BGE

BUNDESGESELLSCHAFT
FÜR ENDLAGERUNG

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

BGE'S EMPLOYEES

2023
ANNUAL REPORT

GREETING MESSAGE

"We would like to thank our employees and dedicate this year's special topic in this annual report to them."

Dear Reader,

Last year, we reported ten accidents at work – 14 fewer than in 2022. The fact that our employees and partners are working more safely on our construction sites is a huge success, and I would like to thank them from the bottom of my heart.

We have made great progress in our projects, but we have also encountered obstacles. Fortunately, in most cases we were able to find solutions and overcame challenges. This is thanks to our employees. We would not have been able to achieve this without their commitment and expertise. We would like to thank them for this and dedicate this year's special topic in this annual report to them.

We made good progress at the Konrad repository. We commissioned the workshop at Konrad 1. The new station is also ready for operation. However, we had to postpone the replacement of the guide scaffolding at short notice, as the structural tests for the new scaffolding are taking longer than expected. The above-ground structures and – most importantly – the excavation pit for the new, final winding tower of the storage shaft are currently being built at Konrad 2. But the complete picture also includes the fact that we are behind schedule. We and our partners underestimated the complexity of building shaft 2. It took us longer than planned to prepare the application documentation because new findings required additional planning. All of this means that completion will be delayed by around two years and that additional costs will be incurred. But we are learning from this and are now on the way to constructing an earthquake-proof repository.

Dr Thomas Lautsch
Technical Managing Director at BGE

At the end of 2022, the site selection team was for the first time able to present a reliable schedule for determining the site regions for above-ground exploration. Even if the extension of the time horizon is the subject of controversial debate, this is the current basis on which our colleagues work.

Drilling work has begun at Asse mine to explore emplacement chamber 12. Drilling work began at the Remlingen 18 drilling site in October. Both are important milestones on the road to retrieval.

A repository for radioactive waste like the one in Morsleben cannot be decommissioned overnight. It requires considerable preparatory work, which is defined in the decommissioning concept. The sealing works are part of the preparatory measures. They will be built in different types of rock: two in external mines, one directly in Morsleben in anhydrite.

In Gorleben, we are preparing to close the mine, which will bring it back into the public eye and into the focus of communication. A separate newsletter is therefore available for interested parties, reporting on the current status.

Needless to say that the departure of Managing Directors Stefan Studt and Steffen Kanitz in the middle of the year had a significant impact. BGE's management was excellently supported by two authorised signatories. With my colleagues Iris Graffunder and Marlis Koop, BGE's Management Board will be complete again from January 2024 and we are looking forward to the coming year with confidence.

Glückauf!
Dr Thomas Lautsch

"A look at our age structure clearly shows that we are facing a generational change."

Retaining employees today and attracting new ones

With 2,434 employees, BGE is now 'up and running' for the task of safely disposing of nuclear waste. We have grown by a good 12.6 per cent in the last three years.

Each of our repository projects is unique in its task, involving considerable complexity. What they have in common is their ambition and long-term nature. The qualifications that we need at our company are as varied as the tasks we need to master.

A look at our age structure clearly shows that we are facing a generational change. We have many seasoned employees on board and just as many young talents who are now joining us. To ensure that the wealth of experience is not lost, knowledge transfer must be guaranteed in a structured manner. Our knowledge management team is already developing and trialling promising concepts in this area.

Iris Graffunder
Chairwoman of the Management Board of BGE

Marlis Koop
Managing Director and Labour Director at BGE

The long-term nature of our projects is an enormous advantage for continuous HR work. We can plan for the long term. However, we must always keep an eye on who and what we need today and tomorrow because the personnel structure must always match the tasks.

That is why we are addressing various topics. We are thinking about expanding our dual study programmes. Will we still be able to fill our training places in the future? Do we need to qualify our employees now for other tasks that still lie in the future – and how can we do this without creating gaps now?

As a company, we are confronted with both a shortage of labour and a shortage of skilled workers. And this quickly leads to the question of what makes an attractive employer. How can we retain employees and attract new ones?

