

Steps in Radwaste Management



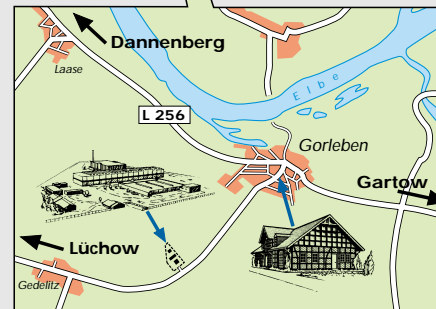
The interim storage and the conditioning of spent fuel assemblies and radioactive waste are important tasks for the waste management of the nuclear facilities.

At Gorleben, you can inform yourself about our three different facilities which represent steps of the waste management:

- ▶ The transport cask interim storage for spent fuel assemblies and heat-generating waste,
- ▶ The radwaste interim storage facility for industrial radioactive waste and
- ▶ The pilot conditioning plant for the testing of techniques which are needed for the direct final disposal.

We give the possibility to all the persons interested to gather information about its work. We invite you to visit our information house in Gorleben and – after preliminary registration – to visit our nuclear facilities.

The way to BLG is simple



Our information house is located in the center of Gorleben. The interim storage is located at approximately two kilometers towards the south on the road from Gorleben to Lüchow.

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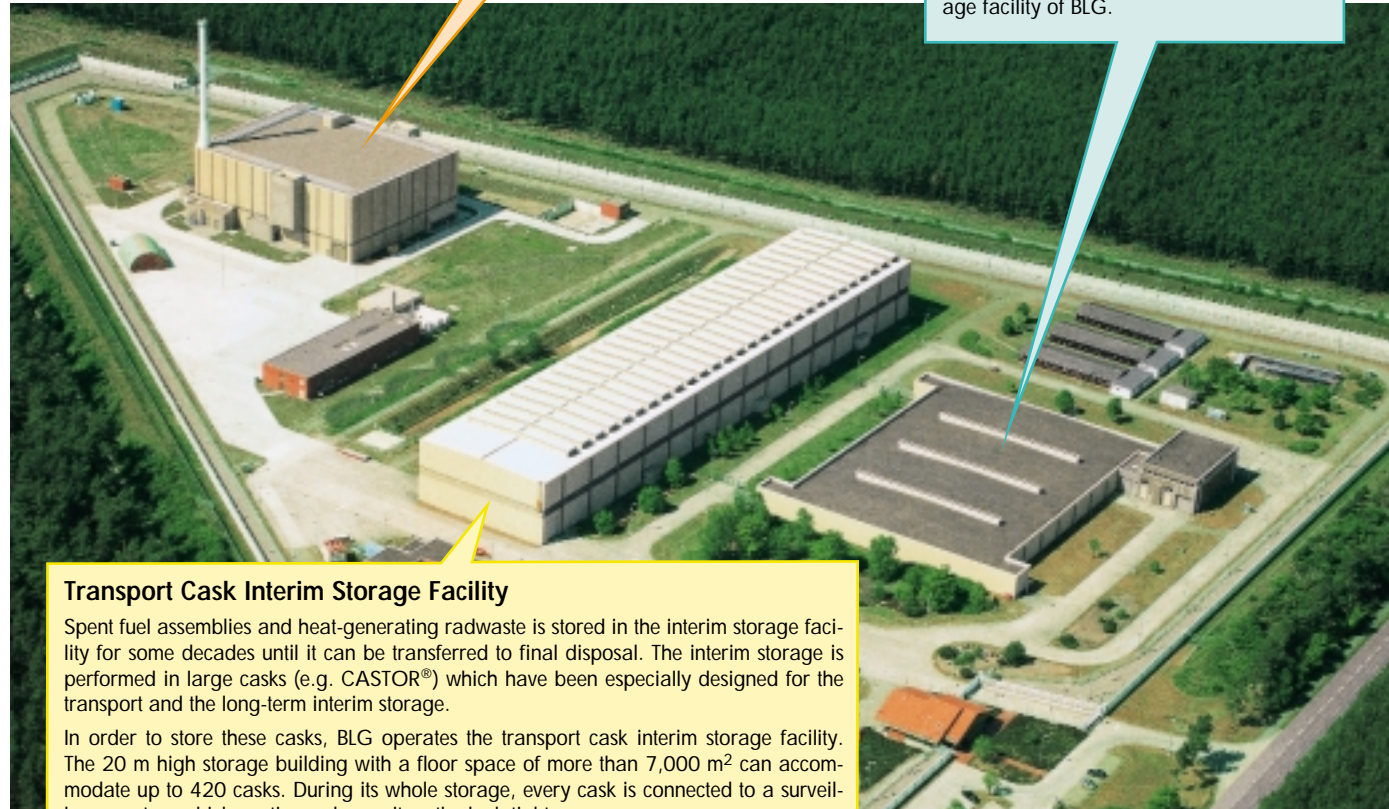
A Visit to BLG and GNS at Gorleben



Safe Waste Management for Protection of the Environment

BLG and GNS: Companies at the Service of the Environment

A third of the electric power needs in Germany is covered by nuclear power plants, in Lower Saxony and other German Federal States as high as 60 per cent. Safe management of wastes from nuclear power plants, performed in a manner friendly to the environment, is essential for a responsible operation. The duties of BLG and its parent company GNS Gesellschaft für Nuklear-Service mbH lie in three areas of waste management, whereby safety and protection of the environment come first.



Pilot Conditioning Plant

The pilot conditioning plant (PKA) is a technology oriented toward the future. Here, techniques which are necessary for the treatment and conditioning of spent fuel assemblies to a form suitable for the final disposal are being developed.

The direct disposal of spent fuel – after some decades of interim storage – is the way of disposal which is important in Germany. In this process, the PKA is a decisive step.

Until the decision for a final repository is made by the Federal government, the PKA is being used as a service and repair facility.

Radwaste Storage Facility

The quantities of radioactive operating waste was able to be substantially reduced in the nuclear facilities. However, further waste is generated not only in nuclear facilities, but also in research/medical institutes and in other technical installations. In the nuclear power plants, it consists of e.g. scrap, protective clothing and filter cartridges.

The relatively low radiation level of this waste is easily shielded and generates virtually no heat. Prior to its placement in the interim storage facility in Gorleben, the radwaste is conditioned either in its original place or in other facilities designed for this purpose. They are packed in special packages which are suitable for final disposal. They are made of steel, concrete or cast iron and safely contain the radwaste. These packages are stored in the 4,500 m² large and 5 m high waste storage facility of BLG.

Transport Cask Interim Storage Facility

Spent fuel assemblies and heat-generating radwaste is stored in the interim storage facility for some decades until it can be transferred to final disposal. The interim storage is performed in large casks (e.g. CASTOR®) which have been especially designed for the transport and the long-term interim storage.

In order to store these casks, BLG operates the transport cask interim storage facility. The 20 m high storage building with a floor space of more than 7,000 m² can accommodate up to 420 casks. During its whole storage, every cask is connected to a surveillance system which continuously monitors the leak-tightness.

BLG Provides Information



Our information house in Gorleben provides extensive information concerning the steps taken at Gorleben for the management of the spent fuel and nuclear waste. There, you can find a modern display with many models, posters and video films.

A tour of the facilities is the best way to get an impression of the activities of BLG and GNS. For organisational reasons, some formalities are necessary. If you want to visit us with a group, please contact us as early as possible so that we can set a date. We will send you a list of participants. You just need to send it back when filled in. For your visit, you and your registered hosts need only to bring a valid piece of identification. Send us a letter or give us a call. We are looking forward to seeing you.

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