

# **Third Activity Report of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management**

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Vienna, 2024

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## Preface

Dear readers!



This activity report of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management for 2023 illustrates that the work has already made great progress. As an interdisciplinary and transparent Advisory Board, the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management develops decision-making principles and recommendations for the safe disposal of low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste produced in Austria. The committees are currently working intensively on the four mandated topics: *Radioactive Waste in Austria: Survey of the Status Quo, Analysis of the Options for Final Disposal, Framework for Public Participation and the Development of a Timetable for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste* and are discussing initial recommendations based on numerous study results.

Transparency, openness, and participation play a very important role when it comes to the disposal of radioactive waste and these principles are practiced by the Advisory Board. In 2023, study trips to existing and future European repository sites, whose participation concepts can be viewed as recipes for success, were organised. In discussions with the authorities and local representatives on site, the members of the Advisory Board were able to gain important insights for their further work in order to find the best possible solution for the radioactive waste arising for final disposal in Austria.

The most challenging period for the members of the Advisory Board is now beginning. The recommendations and the final report should be finalised by summer 2024 and then handed over to the Federal Government. On this basis, future decisions will be made and the next steps will be taken to ensure the best possible final disposal solution of the radioactive waste currently stored in Seibersdorf.

I wish all members of the Advisory Board success and would like to thank them sincerely for their time and commitment!

Leonore Gewessler

Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

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# 1 The Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management

## 1.1 Background and Legal Basis

In 1978 the Austrian people decided against the use of nuclear energy. This has also been embedded in the constitution since 1999. As a result, Austria does not generate high-level radioactive waste and spent fuel from nuclear power plants that need to be disposed of. Nevertheless, the use of radioactive materials in medicine, industrial processes and scientific research produces low- and intermediate-level waste. In particular, radioactive waste arises where (scientific research) facilities no longer required are dismantled (decommissioned).

The **Directive 2011/70/Euratom** on “**establishing a community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste**” obliges all Member States of the European Union to manage their radioactive waste in a safe and responsible manner. To this end, every state must draw up a national programme that covers the management of radioactive waste from its generation to its final storage and ensures the protection of the public, the environment, and future generations from ionising radiation. At the same time, the directive requires that citizens have access to all necessary information and can effectively participate in decisions regarding the disposal of radioactive waste.

A draft of “The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste” was prepared on behalf of the Federal Government and subjected to the Strategic Environmental Assessment required by law. This procedure aims to ensure that the programme has no negative environmental impact and at the same time gives the public - including neighbouring countries - the opportunity to participate in the compilation of the programme. The comments received were taken into account during the finalisation of the National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste.

**The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste (NEP)** was adopted by the Federal Government in the Council of Ministers on 5 September 2018. The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste was last updated in 2023 and

therefore also contains up to date information on research and development as well as funding and key performance indicators to monitor the progress of the programme.

The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste outlines the Austrian strategy for the responsible and safe disposal of radioactive waste. It contains the applicable principles, the existing legal framework, and the practice of managing radioactive waste in Austria and provides an overview of the current and expected quantities of radioactive waste. The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste outlines further steps for the final disposal of radioactive waste and examines the possibilities for disposal taking into account the waste inventory.

The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste includes a provision for a working group (now called the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management – „Advisory Board“ for short) made up of representatives of the Federal and State Governments, scientists, NGOs, and from the public.

The task of this working group is to develop proposals for the final disposal of radioactive waste, taking into account technical, economic and social aspects. In the context of studies and workshops, but also in cooperation with foreign institutions and experts, solutions are to be developed. In addition, the working group is to draw up a concept for the comprehensive information and involvement of the public.