It goes without saying that the salary structure and additional benefits on offer still play a role in attractiveness, and job security is also a factor. But that is no longer enough today. Meaningful tasks, flexible working time models in terms of time and location, good further training opportunities and appreciation – to name just a few things – are becoming increasingly important, especially for young professionals. Equally important are the working atmosphere, promotion opportunities and work structures. And let's not forget management style.

Do all these things exist at BGE? In the portraits in this annual report, we give our colleagues a chance to have their say. They can best explain why BGE offers an attractive working environment. Enjoy reading what they have to say.

See you soon at BGE!
Iris Graffunder and Marlis Koop

CONTENTS

REPORT OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

In 2023, the Supervisory Board was informed of the company's key business transactions through oral and written reports from the Management Board. The Supervisory Board met a total of seven times. In three ordinary meetings, the development of business and important individual transactions were discussed and the transactions submitted for review and approval in accordance with legal and statutory provisions were dealt with. The selection and appointment process for the two vacant management positions was discussed in four special meetings. This process was closely monitored by the Executive Committee of the Supervisory Board. On 9 August 2023, the Supervisory Board appointed Iris Graffunder as Chairwoman of the Management Board and Marlis Koop as Managing Director and Labour Director with effect from 1 January 2024.

The first regular Supervisory Board meeting was held on 13 March 2023 at Asse II mine. Here, the members of the Supervisory Board primarily learnt during tours above and below ground about the challenges of retrieving the waste from the shaft and the subsequent decommissioning of the mine. The Supervisory Board was able to gain an impression of the progress made in preparing retrieval operations.

At the subsequent 19th meeting on 12 June 2023 in Berlin, the Supervisory Board discussed the 2022 annual financial statements after prior consultation in the Audit and Risk Committee and recommended their approval to the Shareholders' Meeting. In addition, a recommendation was made to the Shareholders' Meeting to appoint Ebner Stolz GmbH & Co. KG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft/ Steuerberatungsgesellschaft as the auditor responsible for the audit of the 2023 annual financial statements. The internal control system was defined as a key audit focus for the audit of the 2023 annual financial statements. At this meeting, management focussed its report on delays in the final construction phase of the Konrad repository.

Dr Jan-Niclas Gesenhues
Chairman of the Supervisory Board

Management informed the Supervisory Board that 2027 had become unlikely as the commissioning date and that a delay of two years could probably be expected. The Supervisory Board emphasised its expectation of the earliest possible commissioning of the Konrad repository and instructed the Management Board to identify and make use of further acceleration potential in the construction of the repository.

At the last meeting of the year on 27 November 2023, the members discussed the 2024 business plan with a total volume of around €800 million and recommended that the shareholders' meeting approve the business plan as well as a supplementary business plan for 2023 amounting to around €20 million. Other items discussed at the meeting included changes to BGE's organisational structure. The Supervisory Board recommended that the shareholders' meeting approve the establishment of the Gorleben Project and the Supervisory Board office as the organisational units. The allocation of responsibilities within the Management Board from January 2024 was part of the discussions at the meeting. The Supervisory Board also gave the Management Board the mandate to negotiate the lease of caverns at the Bernburg site. These are to be used to stockpile counter-flooding solutions, which is part of contingency preparedness in the Asse project. In this context, management informed the Supervisory Board in detail about the risks of retrieval and the danger of the Asse mine flooding.

Dr Holle Jakob (Federal Ministry of Finance) resigned from the Supervisory Board at the end of 2023. As per the reporting date, there was a change in the chair of the Supervisory Board. Parliamentary State Secretary Dr Jan-Niclas Gesenhues took office as Chairman of the Supervisory Board on 12 March 2024.

The Supervisory Board would like to express its thanks and appreciation to the Management Board and all BGE employees for their work in 2023.

