



Press release

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SKB submits supplementary accounts on the final repository in Forsmark

Today SKB is submitting supplementary accounts to the Swedish Radiation Protection Authority (SSI) regarding the final repository for radioactive operational waste (SFR) in Forsmark.

The background is a decision by SSI in June indefinitely suspending the deposition of waste in the final repository. The authority has requested more information on how the levels of certain substances in the repository have been calculated and reported, and what consequences this could have for the long-term safety of the repository.

“We have now reviewed the levels of the substances mentioned in SSI’s injunction. The review shows that higher levels of these substances do not jeopardize the long-term safety of the facility,” says Börje Torstenfelt, unit manager at SKB.

SKB is therefore applying at the same time for a new permit for these substances, equivalent to current and expected production. The permits SKB has today are based on estimates of the quantity of different waste types made when the repository was built.

The supporting material also includes an account which SSI has requested of how SKB intends to use the different parts of the repository in an optimal manner from the viewpoint of radiation protection (deposition strategy). At the same time, SKB is continuing its work on the overall safety assessment that has to be finished by the end of the year.

SKB is currently awaiting viewpoints from SSI on this account. The suspension of deposition at the final repository will continue until SSI gives the go-ahead to resume deposition.

Facts about SFR

The final repository for radioactive operational waste (SFR) is situated in Forsmark and was taken into operation in 1988. Operational waste such as filter resins, used protective clothing and tools from the nuclear power plants are disposed of here, along with some waste from industry, research and medical care. The waste is kept in monitored rock caverns at a depth of more than 50 metres in the rock and needs to be kept isolated for at least 500 years.

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