie zu einem rationalen Umgang der Gesellschaft mit Folgen wissenschaftlich-technischer Entwicklungen beitragen. Weitere Informationen erhalten Sie über die Homepage www.ea-aw.de.