

Report on the eighth Meeting on 27 and 28 September 2023

The Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management (“Advisory Board” for short) met for its eighth meeting on 27 and 28 September 2023. The aim of this meeting was to align everyone’s views regarding the final report, to record the recommendations on the options, the safety criteria as well as the timetable and roadmap. Furthermore, the contents of the study on the site criteria and the recommendations for the public participation concept were presented and the process for finalising the recommendations was determined.

Background

Based on “The National Programme for the Management of Radioactive Waste” (2018), the Advisory Board **develops a basis for decisions and recommendations for the Federal Government regarding the safe disposal of low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste** accumulated in Austria. Radioactive waste is generated in Austria through applications in medicine, research, industry and through the dismantling of facilities that are no longer required (decommissioning).

The mandate of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management defines its tasks. It is valid for three years and ends in June 2024. The four tasks according to the mandate are:

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.

The recommendations worked out by the Advisory Board on the individual mandate items are forwarded to the Federal Government and serve as a basis for decisions on future steps.

The Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management includes representatives of the Federal States and Governments, scientists, NGOs, and from the public. The Advisory Board is chaired by Silvia Benda-Kahri from the Environment Agency Austria. The members of the Advisory Board may change in the context of future mandates depending on the tasks at hand when the current mandate ends in June 2024.

Review

At the seventh meeting of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management, the committee on the "Pathway to the Evaluation of Options for Final Disposal" presented its recommendations from the study on the "Legal Framework". In addition, the concept of the study "Comparison of Options for Final Repositories" by the Institute for Applied Ecology Darmstadt was presented.

Moreover, the amended report "Proposal on Safety Criteria regarding a Facility for the long-term Disposal of Radioactive Waste" was presented and discussed.

The study "Austria and its Radioactive Waste" was presented by the Environment Agency Austria and the results were discussed by the Advisory Board.

At the seventh meeting, the committee on the "Framework for Public Participation" provided information about the status of the work on the participation concept. The findings from the explorative study and from the NGO meeting will be taken into account in the preparation of the participation concept, as well as the timetable and roadmap.

The current version of the timetable and roadmap was developed further in coordination with the committee on the "Framework for Public Participation". In addition, a first draft of the performance indicators was presented.

Results of the eighth meeting:

The results of the eighth meeting of the Advisory Board are presented on the basis of the mandate items.

The Advisory Board decided to hold an extraordinary meeting between the eighth and the ninth meeting to coordinate the recommendations.

Mandate Item 1: Radioactive Waste in Austria: Survey of the Status Quo

Results

The Advisory Board has agreed on the following course of action:

The recommendations are formulated in accordance with the draft of recommendations and decided on at an extraordinary meeting. These will then be incorporated into the final report and voted on at the ninth meeting.

Mandate Item 2: Analysis of the Options for Final Disposal

The Institute for Applied Ecology Darmstadt presented its study "Comparison of Options for Final Repositories" and discussed the results with the Advisory Board. The committee on the "Pathway to the Evaluation of Options for the Final Disposal" committee presented its recommendations. The interim status of the report "Proposal for Site Selection Criteria" was presented by the authors.

The chemical analysis of the waste was also discussed.

Results

The Advisory Board has agreed on the following course of action:

The committee on the "Pathway to the Evaluation of Options for the Final Disposal" will reformulate the recommendations on the chemical aspects based on the objectives of relevant laws.

The draft of the report "Proposal for Site Selection Criteria" will be completed by the ninth meeting.

The process for finalising the recommendations will be established as outlined in mandate point 1.

Mandate Item 3: Framework for Public Participation

The committee on the "Framework for Public Participation" presented a paper with recommendations for a participation concept.

Results

The Committee will revise the recommendations based on feedback from the Advisory Board. The draft of the participation concept will be finalized before the ninth meeting.

The process for finalising the recommendations will be established as outlined in mandate point 1.

Mandate Item 4: Development of a Timetable for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste

The committee on the "Timetable and Roadmap" presented its recommendations.

Results

The Committee will adapt the timetable and roadmap. In addition, the Committee will coordinate with the committee on the "Framework for Public Participation" regarding the recommendations.

The process for finalising the recommendations will be established as outlined in mandate point 1.

The next meeting of the Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management will take place on 31 January and 1 February 2024.

Participants

Advisory Board

Roman Beyerknecht (Nuclear Engineering Seibersdorf)

Manfred Ditto (Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection)

Ulrike Felt (University of Vienna, Department of Science and Technology Studies)

Eva Festl (Federal Ministry of Finance)

Bernhard Haubenberger (Association of Austrian Municipalities)

Patricia Lorenz (Global 2000)

Frank Melcher (Montanuniversität Leoben, Chair of Geology and Economic Geology, Applied Geosciences and Geophysics)

Gabriele Mraz (Austrian Institute for Ecology)

Nikolaus Müllner (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute of Safety and Risk Sciences)

Ewald Plantosar (Styria, Representation of the Federal States)

Horst Reicher (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)

David Reinberger (Ombuds Office for Environmental Protection Austria)

Ursula Rosenbichler (Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport)

Sabine Schneeberger (Federal Chancellery)

Gerhard Seifritz (Lower Austria, Representative of the Federal States)

Sigrid Sperker (Upper Austria, Representation of the Federal States)

Angelika Spieth-Achtnich (Ökologie-Institut e. V., Institute for Applied Ecology)

Johannes Sterba (Technical University of Vienna, Atomic and Subatomic Physics)

Charlotte Vogl (Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management)

Other Participants

Silvia Benda-Kahri (Environment Agency Austria) Chair

Sabine Kranzl (Environment Agency Austria) Co-Chair

Claudia Ackerl (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)

Christina Raith (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)

Roman Zöchling (Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology)

Henriette Herzog (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH)

Secretariat

Christian Katzlberger (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH)

Konrad Lotter (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH)

Sonja Rosenitsch (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH)

Katharina Schmidt (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety GmbH)

Imprint or Inquiry information or data security

Media owners, publishers, and editors:

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

Untere Donaustraße 11, 1020 Vienna

Status: 27. September 2023

Phone: +43 1 71100 61 4195

Created by

Austrian Board for Radioactive Waste Management

Secretariat

Henriette Herzog

E-Mail: kontakt@entsorgungsbeirat.gv.at

Erstellt am: 27. September 2023