



The Central Decontamination Department at a Glance

When using radionuclides in research and when dismantling test reactors and technical facilities for the investigation or reprocessing of irradiated fuel elements as started lately, radioactive wastes are generated. They have to be collected and treated at adequate technical facilities.

The facilities required for these tasks are operated by the Central Decontamination Department (HDB) and serve the purposes of

- retaining radioactive pollutants from effluents
- reusing radioactive wastes and plant components
- reducing the volume of and solidifying radioactive wastes for safe repository storage.

The following installations are connected to the HDB disposal facilities:

- All laboratories and experimental facilities of the Karlsruhe Research Center, where radioactive substances are handled,
- the Karlsruhe Reprocessing Plant (WAK), and
- the Baden-Württemberg State Collection Center for Radioactive Materials.

The radioactive waste conditioned for these institutions is held in interim storage at HDB pending delivery to a repository.

In addition, HDB processes radioactive materials from

- state collection centers of other German federal states
- various institutions and industries

and returns the conditioned radioactive waste to these sources.