



20 December 2015

**Support from South Carolina Against Expansion of Ahaus Spent Fuel Storage and in
Opposition to Shipment of AVR Spent Fuel to Ahaus or to the U.S.**

I send greetings of solidarity to German friends and colleagues as you gather to protest storage of highly radioactive spent fuel for an indefinite period of time at the Ahaus facility.

In particular, we share common opposition to shipment of AVR spent fuel now at Jülich to either Ahaus or the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina. Such shipment is unacceptable and the material must be left where it is as plans for long-term disposal are not agreed. Likewise, the THTR spent fuel at Ahaus must not be sent to SRS.

The nuclear industry and the U.S. and German governments continue to flounder concerning long-term spent fuel management and in both countries there is no long-term, acceptable plan to deal with this dangerous material. While we question production of more high-level nuclear waste, the 70,000 metric tonnes of spent fuel in the U.S. must stay where it is now located.

One thing is for sure - what's called "consolidated interim storage" in the U.S. is not acceptable in the U.S., nor is it in Germany. This approach would simply move spent fuel from reactor sites to one or more centralized locations for indefinite storage, thus taking the pressure off nuclear utilities while placing the risks on distant communities. So far, we have stopped consolidated storage in the U.S. but the issue is alive in Congress and we will fight on. At Ahaus, you well know the risks of centralized storage. Opposition to more waste being brought to Ahaus must continue given the real risk that will stay for the long term.

Savannah River Site, established in the 1950s to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons, was secretly chosen for the reprocessing and dumping of the AVR spent fuel. Underscoring the importance of our working together and the role of public activism, we were first informed about the plan by German activists and not DOE and were thus able to alert the public to the risk before DOE admitted anything. Three years after the scheme was hatched, our position remains the same: no AVR spent fuel to SRS or to Ahaus! As we enter a new year, I'd like to thank you for the solidarity you have shown in our joint campaign and wish you success in your efforts to stop more nuclear waste shipments to Ahaus.

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