## 1.2 Constitution of the Advisory Board, Obligation to Report

The Austrian Federal Government established **the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management („Advisory Board“** for short) to implement the National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste. This Advisory Board develops a basis for decisions and recommendations for the Federal Government regarding the final disposal of radioactive waste accumulated in Austria. The Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) is responsible for coordinating the Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board has its legal basis in the National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste. Its tasks are described there as follows:

- To give advice on changes to the legal framework as well as the financial framework for the final disposal of radioactive waste
- Consultation on a timeframe with key milestones
- Monitoring of the development of the waste inventory at Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf (NES), including estimates of the time it could take to reach clearance values
- Monitoring the activities of other countries with comparable waste inventories
- Information on European and international cooperation in relation to radioactive waste
- Discussion about the type and requirements of public participation and information as well as on how to guarantee transparency and participation
- Initiate and monitor research and development activities leading to an assessment of the feasibility of introducing new technologies and concepts, waste minimisation, etc.
- Development of a conceptual project for the disposal facility, but also for all other relevant elements such as transport, monitoring, etc.
- Development of criteria for the selection of disposal options, especially with regard to safety aspects
- To give advice on the requirements for the future repository operators, safety regulations of the facility and ensuring that sufficiently qualified personnel are available
- To give advice on the decommissioning concept for equipment no longer required at NES
- Support of the implementation and updating of the National Programme for Radioactive Waste Management

The Rules of Procedure for the Austrian Board of Radioactive Waste Management were issued by the Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology. Pursuant to § 13 of the Rules of Procedure, the Advisory Board must prepare an annual activity report, which is to be published by the Secretariat.

According to The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste, the Advisory Board has to report regularly on its activities to the Federal Government and present the results as a basis for decisions. In order to ensure sufficient time for the possible construction and commissioning of the facility(ies) for the final disposal, the decision on the final disposal of radioactive waste should be made no later than 10 to 15 years before the contractual end of interim storage facility. However, the aim is to take the decision at an earlier date.

### **1.3 Establishment of the Secretariat**

A Secretariat set up by the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK) at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH (AGES) provides technical and administrative support to the Advisory Board. It coordinates and administers the activities of the Advisory Board.

The Secretariat has the following tasks:

- Preparation and organisation of meetings
- Support of the Advisory Board in commissioning specialized expertise and studies
- Development of a basis for discussions and decisions on upcoming issues, as well as provision of technical expertise for the Advisory Board
- Writing of meeting minutes
- Documentation of discussion results
- Interface between the public and the Advisory Board

The Secretariat of the Advisory Board established at AGES took up its activities on 1 March 2021.

### **1.4 Mandate June 2021 - June 2024**

The mandate of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management was issued by the Federal Government at the Council of Ministers meeting on 10 March 2021 and is valid for three years, i.e., until June 2024. After that, the Federal Government will issue another mandate based on the recommendations of the Advisory Board and the final report.

In the first three years the Advisory Board will work on topics and issues to present the status quo regarding radioactive waste in Austria and to gradually show a path towards the final disposal of radioactive waste. The search for a suitable site for a repository and the decision on the type of repository are not included in this phase.



Until June 2024 the mandate of the Advisory Board includes the following four points:

**1. Radioactive Waste in Austria: Survey of the Status Quo**

The aim is to survey and collect information and data on radioactive waste management, to discuss the inventory of radioactive waste in Austria as well as to evaluate the studies on the Federal Government's previous activities with respect to final disposal. As part of this, plans are to provide a tangible overview of the existing situation. The data collected in this survey describes the starting point in detail and provides the basis for the work of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management.

**2. Analysis of the Options for Final Disposal**

The aim is to provide an overview of all possible options for the final disposal of radioactive waste in the form of a single document. It should include the option of cooperation with other countries and outline the requirements, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and risks, as well as an initial cost estimate for each option.

**3. Framework for Public Participation**

The aim is to develop a framework for the public to participate (including cross-border measures) during the process of establishing a final repository for radioactive waste in Austria. The concept should consider technical, economic, and social aspects. Moreover, it should contain recommendations on how and when the public should be informed, involved, and included in the decision-making process.

**4. Development of a Timetable for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste**

The aim is to define a timetable and roadmap for the disposal of radioactive waste accumulated in Austria. This draft should include, where possible, relevant intermediate stages ("milestones"), key performance indicators and precise timelines for reaching these stages.

## 1.5 Members

The Advisory Board consists of 20 members for the mandate up to June 2024; seven of them are technical experts, three representatives of civil society, nine representatives of the Federal and State Governments and one representative of the Association of Municipalities. Together they develop recommendations for the final disposal of radio-active waste in Austria.

