



Press release

13 September 2007

Process water tank overflowed in interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel

A water tank was overflowed during testing of a new computerized control system at the interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel in Oskarshamn. As a result, process water ran out into the facility. After this was discovered, all parts of the facility were inspected and the water was decontaminated.

Between 20 and 30 cubic metres of water ran out into the facility. Besides closed spaces on the monitored side, a few litres of water also ran out into other parts of the facility. Analyses show that it is lightly contaminated water, below the limits for free release (500 Bq/kg). The water has now been decontaminated.

The event occurred late Thursday night during the testing of a new computerized control system. Due to the test of the new system, special rules apply in the facility. The facility is closed to visitors during the work and does not receive any new fuel either. The personnel are always checked as they leave, and none of the personnel has received a radiation dose as a result of the event.

The concerned authorities (the Swedish Radiation Protection Authority and the Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate) have been informed and an inquiry into the event has been initiated by SKB. In the continued work with modernization of the control system, the safety precautions will be reviewed to prevent similar occurrences.

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Facts: Interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel (Clab)

Clab is a central interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel. The facility, which was put into operation in 1985, is located adjacent to the nuclear power plant north of Oskarshamn. Here the spent nuclear fuel is cooled before being transported to a future final repository. Clab consists of two storage sections with five storage pools in each section, about 30 metres down in the rock. The storage pools are connected by a transport channel that will be used to move the fuel between the pools.

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