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Radiological characterisation - the Greifswald NPP approach

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Abstract

At the Greifswald site, 8 units of Russian pressurized water reactors type WWER 440 are located, including several facilities to handle and store fuel and radwaste. After the reunification of Germany in 1990, the operating units 1 - 5 were switched off and the construction work at the units 6 - 8 was stopped. In 1990 the decision was taken to decommission the units 1 - 5 and in 1995 the decommissioning license was granted. Since then the decommissioning activities are proceeding effectively and today the project is on the final line and will be finished in 2013/14.

The radiological characterisation of the technical plant parts started in 1993, followed by the characterisation of concrete structures and ground areas. The common approach for the radiological characterisation based on the assessment of the operational history, the analysis of known or potential contamination paths, the classification in to 3 categories (no contamination, potential contamination, contaminated) and finally by preliminary measurements and sampling evaluations.

For the free release process of ground areas special features such as the existence of over- and underground facilities and the influence from the Chernobyl and/or nuclear weapon fallout had to be taken into account.

Today an area of ca. 1.23 km² has been measured, of which ca. 0.76 km² have been exempted from the atomic law. This good result supported the intention of EWN to develop the site to an industrial area, i.e. to provide properties to private investors as soon as possible.