The Advisory Board is chaired by Silvia Benda-Kahri from the Environment Agency Austria. The Chair was entrusted with this function by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology; she is not a member of the Advisory Board and thus has no voting rights. The task of the chairperson is to supervise the meeting and to work towards a consensus among the members of the Advisory Board on the decisions to be taken. Sabine Kranzl has been appointed vice-chairwoman.

Table 1 Members of the Advisory Board at the time of establishment in alphabetical order (Status December 2023)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>
<b>Roman Beyerknecht</b>	Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf
<b>Manfred Ditto</b>	Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
<b>Ulrike Felt</b>	University of Vienna Department of Science and Technology Studies
<b>Eva Festl</b>	Federal Ministry for Finance
<b>Bernhard Haubenberger</b>	Association of Austrian Municipalities
<b>Günther Liebel</b>	Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management
<b>Patricia Lorenz</b>	Global 2000
<b>Frank Melcher</b>	Montanuniversität Leoben Chair of Geology and Economic Geology, Applied Geosciences and Geophysics
<b>Gabriele Mraz</b>	Austrian Institute for Ecology
<b>Nikolaus Müllner</b>	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences

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<b>Ewald Plantosar</b>	Office of Styrian Government
<b>Horst Reicher</b>	Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
<b>David Reinberger</b>	Ombuds Office for Environmental Protection Austria
<b>Ursula Rosenbichler</b>	Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport
<b>Sabine Schneeberger</b>	Federal Chancellery
<b>Gerhard Seifritz</b>	Office of the Government of Lower Austria
<b>Sigrid Sperker</b>	Office of the Government of Upper Austria
<b>Angelika Spieth-Achnich</b>	Öko-Institut e.V., Institute of Applied Ecology, Germany
<b>Johannes Sterba</b>	Technical University of Vienna Atomic and Subatomic Physics
<b>Hannelore Weck-Hannemann</b>	University of Innsbruck Department of Public Finance, Faculty of Economics and Statistics

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Image 1: The Members of the Advisory Board at the seventh meeting in May 2023.  
Copyright: F. Drott/AGES



## 1.6 Working Method

The framework for the work of the Advisory Board is established by the mandate issued by the Federal Government as described in 1.4. The mandate defines the goals and outlines the topics that need to be addressed. The Rules of Procedure provide the formal framework. The Rules of Procedure set out the requirements for the establishment, tasks (according to the mandate), composition, members, membership, chairmanship, Secretariat, preparation and conduct of meetings, attendance, committees, consultation documents, resolutions, record keeping, reporting, and informing the public.

In order to be able to support the members of the Advisory Board in their work in the best possible way, the chair has based the design of the process on four central guidelines:

- A setting that enables constructive work
- Use a variety of methods to draw on broad expertise and ideas
- Allow flexibility in order to respond to needs

- Build in feedback opportunities to ensure that the process design is conducive to work

The process design provides for an iterative structuring in four process steps adapted to the topics. These are:

- Discover: Familiarisation with the topics of the mandate
- Define: Definition of issues relevant to the mandate topics as a basis for fact-finding missions
- Develop: Development of recommendations based on shared insights
- Deliver: Consensus on recommendations relevant to the issues of the mandate and communication of the results

# 2 Activities of the Advisory Board on the Implementation of the Mandate in 2023

## 2.1 Meetings of the Advisory Board

At the constituent meeting of the Advisory Board, it was decided by consensus to hold three meetings per year.

The following meetings were held in 2023:

- 1 and 2 February 2023 (sixth meeting)
- 10 and 11 May 2023 (seventh meeting)
- 27 and 28 September 2023 (eighth meeting)
- 23 November 2023 (first extraordinary meeting)

At the sixth meeting of the Advisory Board on 1 and 2 February 2023, first recommendations from the reports “Legal Framework for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste” and “Proposal for Safety Criteria and Accident Scenarios” were derived and recorded. There was a presentation of the report “Methods for Estimating the Long-Term Behaviour and Dispersion”. In addition the study “Proposal for Site Selection Criteria” was commissioned.

The committee on “Framework for Public Participation” reported on the current status of the participation concept.

The timetable and roadmap were revised with regard to the report “Legal Framework for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste” and first recommendations were presented and discussed.

