

## Arbeitskreis Umwelt (AKU) Gronau

Mitglied im Bundesverband Bürgerinitiativen Umweltschutz (BBU) e. V.  
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In contrast to Russia there is „only“ one uranium enrichment plant in Germany. It is located in Gronau on the German-Dutch border. The owner is Urenco Deutschland GmbH. The enrichment plant prepares uranium for the use in nuclear power plants all over the world. Large quantities of depleted uranium are being left over as waste. In the form of UF<sub>6</sub> large quantities of this DU have been shipped to Russia.

Over the last years there have been increasing protests against these shipments both in Germany and the Netherlands. Petitions were filed and there were demonstrations, protest camps and blockades. The uranium transports are being met by protests across the border. And the cooperation with Russian environmental groups is intensifying.

We are against the transport of uranium tails from Gronau to Russia because they are very dangerous. The uranium hexafluoride is radioactive and if it comes into contact with humidity hydrofluoric acid is developing. The transport cylinders can burst if a long fire with high temperatures breaks out. Radioactivity and chemicals will be set free. An area of several square kilometres would have to be evacuated. However, that would prove to be difficult because under normal circumstances the local fire brigades are not informed about the transports and would come too late to the place of accident.

We don't want these transports to happen in Germany and we don't want that the uranium waste is being shipped to Russia where it threatens the health of the population. From our point of view there is only one solution: The uranium enrichment plant in Gronau has to be shut down immediately to stop the mountain of atomic waste from growing any further.

Together with environmental groups from Germany, the Netherlands and Russia we work to achieve this aim. We envisage a nuclear free world. There are plenty of alternatives for a sustainable supply of energy without nuclear energy!

Udo Buchholz

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