Peine, 2 July 2024

Dr Jan-Niclas Gesenhues
Chairman of the Supervisory Board

MEMBERS OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

The members of the Supervisory Board of BGE are:

Dirk Alvermann
Foreman
Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung mbH,
Morsleben repository (employee representative)

Christina Egelkraut
Legal assistant to Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung mbH, Asse mine (employee representative)

Dr Markus Fritschi
Former Deputy Chairman of the Management Board of the Swiss National Co-operative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste (*Nagra, Schweizerische nationale Genossenschaft für die Lagerung radioaktiver Abfälle*), Switzerland

Dr Jan-Niclas Gesenhues
Parliamentary State Secretary, Chairman of the Supervisory Board Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Berlin (since 22 February 2024)

Dr Christian Greipl
Head of sub-division
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Bonn

Professor emerita Dr Karin Holm-Müller
Former Professor of Resource and Environmental Economicsat at University of Bonn

Franz-Gerhard Hörnschemeyer
Trade union secretary,
Deputy Chairman of the Supervisory Board,
Industrial Union for Mining, Chemicals and Energy, Hanover (employee representative)

Dr Holle Jakob
Head of sub-division, Federal Ministry of Finance, Berlin (resigned from office on 31 December 2023)

Dr Andreas Kerst
Head of Unit
Federal Ministry of Finance, Berlin
(resigned from office on 12 March 2024)

Sylvia Kotting-Uhl
Former member of the Bundestag
Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, Berlin

Christian Kühn
Former Parliamentary State Secretary and
Chairman of the Supervisory Board
Federal Ministry for the Environment,
Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and
Consumer Protection, Berlin
(resigned from office on 24 January 2024)

Carsten Meyer
Project engineer
Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung mbH,
Morsleben repository (employee representative)

Christina Offermanns
Clerk for repository preparation,
Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung mbH,
Konrad mine (employee representative)

Dr Thomas Schröpfer
Mining engineer
Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung mbH,
Morsleben repository (employee representative)

Dr Romy Strecker
Senior official
Federal Ministry of Finance (since 15 February 2024)

Lilian Tschan
State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Berlin

Marike Vornkahl
Trade union secretary
Industrial Union for Mining, Chemicals and Energy,
Hanover (employee representative)

Nicolaus-Alejandro Weil von der Ahe
Senior official
Federal Ministry of Finance (since 18 April 2024)

Sebastian Zwetkow-Tobey
Employee
Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung mbH, Asse mine
(employee representative)

GUEST ARTICLE

Attracting and retaining employees through trust and communication

Growing shortages in skilled labour and labour in general are putting increasing pressure on employers. Meeting the quantitative and qualitative workforce requirements is becoming a serious challenge as staff shortages or acute bottlenecks threaten to increase even further. The job survey conducted by the Institute for Employment Research for the fourth quarter of 2023 reports 1.73 million unfilled vacancies. Looking further into the future, the 15th coordinated population projection of the federal and federal-state governments from 2022 shows that, assuming a moderate trend in fertility and life expectancy, the labour force potential (= population aged 20 to 66) would fall by between 1.6 million and 4.8 million by 2035, depending on the level of immigration. However, real employment is also significantly influenced by labour force participation, qualifications and working hours. This results in complex interrelationships. Accordingly, a recently published study by the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) points out that while the total volume of economic labour has increased, average working hours per employee have fallen. This difference can be explained by increasing labour force participation and a rising part-time employment rate, primarily among women.

The above-mentioned tense situation is leading to a sometimes hectic discussion about remedying the situation, which is strongly centred on working hours and their organisation. However, we would caution against relying too quickly on supposed 'silver bullets' (such as longer working hours) which could help to solve this challenge with little effort. Two objectives are essential from the perspective of employer organisations and employees:
a. Organisations must be able to perform and develop in a complex environment.
b. Employees are looking for attractive work with adequate conditions at sustainable employers with a good reputation. The question now is how these two objectives can be combined.

From an employee perspective, the attractiveness of tasks and personal development opportunities are two key factors in choosing or deciding to stay with an employer. However, these factors can

Prof Dr Werner Widuckel is Professor of Human Resources Management and Work Organisation at the Friedrich-Alexander Universiät Erlangen-Nuremberg. He was previously Chief Human Resources Officer and Labour Director at Audi AG.