The seventh meeting of the Advisory Board was held on 10 and 11 May 2023. The recommendations resulting from the study on the “Legal Framework for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste” were presented by the committee on “Pathway to the Evaluation of Options for the Final Disposal”. The recommendations were amended on the basis of the subsequent discussion in the Advisory Board. The concept of the study “Comparison of

Options for Final Repositories” was presented. The revised recommendations based on the report “Proposal for Safety Criteria and Accident Scenarios” were presented. The committee on the “Pathway to the Evaluation of Options for the Final Disposal” formulated further recommendations concerning the safety criteria. The authors of the study on “Austria and its Radioactive Waste – What you always wanted to know and what we always wanted to ask you” presented the results of the study, which were then discussed by the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board was informed about the current status of the preparation of the participation concept. The timetable and roadmap, adapted following a consultation with the committee on the “Framework for Public Participation”, was presented. The key performance indicators for the quantitative measurement of short and long-term goals were also presented.

The focus of the eighth meeting of the Advisory Board on 27 and 28 September 2023 was to align everyone’s view regarding the final report and to present the recommendations regarding the individual mandate points. The writing procedure and a draft for the structure of the final report were presented. The study on the “Comparison of Options for Final Repositories” was presented. The committee on the “Pathway to the Evaluation of Options for the Final Disposal” then presented its recommendations. The amended recommendations regarding chemical aspects based on the objectives of relevant legislation were presented. The authors of the report “Proposal for Site Selection Criteria” presented their draft. The committee on the “Framework for Public Participation” presented a paper with recommendations for a participation concept. The committee on the “Timetable and Roadmap” presented its recommendations. The process for the extension of the mandate was explained. At the eighth meeting, it was also decided to hold an extraordinary meeting.

The extraordinary meeting took place on 23 November 2023. The aim of the meeting was to coordinate and finalise the recommendations from all committees. During this meeting, all members of the Advisory Board were able to provide feedback on all recommendations. The next steps towards the preparation of the final report and the revised and agreed recommendations were discussed.

The findings and discussion results from the individual meetings were incorporated into formulating the recommendations in the final report and the development of the participation concept and the timetable and roadmap.

## 2.2 Webinar

Since the beginning of 2022, the Secretariat has been organising monthly webinars for the Advisory Board. These webinars are intended to provide background information for the members of the Advisory Board. The topics are very wide-ranging. The speakers are both members of the Advisory Board and external experts.

A total of six webinars were held in 2023.

The 10<sup>th</sup> webinar was held on 27 February 2023. Claudia Strobel from the Secretariat of the National Citizens' Oversight Committee (NBG, Germany) reported on the composition, tasks and organisation of the Committee. She also described the players involved in the search for a repository in Germany as well as various public participation formats.

"The age of the groundwater in Austria" was the topic of the 11<sup>th</sup> webinar, which was held on 28 March 2023 by Heike Brielmann and Franko Humer from the Environment Agency Austria. The speakers explained the methodology for determining the age of groundwater and the possible applications in Austria.

On 25 April 2023, a meeting was held with the representatives of two Spanish NGOs. Manuel Raya is the president of HORNASOL (Hornachuelos Ecological Association), which campaigns for the closure of the repository for low and intermediate level radioactive waste. Cristina Rois is a member of Ecologistas en Acción, which provides information to the public about incidents in Spanish nuclear power plants and facilities as well as guidelines for radioactive waste and the situation of these issues in other countries.

The webinar "The work of civil society experts in the EURAD (European Joint Programme on Radioactive Waste Management) research project" took place on 3 May 2023. Gabriele Marz presented the EURAD research project and civil society participation as well as the work packages UMAN (Uncertainty Management Multi Actor Network) and Serious Game PEP (Pathway Evaluation Process). Finally, it was emphasised how the Advisory Board could benefit from the expertise and tools of this project.

Kristoffer Brix Bertelsen from the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science (MHES) held the 13<sup>th</sup> webinar entitled "Denmark - National Contact Forum" on 30 May 2023. During this webinar, the participants received comprehensive insight into the situation in Denmark and its inventory of radioactive waste. In addition, the tasks and manner of operation of the



Danish Contact Forum were explained in detail. Another focus was discussing future developments and plans of the Contact Forum, which provided the participants with valuable insights into the situation in Denmark.

