

Nuclear leaks in France and Germany

Verschiedene 10.07.2008 04:50 Themen: [Atom](#) [Ökologie](#)

Early Tuesday morning a technical problem caused 30 cubic metres of uranium-contaminated water to leak from the Tricastin nuclear plant near the city of Avignon in southern France. An old potash mine in north Germany containing nuclear waste is flooding with brine at a rate of 12 cubic metres a day, casting further doubt on the safe keeping of nuclear leftovers for a million years.

Early Tuesday morning a technical problem caused 30 cubic metres of uranium-contaminated water to leak from the Tricastin nuclear plant near the city of Avignon in southern France.

Residents in the area were told not to drink water or eat fish from three rivers and three ponds on Wednesday despite tests showing the leak was not as serious as previously thought.

The nuke is located some 50 kilometres from Avignon, which is currently hosting a major summer theatre festival.

The full story at <http://www.france24.com/en/20080709-france-nuclear-spillage-tricastin-plant&navi=FRANCE>

An old potash mine in north Germany containing nuclear waste is flooding with brine at a rate of 12 cubic metres a day, casting further doubt on the safe keeping of nuclear leftovers for a million years.

The German public television system has just aired a report on brine running into the Asse II pit near the northern city of Braunschweig and what this means to the quest to find a permanent nuclear waste storage. It is in German at

<http://www.wdr.de/themen/global/webmedia/webtv/getwebtvextrakt.phtml?p=400&b=036&ex=5>.

It is an excellent report that I highly recommend to other broadcasters to air and to print media to source from.

In circulation about this issue is a report by the IPS news agency which contains a factual mistake. The sentence "Two other sites, Gorleben and Morsleben, are also abandoned rock salt mines" is wrong.

The Gorleben pit was especially dug for storing nuclear waste, it is not an "abandoned" former salt-producing mine. I have pointed this out to IPS and asked them to correct it.

I greatly admire IPS and its approach to news, but have seen them get the German nuclear waste story wrong several times. I used to live near Gorleben.

My story on the brine leak: <http://sydney.indymedia.org.au/story/nuclear-worries-increase-german-waste-dump-mine-floods>

One thing we in Australia must be very awake about is that as options in Europe and elsewhere run out, the idea of dumping it in our Northern Territory becomes ever more attractive.

One group of Aborigines have already said they would accept an offer of 12 million Australian dollars to allow nuclear waste into their area.