

D17. REPROCESSING WASTE TO BE VITRIFIED AT KARLSRUHE

A new vitrification plant at Karlsruhe in Germany would be cheaper to build than transporting high-level liquid waste.

About 70 tones of high-level liquid waste has been stored in a special facility at the site of the former pilot-scale reprocessing plant, WAK, at Germany's Karlsruhe research establishment since the plant was closed down in 1989 after about 20 years of operation. The German Reprocessing Company planned to transport this waste in specially designed Castor containers to the Belgian research establishment at Mol, where a vitrification facility was built by DWK. But a recent assessment by the German federal ministry for research and technology and by the Karlsruhe research establishment have shown that the costs of the special Castor containers and the transport itself would be higher than the cost of building a new vitrification plant at Karlsruhe within the protected area of the WAK plant.

For more, "Reprocessing Waste to Be Vitrified at Karlsruhe," pg.50, Nuclear News, May 1996.