On 27 June 2023, the 14<sup>th</sup> webinar with the title "EURAD research project" was held. It was led by Sabrina Dollinger and Wolfgang Neckel (NES). During this webinar, participants received a comprehensive overview of the EURAD research project. In particular, the work package "ROUTES - Waste Management Routes from Cradle to Grave" was presented and the involvement of NES was explained. Furthermore, the first results of the project were presented and an outlook on the upcoming phase, EURAD-2, was given. The webinar thus provided insights into the progress and future plans of the EURAD research project.

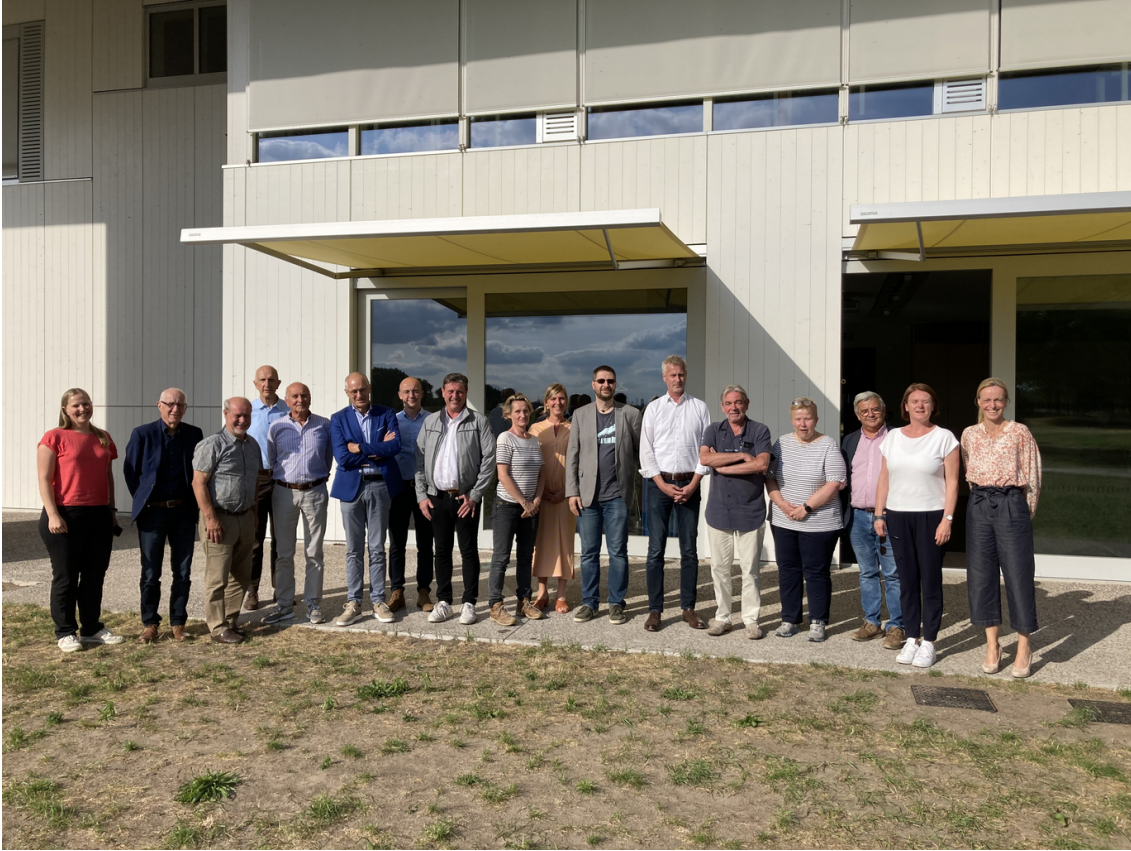
The 15<sup>th</sup> webinar entitled "BASE and the Info-Mobile" was held on 1 September 2023 and was led by Monika Arzberger and Ingo Bautz from the German Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management (BASE). During this webinar, the areas of expertise and tasks of BASE were presented. In addition, the actors and their roles in the context of final disposal in Germany were explained. Another focus was the site selection process in Germany and the participation of the various interest groups. In addition, the "Info-Mobil", a mobile information centre that serves as an instrument to inform the public about the final disposal and to promote dialogue, was presented. The webinar thus provided a comprehensive insight into the work of BASE and its efforts to ensure transparency and citizen participation in the final disposal process.