only be effective in terms of attractiveness and loyalty if the quality of social relationships and social support is suitable for establishing a basis of trust with good cooperation. This applies to relationships between managers and employees as well as between colleagues. Against this background, a company can – in the spirit of give and take – easily justify performance expectations by pointing to the economic prerequisites for attractive working conditions and social relationships. Communication is a key element of this mutual bond. Communication helps to explain and harmonise mutual expectations. This creates the basis for making this give and take visible in the first place and avoiding disappointing expectations. Where communication is not guaranteed, no bond can be created. This is all the more important as the dynamics of the organisational environment and the living conditions and changing life phases of employees require the respective expectations and boundaries to be constantly readjusted and made mutually understandable at certain intervals. Work is part of an employee's life context and must hence be taken into account. However, sporadic exchange is not enough. How organisational change is designed is particularly important and this can even mean fundamental transformation. Today, these changes are part of the survival concept of organisations. However, such change processes are also always a test of employees' trust in 'their' organisation. This test can only be successfully passed if employee involvement and participation in these processes is given a high priority in practice. An organisation that restricts itself to demanding loyalty creates a distance between employees and management that is detrimental to the quality of loyalty and social relationships and has a negative impact on motivation.

On the other hand, long-term employee retention must specifically focus on two factors in the context of dynamic change processes: The first factor concerns lifelong learning. Gainful employment is increasingly becoming a continuous learning process that is directly interwoven with work performance. Work is therefore not only aimed at

achieving performance targets, but also at generating knowledge, passing it on and developing it further. Skills, qualifications and expertise are hence increasingly becoming characteristics of employees' working capacity and are associated with the expectation of recognition and the demand for fair recognition of performance. This change in work and its consequences is also associated with an increase in diversity in the social structure of the workforce. Managing diversity is therefore becoming an essential requirement for the organisation of an organisation's ability to win its employees' loyalty. So let me conclude: Performance expectations and loyalty interests of employers can certainly be reconciled with the development expectations and needs of their employees. However, this calls for the targeted design of the relationship between employees and organisations, leading to integration of both sides' expectations and demands. This also requires the investment of sufficient resources. But this design would be doomed to failure if the expected give and take were not observed. In this case, there would be a risk of employees leaving the organisation or of organisations trying to get rid of employees. What constitutes this give and take in detail must be determined specifically in each organisation through communication; unfortunately, there is no patent remedy for this issue. This challenging situation does, however, also offer opportunities for employers to make a positive difference for today and tomorrow's employees, providing the basis for a stable and trusting relationship.

BGE'S EMPLOYEES

2,434
EMPLOYEES

7 SITES

46 FACES

Sylvia Heinze
Warehouse clerk

1

Nadine Schöner
Group leader
Geoscientific site search

Stefan Binge
Project engineer for above-ground construction measures

Torsten Rabe
Gorleben site and project management

Torben Eitner
Miner

2

Jan Leonhard Offermanns
Head of central control room

Anna Gerlach
Lawyer (in-house lawyer)

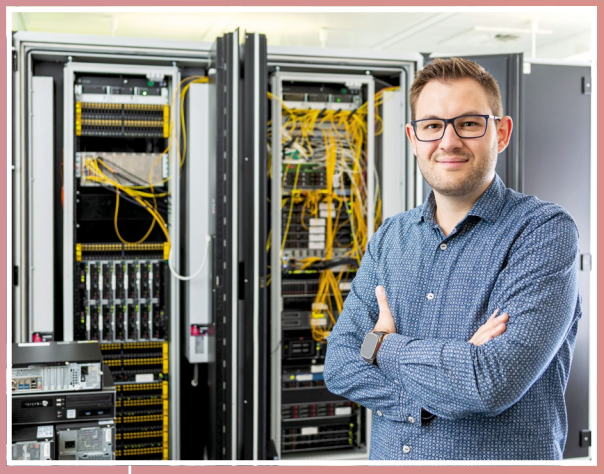
Justin Borchmeier
Industrial mechanic

Eberhard Bähner
Warehouse clerk

Torsten Bolte
Head of operational geology, Konrad

3

Franziska Herklotz
Nuclear waste logistics project manager



4

Niklas Eggers
IT system administrator

Claudia Gäbel
Specialist in geology, employed for underground sampling of salt solutions and solids

Andreas Jürgens
Morsleben warehouse manager

Jens Frederik Lüddecke
Konrad warehouse manager

Carlos Gama
Radiation protection engineer

5

Caroline Fleischer
Head of Gorleben above-ground operations

Jennifer Hippler
Lawyer (in-house lawyer)

