



Savannah River Site Watch

## **Savannah River Site Watch Stands in Solidarity with the NRW-Aktionstag**

**SRS Watch, Columbia South, Carolina USA, 21 May 2016**

We send a heart-felt thank you to the organizers of today's event and all the groups and individuals that are participating. We stand with you in opposing transfer of the CASTOR casks at Forschungszentrum Jülich to either Ahaus or to the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina.

As FZJ created the AVR spent fuel in question there is but one option that must now be pursued: this dangerous waste must remain at the FZJ site and be placed in a new interim storage facility. While FZJ may want to wash its hands of any responsibility for the safe and secure storage of the AVR spent fuel, transporting the waste to Ahaus will only magnify the risks and do nothing to solve the daunting nuclear waste dilemma now facing Germany.

In parallel, our opposition to the illegal transport of both the AVR and THTR spent fuel to the United States remains as strong as ever. At SRS, the graphite fuel balls would be processed, with the resultant waste dumped both in the high-level waste tanks and in leaking nuclear waste burial grounds. That option is totally unacceptable as it will only magnify problems at SRS in dealing with existing waste at the site, waste created as part of the US program to make plutonium for U.S. nuclear weapons and for which there is no long-term disposal plan. It is clear that those at SRS who seek to financially profit from the processing of the graphite balls are the only ones who want the material transported to SRS. We will continue to oppose their import scheme.

SRS Watch joins with all of you and the South Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club, the League of Women Voters of South Carolina, Georgia Women's Action for New Directions, Carolina Peace Resource Center and Don't Waste Aiken in opposing the transport along German highways and to Nordenham for export to the Savannah River Site here in South Carolina. We appreciate the international cooperation between our groups and stand with you in demanding that the CASTOR casks remain at Jülich and be placed in a new interim storage facility.

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