

JOINT PROJECT WEBINAR on

Actual status of Deep Geological Repository preparation and impact on EU Taxonomy

May 6, 2022

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM CEST (Vienna time)

Nuclear waste management or rather the lack of it has been the nuclear industry's Achilles' heel. Now more than ever industry claims having found the solution, the first Deep Geological Repositories (DGR) might start operating in the next years. The **EU Taxonomy** which is supposed to bring in fresh funds for nuclear construction, brought the question of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) back into the limelight when introducing the condition of having a plan for an operating waste repository by 2050, which most EU countries will not be able to fulfill for reasons both technical and financial or regarding the necessary participatory processes.

In our webinar you have the chance to hear from leading independent experts who have in-depth knowledge of the real situation on the search of repositories and ask your questions.

14:00 Welcome and introduction on nuclear waste in the EU Taxonomy: Patricia Lorenz, Friends of the Earth Europe

14:15 Johan Swahn, MKG Sweden: Safety difficulties with the final steps in licensing in Sweden

Copper canisters (KBS-3 method) once were praised for safe storage of spent nuclear fuel, but turned out being an insufficient method. The other safety barriers needed to make up for this, such as the clay buffer zone and the host rock, have not been proven sufficiently safe, but the Swedish authorities hope to swoop this under the carpet; very similar situations can be expected not only in neighboring Finland but other countries. **Johan Swahn** has been critically following Sweden's nuclear waste programme for decades and will inform us about the present situation.

Q&A

15:00 Gabriele Mraz, Austrian Institute of Ecology: Overview of Deep Geological Repository projects in the EU and participation possibilities

Gabriele Mraz has authored many expert statements on environmental impact assessments of NPPs and the nuclear waste situation. She will talk about the level of preparation of the DGR projects in Europe with a focus on countries which announced using the KBS-3 method. Currently two participation procedures are open for comments: the Environmental Impact Assessment for the lifetime extension of NPP Krsko/Slovenia where also questions about the management plans for high level waste should be raised. In Finland, public comments can be submitted to the operation license documentation for Onkalo until Sept 2022.

15:15 General discussion

15:30 End

The online webinar will be held in English.

This event will be recorded. By participating in this event, you give consent to the recording being published on the Joint Project – Nuclear Risk & Public Control organizations' websites or other social media outlets.

Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpc-qrpj4tHtebUUEQcKTHEqCY184W63bo>

This event is organized by the Joint Project – Nuclear Risk & Public Control (<http://www.joint-project.org/>)

