
Request for advice: Licensing procedure for the dismantling of the experimental reactor AVR in Jülich

By letter of 30.07.2008, the BMU (Division RS III 4) requested the Commission on Radioactive Waste Management (ESK) for advice on safety-related aspects of the above project and gave the following information:

On 25 February 2005, the operator of the AVR experimental reactor, the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Versuchsreaktor AVR GmbH in Jülich, filed an application for final and complete dismantling of the decommissioned experimental reactor AVR, being in the state of safe enclosure, at the competent ministry of economics of North Rhine-Westphalia (current name: Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of North Rhine-Westphalia) according to § 7 para 3 of the Atomic Energy Act (AtG). The licensing application was clarified and expanded on 25 April 2006 and most recently by letter of 20 June 2008.

According to the draft licence submitted for the complete dismantling of the AVR and the enclosed documents, it concerns the permission of

- preparation of the reactor vessel for lifting,
- preparatory activities in the containment/annulus,
- the assembly of the handling and transport systems for the reactor vessel,
- the lifting of the reactor vessel and putting down in the material lock,
- the dismantling measures after lifting out of the reactor vessel,
- the dismantling of the remaining components in the containment and annulus,
- the dismantling of the building structures and foundations of the complete AVR unit, and
- of other operational measures and provisions.

Since the BMU intends to comment on the submitted draft of the licensing notice within the framework of its federal supervision, the BMU requested the ESK for advice and preparation of a statement on the safety-related aspects of the project.

The questions of the BMU concern

- the overall dismantling concept, including the personnel, organisational and administrative requirements (dismantling steps, measures and procedures co-ordinated in an appropriate manner),
- the ensurance of normal operation as specified of the systems and equipment required for dismantling, as well as the organisation, operational management and scheduling of the dismantling and the safety management,
- the control of design basis accidents and damage prevention, as well as
- the handling, conditioning and disposal of the radioactive material and waste produced.

The draft of the licensing notice, the expert opinions of the experts consulted by the licensing authority and the application documents referred to by the licensing authority in the draft licensing notice shall be used as a basis for the ESK consultations. Should further documents on the AVR dismantling project be needed, the BMU will request the licensing authority to submit these documents in addition.

For this request for advice, see [ESK statement](#) [128 KB] (in German) of 06.11.2008.