Max Kindt
Archive clerk

6 **Dennis Walter**
Health and safety coordinator

Frank Mühlenkamp
Warehouse clerk

Joshua Troppa
Miner in drilling operations

7 **Lydia Kabacinski**
Head of radiation protection, Konrad

8

Patrik Voullieme
Master electrician in facility management

Rüdiger Schmitt
Specialist site manager, technical building equipment

Stefan Blanke
Auditor

9

Monica Cremene
Environmental protection management clerk

Christian Peters
Project engineer, technical building equipment

10

Alexander Weis
Civil engineer, underground construction work

Michael Schümann
Project manager for the Asse counterflooding solution

Hannes Ihde
Captain

Lars Wohlgemuth
Hewer

Mirjam Ebert
Works council member and radiation protection engineer

Volker Paulig
Visitor changing room and equipment manager

Anna-Lena Zimmermann
Visitor guide underground

Christian Buxbaum-Conradi
Geologist

Sandra Treitschke
Mine surveyor

12

Jan-Philipp Brandtner
Fully qualified lawyer specialising in civil law

Patrick Werner
Miner in mine operations

Silvia Lammert
Visitor changing room and equipment manager

David Jeche
Miner

Philipp Albrecht
Auditor

13

Natalja Berg
Clerk for the creation of accessible documents

14

Burkhard Cronauge
Mine surveyor

Tanja Neumann
HR officer

Peter Liebeherr
Central control room operator

BGE'S EMPLOYEES

14 STORIES

1

Nadine Schöner – The team player

Passion and sandstone may an unusual pairing, but to Nadine Schöner, sandstone was a passion and calling in one. During her studies and doctorate in Jena, the 37-year-old geologist focussed on clastic sediments – for example claystone, but above all sandstone and its pore system. After graduating, she started working as a research assistant for specialist geological issues at an oil and gas company in Wietze in 2014. From the very beginning of her career, her mission has always been to allay the public's concerns related to her work, for example, when a borehole was drilled. When the company planned to relocate the laboratory, moving was not an option for her because of her family, and the very long commute made the decision easier: A new job was needed so that she could stay in the region. As there are not that many jobs for geologists, she had BGE and the site search in mind anyway.

Since 2020, she has been working in site selection, focussing on clay rock as a host rock. The interim report on sub-areas published at the end of September of the same year was the first major project she was involved in at BGE. She is now the leader of a team of scientists working on clay and salt rocks in stratiform – i.e., shallow – deposits. Using drilling and other geodata, they then reconstruct how thick and homogeneous the rock formations are – with an indication for this being, for example, whether intermediate layers of other rocks are also found in the analysed formation. This work is combined with that of other teams to assess which site will be safest for the final repository for high-level radioactive waste. She herself has more and more coordinating and moderating tasks within her team. "That's a shame, because I'm really passionate about geology. But what I'm doing now is also super exciting because my team is so great. We are very different characters, but we always balance each other out in the end and then come up with the best ideas and solutions together."

She had no reservations about starting in repository applications. She had heard that BGE was like a government agency, but fortunately this impression was not confirmed. Instead, she experienced a company that attaches great importance to the compatibility of work and family life and offers a great deal of openness and creative freedom for new ideas. And a task that is unparalleled in Germany: "Handling hazardous substances and ensuring safety is an incredibly rewarding task. I am now doing something that is really needed and a truly relevant task for society as a whole. You can't really say no to that, and if I can contribute to this with my expertise, then I'm just happy."

"Handling hazardous substances and ensuring safety is an incredibly fulfilling task that is relevant for society as a whole. You can't really say no to that, and if I can contribute to this with my expertise, then I'm just happy."

2

Jan Leonhard Offermanns – The developer

"It makes me happy to see my colleagues comfortable with their work and in their working environment and achieving goals together."

Even before Jan really started at BGE, he had already set the course for the company. In 2012, he began his master's degree studies in energy and raw materials supply technology in 2012 at Deutsche Gesellschaft zum Bau und Betrieb von Endlagern für Abfallstoffe mbH (DBE), one of BGE's predecessor organisations, and wrote his thesis on mine information technology. He described the IT that is needed and how it can be used to maintain an overview of operating resources and work processes. Much of the content and findings of his work at that time is now being used at the Konrad repository.