## 2.3 Study Trip

### Belgium

The Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management travelled to Belgium between 6 and 7 July 2023 with the aim of visiting the site for the planned repository for low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste. The Belgian national organisation ONDRAF/NIRAS has been responsible for the disposal of radioactive waste since the 1970s. The primary focus of this visit was the unique participatory model used to select and design the site. There was also an exchange of information with the local partners from the municipalities of Dessel and Mol. The new Tabloo visitor centre in Dessel was visited, which serves as a museum, educational facility, communication centre and leisure park, among other things. There was also a visit to EURIDICE with a tour of the underground research laboratory HADES, where the experiments necessary for the construction of a deep geological repository are carried out.

Image 2: The delegation of the Advisory Board with representatives of the ONDRAF/NIRAS authority and the local partnerships MONA and STOLA. Copyright: Henriette Herzog/AGES



The exchange with the local partnerships of the two communities and the project management of ONDRAF/NIRAS made it clear to the Advisory Board that the active involvement of the local population is crucial for the success of a repository project.

Image 3: In the underground research laboratory HADES. Copyright: Henriette Herzog/AGES



## Switzerland

A delegation from the Advisory Board visited Switzerland between 16 and 17 October 2023. Switzerland plans to store low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste together with high-level radioactive waste and spent fuel elements in a deep geological repository. The planned site "Nördlich Lägern" was announced in September 2022. The submission of the approval process is currently being prepared.

The visit to Switzerland began in the municipality of Stadel, the place where the entrance of the repository is planned. Meetings and discussions were held there with representatives of the authorities, operators, local politicians, regional conferences and NGOs. This exchange provided an insight into Switzerland's procedure, public participation and the challenges that accompany such a large-scale project. The Swiss concept strives for active and broad public participation. Although the public does not have a right of

veto, it does have the opportunity to actively participate. For example, it was possible to influence the design of the surface facilities.

On the second day of the excursion, the Advisory Board visited the Mont Terri rock laboratory. The host rock chosen for the storage of radioactive waste is Opalinus Clay. In the research laboratory, the suitability of the clay for final disposal is analysed using various methods in complex experiments.

Image 4: The delegation of the Advisory Board with the representatives in the Swiss process. Copyright: Pascale Künzi/BfE Switzerland



Image 5: Members of the Advisory Board at the Mont Terri research laboratory. Copyright: Henriette Herzog/AGES



Image 6: Scale model for the storage of spent fuel elements. Copyright: Henriette Herzog/AGES



# 3 Studies Commissioned by the Advisory Board

During its meetings, the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management expressed the need for several studies. For this reason, various studies were commissioned in 2022 and 2023. A summary of all the studies carried out is given below.

The study on the "**Inventory of Radioactive Waste**" provides a detailed list of the type and origin of Austrian radioactive waste. In addition, a prognosis of future radioactive waste in Austria is given. The study was conducted by Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf GmbH.

The study on the "**Legal Framework for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste**" was carried out by the University of Linz, Institute for Environmental Law. This basic study includes an analysis of the legal framework conditions necessary for the final storage of radioactive waste with a focus on the relevance of the individual standards for the site selection process for a final repository for radioactive waste. Legal gaps are identified and legal recommendations for action are developed. In addition, the interaction between the individual legal elements and the procedure is analysed.

The report on "**Methods for Estimating the Long-Term Behaviour and Dispersion**" is intended to present the scientific and technical methods for calculating and estimating the long-term behaviour of radioactive material in the repository and their reliability, as well as the calculation methods for the dispersion of radioactive materials. The study is currently being carried out by the University of Vienna, Institute for Isotope Physics, and AGES.

The "Proposal for Safety Criteria for a Facility for the Long-Term Disposal of Radioactive Waste" includes a comprehensive description of all safety requirements relevant to final disposal. This includes, among other things, requirements for the waste, conditioning matrix, containers and packaging, requirements for the construction of the repository, requirements for transportation, requirements for repository operation, requirements for repository closure, post-operational phase and decommissioning, as well as requirements for infrastructure. Furthermore, possible external and internal influences on repositories are identified, and closer attention is paid to quality assurance and quality control, the Safety

Case and documentation. The proposal was written jointly by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences' „Institute of Safety and Risk Sciences“, the Technical University of Vienna's „Atomic and Subatomic Physics -TRIGA, Center for Labelling and Isotope Production“, Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf GmbH and AGES.

