
Request for advice of 13.05.2011 on requirements for irradiated fuel elements from the point of view of waste management

In connection with the permanent shutdown of nuclear power plants, the BMU requested the ESK to prepare a statement in the short term on the following questions:

- Which requirements are to be applied to the minimum burnup of fuel elements for waste management reasons?
- Which plutonium vector should be envisaged for irradiated uranium and MOX fuel elements, taking into account safety and security requirements?

In accordance with the agreements between the German power utilities and the reprocessing companies in other European countries, the plutonium recovered during reprocessing in the form of mixed oxide (MOX) has to be used in nuclear power plants in Germany. This use would require a certain time window to ensure complete utilisation of the plutonium accumulating until the end of the use of nuclear energy in Germany.

For this request for advice, see [ESK statement](#) [457 KB] of 27.05.2011.