Furthermore, Jan's colleagues inextricably linked the central control and safety centre, Jan's place of work, to him. This is where all the information and technical reports required for safe disposal operations come together. From ventilation of the mine workings to power supply and the final disposal process: The operators have a clear picture at all times. In addition to the moss wall to improve air quality and the many screens used to monitor the facility, there is also a cosy corner where the team often spends their breaks together.

It is hardly surprising that Jan, head of the control centre, and his colleagues enjoy working here: Together, they started to plan and design the control centre on a blank sheet of paper. Keeping an eye on occupational health and safety was particularly important to him: The whole team should go home just as healthy as when they arrived. "It makes me happy to see my colleagues comfortable with their work and in their working environment and achieving goals together." However, the development of the control centre is far from complete. New ideas are constantly being added through regular dialogue with the control rooms at other BGE locations. These ideas can range from occupational health and safety to process organisation.

Jan has been the head of the control centre since 2019 and, as a manager, it goes without saying that he feels responsible for his team. Setting the right priorities is particularly important in his field of activity. In addition to all the information that the team is bombarded with, appreciation should not be neglected. This is something that the 38-year-old has come to realise in his working life to date, and an experience he is keen to to pass on.

Jan never stops learning, experiencing new things and developing further. He focuses on improving his leadership skills. In addition to traditional management seminars, this also includes ongoing training as a coach and emergency counsellor, for example: "The whole of life is like a journey and I don't want to stop. The management position fulfils me because I enjoy working with people. Happy colleagues motivate me to come to work every day."

3

Franziska Herklotz – The all-rounder

Fear of contact with final disposal? "No, I never had that," Franziska shakes her head after a moment's thought. This is also due to her choice of university studies, because with mining and specialist civil engineering as her specialisation, it was almost inevitable for her to take this career path. Her first contact with final disposal was a study of sealing concepts, i.e., finding ways for the most durable sealing of drifts.

"I am very lucky to now work in an environment that values the exchange of opinions."

In March 2010, Franziska started working for Deutsche Gesellschaft zum Bau und Betrieb von Endlagern für Abfallstoffe (DBE), one of the predecessor organisations that later became BGE. She worked a lot at the Konrad mine and specifically on geotechnical instrumentation. Her tasks were to plan a geotechnical measurement concept, to monitor the installation work in the drifts and breasts and to analyse the data collected, for instance, on the displacement of the rock due to drifting. She enjoyed it, but "the work organisation didn't convince me at the time. Personal and professional development fell short of my expectations. Immediately after graduating, I lacked the necessary confidence to question processes and hierarchies or to speak out, although this is actually very important to me." This changed when she switched to process monitoring and later to product control. Franziska took on a more communicative role, where her technical background helped her to liaise between colleagues. Above all, however, she experienced a different feedback and communication culture and was encouraged to trust in her skills and experience, to stand up for her point of view and to give more feedback again. "I am very lucky to now work in an environment that values different opinions. Because we can all grow from this. It's highly professional, but also so familiar that I don't just come 'to work', but to my people."

Today, she is head of the nuclear waste logistics project in product control. What exactly does she do there? Simplify a complex and complicated process. After all, packaging and storing radioactive waste requires that a wide variety of documents be prepared and submitted, notices to be issued by BGE, statements to be obtained and submitted. Digitising the entire process makes this work much easier. An extremely lengthy and extensive project, in which many partners have to be brought together and many documents, regulations and laws have to be taken into account. "I'm quite communicative in my role, but at the same time also very solution-orientated. Sometimes maybe a little too impulsive, but fortunately my team gives me feedback," says Franziska with a smile.

4

Niklas Eggers
– A passion for IT

From high up to the stars to the depths of the underground: Having previously demonstrated his expertise at the German Aerospace Center (DLR), Niklas has been working as an IT specialist at BGE since October 2023. He decided to make the change due to the diverse range of tasks, although the topic of final disposal was largely new to him. That has changed. He now proudly wears his UBI jute bag when he goes shopping and talks to friends and acquaintances about BGE's socio-political role.

