

Legislation and Technical Aspects of Regulation on Waste Containing Mercury in Germany and Europe

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UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, Waste Management - Tokyo, Japan, March 12-13, 2009

GRS

- Non-profit expert and research organisation
- Assess and improve the safety of technical facilities
- Protect man and environment from technical hazards and risks
- Focus on nuclear safety and waste management
- Customers: Ministries and authorities, European Commission
- Solely bound by the principles of science and technology
- About 400 employees, offices in several European countries
- International co-operations
- ISO 9001:2000 certified

[For details see: http://www.grs.de/module/layout_upload/grse.pdf]



Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 on banning of exports and safe storage of metallic mercury

- Mercury = Global Threat
- Basic Aim of Regulation: Prevent Surplus from Re-entering Global Market
- Above-ground Storage = Temporary Solution
- → Postulation of Safe Storage in a Salt Mine or in Deep Underground Hard Rock Formations
- i.e. Export Ban complemented by Storage Obligation





Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 on banning of exports and safe storage of metallic mercury

- (Art.1-1) **Export** of metallic mercury **prohibited** from **15 March 2011**
- (Art.1-3) **Mixing** of metallic mercury **prohibited** from **15 March 2011**
- (Art.2) Metallic mercury (no longer used / gained from operations)
 considered as waste and to be disposed of from 15 March 2011





Regulation (EC) No 1102/2008 on banning of exports and safe storage of metallic mercury

- (Art.3) Metallic mercury (as waste) to be stored in salt mines or in deep underground, hard rock formations (providing equivalent level of safety)
- (Art.8) By **1 January 2010** examination of
 - Need for extending the export ban to other mercury compounds
 - Need for import ban
 - Consideration of research on safe disposal options

Distribution of Salt Domes in N-Germany



+ wide areas with thick clay layers



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Concept of Underground Disposal in Layered Salt





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