

Report of 11 November 2020 from the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Commission on significant changes with regard to environmental radioactivity monitoring in the Berlin area since the review mission carried out in May 2017 in accordance with Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty

From 2 to 4 May 2017, the European Commission carried out a review of environmental radioactivity monitoring in Berlin. In point 6 of chapter 11 (Conclusions) of Technical Report DE 17-02, the German authorities were asked to provide a report by the end of 2020 on significant changes to the monitoring facilities, in particular in light of the plan to close Berlin's BER II research reactor. We would like to inform you of the following:

No significant changes have been made to environmental radioactivity monitoring within Berlin's area of responsibility compared to the situation in Technical Report DE 17-02. This applies in particular to the monitoring of emissions and immissions from the site of the Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie, which is the location of the BER II research reactor.

The research reactor was permanently shut down on 11 December 2019, and post-shutdown operations have been ongoing since 1 January 2020. The decommissioning licence was requested by HZB GmbH in April 2017, and the administrative procedure is currently in progress.

The monitoring measures in place with regard to the research reactor will continue unchanged, at least while nuclear fuel remains in the installation. No date has yet been set for the removal of the remaining fuel elements, but it is not expected to happen before autumn 2023.

With regard to environmental radioactivity monitoring in the Berlin area, which falls under the responsibility of the federal authorities – namely the Federal Radiation Protection Agency, the German Meteorological Service and the Federal Institute for Hydrology – there have been no significant changes compared to the situation in Technical Report DE 17-02.

The Radiation Protection Act (<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/strlschg/StrlSchG.pdf>), which has since entered into force, has largely taken over the regulations on environmental radioactivity monitoring contained in the previous Precautionary Radiation Protection Act.

The same applies to the monitoring of the area surrounding facilities and installations in accordance with the new Radiation Protection Regulation (https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/strlschv_2018/StrlSchV.pdf), which has also since entered into force. The provisions of the General Administrative Regulation on the Integrated Measurement and Information System for Environmental Radioactivity Monitoring (IMIS) and of the Directive on Emission and Immission Monitoring of Nuclear Installations form the basis of the measurement programmes, as was also the case at the time of the review mission.