The Environment Agency Austria is conducting an exploratory study entitled **“Austria and its Radioactive Waste – What you always wanted to know and what we always wanted to ask you”**. The aim of this study is to gain insights into the views and opinion-forming process of different people in Austria regarding radioactive waste. For this purpose, focus groups are formed in different cities, in which participants are questioned about the topic of radioactive waste.

The report entitled **“Comparison of Options for Final Repositories”** was prepared by the Institute for Applied Ecology, Germany. The report presents currently available options for repository technology. It discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the different options using defined safety criteria for evaluation and assessing the expected relative costs of the addressed disposal options.

In the last report, **“Proposal for Site Selection Criteria”**, site selection criteria for the final disposal of radioactive waste are developed on the basis of international experience and regulations and in accordance with the current state of science and technology. Furthermore, a procedure for their use is developed. In addition to the scientific criteria, the site selection criteria should also include social, ecological, economic, landscape planning and foreign policy considerations in line with current practice. Favourable and unfavourable site conditions will be discussed, and exclusion criteria defined. Furthermore, a proposal for a site selection procedure is to be drawn up. The report is currently being drafted jointly by the Montanuniversität Leoben (Department of Applied Geosciences and Geophysics), Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf GmbH, the University of Vienna (Institute for Science and Technology Research), the Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH (Radiation Protection Division) and the Austrian Institute of Ecology.



## 4 Publications and Public Relations

The Advisory Board's website [www.entsorgungsbeirat.gv.at](http://www.entsorgungsbeirat.gv.at) serves to inform the public and also publishes minutes of meetings and annual activity reports. It offers the possibility of contacting the Advisory Board. For this purpose, the e-mail address [kontakt@entsorgungsbeirat.gv.at](mailto:kontakt@entsorgungsbeirat.gv.at) is available, through which interested persons from the public can ask questions and present their concerns.

During the reporting period, three meeting reports were published on the website:

- Report of the sixth meeting
- Report of the seventh meeting
- Report of the eighth meeting

In addition, the second activity report for 2022 was published.

There were no recommendations or other publications from the Advisory Board in the reporting period. The results of the studies commissioned for the Advisory Board will be published together with the final report at the end of the mandate in summer 2024.

# 5 Personnel Changes

In 2023 the following personnel changes occurred in the chairmanship and the members:

Eva Festl was nominated as a representative of the Federal Ministry for Finance following the resignation of Philipp Bohatschek.

## 6 Outlook

The meeting dates for 2024 have already been set. The meetings shall take place on:

- 31 January and 1 February 2024 (ninth meeting)
- 4 April 2024 (second extraordinary meeting)
- 15 and 16 May 2024 (tenth meeting)

In 2024 the recommendations for the Federal Government will be finalized and the final report will be prepared.

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## List of Abbreviations

AGES	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH
BASE	Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management, Germany
BfE	Swiss Federal Office of Energy
BGE	Federal company for radioactive waste disposal, Germany
BMK	Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
DI	Diplom-Ingenieur / Diplom-Ingenieurin
Dr	Doktor / Doktorin
EURAD	European Joint Programme on Radioactive Waste Management
EURIDICE	European Underground Research Infrastructure for Disposal of Nuclear Waste in Clay Environment
e.V.	eingetragener Verein
HADES	High Activity Disposal Experimental Site
HORNASOL	Hornachuelos Ecological Association
Mag	Magister / Magistra
MHES	Ministry of Higher Education and Science
MONA	Mols Overleg Nucleair Afval vzw
NBG	National Citizens' Oversight Committee
NEP	The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste
NES	Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf GmbH
NGO	Non-governmental organization
ONDRAF / NIRAS	Organisme national des déchets radioactifs et des matières fissiles enrichies / Nationale instelling voor radioactief afval en verrijkte Splijtstoffen
PEP	Pathway Evaluation Process

ROUTES	Waste Management routes in Europe from cradle to grave
STOLA	Studie en Overleggroep Laagactief Afval
SUP	Strategic Environmental Assessment
TU Wien	Technical University of Vienna
UMAN	Uncertainty Management Multi Actor Network

**Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management**

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