
Request for advice of 25.11.2009: Assessment of the possibility of retrieving the LAW from the Asse mine

Statement on the underground and above ground treatment of retrieved radioactive waste

On 25 October 2009, the DMT GmbH & Co. KG and the TÜV Nord Systec GmbH & Co. KG submitted an option report "Assessment of the possibility of retrieving the LAW from the Asse mine" as part of the investigations on how to proceed regarding the Asse repository.

With regard to a possible decision on the retrieval of radioactive waste from the Asse mine, the BMU requested the ESK, with letter of 25.11.2009 and with reference to the above-mentioned report, for a statement on the underground and above ground treatment of radioactive waste that may have to be retrieved. In particular, the following topics are to be addressed:

1. In which condition would the retrieved waste be? Would the waste packages be (largely) intact or (substantially) damaged? What measures would have to be taken for a safe transport of the waste within the repository and to the surface or could the radioactive waste be transported to the surface without further treatment? Does the above-mentioned report consider the measures to be taken in an adequate manner, or are there open questions?
2. What measures would have to be taken for the conditioning of the retrieved radioactive waste to produce a waste package that meets the requirements for interim storage and transport, and could these waste packages be emplaced in the Konrad repository? Could a significant proportion of salts from the retrieval preclude a future disposal in the Konrad repository? Does the above-mentioned report consider the measures to be taken in an adequate manner, or are there open questions?
3. Are the periods presented in the above-mentioned report for the construction and operation of necessary facilities appropriate or would considerably longer time periods for each step have to be expected?
4. Have possible incidents during the retrieval operation adequately been taken into consideration, or are there open questions?
5. Have the radiation exposures of personnel and the population affected occurring during a retrieval of the radioactive waste and measures to be derived been adequately considered in the above-mentioned report, or are there open questions?

On these questions, [ESK statement](#) (in German) of 07.04.2010 is available.