Born in Hamburg, he is not only skilled in dealing with hardware and software, but is also a passionate table football player. In his current role, he is responsible for administration of the server infrastructure. If a cable is broken or a byte gets lost, Niklas is there to fix it. And if a colleague has accidentally deleted something, he can conjure it up again.

But he is even more passionate when it comes to modernising the IT landscape and developing it further: "I simply enjoy working with modern IT and cool systems so that I can also offer my colleagues a good technical experience," says Niklas. And that is what is needed to solve the challenges of final disposal. From augmented reality and virtual reality systems, which today allow geologists today to go underground from their desks, to self-driving vehicles in mining operations in the near future – IT is a key enabler and is opening up entirely new possibilities.

"In IT, you are never finished and there are always new technologies to discover. That's exactly what I find so appealing. My job has many facets and is constantly evolving," says Niklas happily. That's why a good working day is a day where, after completing all his planned tasks, he still has an hour left to look at new technologies. And if there's no time left, he does this in his spare time – after all, he's an IT enthusiast.

"In IT, you are never finished and there are always new technologies to discover. That's exactly what I find so appealing. My job has many facets and is constantly evolving."

5

Caroline Fleischer – Civil engineer meets mining

The above-ground operations of a mine can only be successfully organised with patience, understanding and, above all, a good dose of expertise. That's precisely what Caroline Fleischer has to offer – profound planning skills, experience as a civil engineer and enthusiasm for the task and the people at the Gorleben site.

With the publication of the 'Interim Report on Sub-Areas', it was clear that the Gorleben site was no longer an option for further consideration as a possible repository for high-level radioactive waste. This means that its operation and hence her job at Gorleben is finite.

A little over two years ago, the above-ground management position was advertised. At that time, the backfilling of the Gorleben exploration mine was already a done deal. The prospect of actively accompanying such a unique task until its end prompted the 42-year-old to send the very first application in her professional life to BGE, because, still a university student, she had already worked at an engineering firm as a bridge planner for 14 years before she joined BGE. "I wasn't there when Gorleben was built, I'm still an absolute newbee at the company. That gives me a certain distance. But I can really understand how difficult it is for the colleagues who built up everything here."

As head of above-ground operations, Caroline is the person authorised under mining law for the surface area of the Gorleben mine. She is responsible for building and road maintenance, the upkeep of company premises and the salt pile, plant security, changing room operations, building cleaning and waste management. She is also responsible for fleet management. All contractors are currently focussing on ensuring that backfilling of the mine can begin in mid-2024. For example, parts of the roads are being renovated, buildings are being put back into operation and minor remodelling work is being carried out. As head of above-ground operations, she is also involved in all construction projects and coordinates the work with external contractors where she obviously draws on her experience as a civil engineer. Many contracts have to be awarded, and together with other specialist departments, she supports and evaluates tenders. Even better, she's also a qualified banker.

Even though the next few months will be stressful, Caroline is well prepared. The 50 kilometres home to her family clear her head. And if that doesn't help: Caroline recently started running again.

"I wasn't there when Gorleben was built,
I'm still an absolute newbee at the company.
That gives me a certain distance.
But I can truly understand how difficult it is
for the colleagues who have built up everything here."

6

Dennis Walter

– The industrial safety officer

"I think it is an important social responsibility to protect citizens and the environment. I'm really very proud to be able to make my small contribution."

When Dennis goes back to his office from the construction site, he knows: Everything's safe!

Because that's what the health and safety coordinator is responsible for. He is indispensable at construction sites where many contractors work parallel. When many people and machines come together on construction sites, this can also lead to many hazards.

Regardless of the construction phase – from planning and site preparation to work on site – Dennis is right in the midst of it, always with the safety of all employees in mind. This can also concern very simple things. For example, if a hedge grows too close to a street lamp, it may be impossible for colleagues to reach the light bulb with a ladder. The result is defective lamps or people taking risks when climbing. Dennis looks after everyone – be it BGE colleagues or partner companies, everyone should be able to go home healthy.

On construction sites where more than one contractor is involved, Dennis also makes visits to check occupational safety. Many irregularities can usually be remedied immediately if, for example, someone forgets to wear a helmet. The rest is recorded and checked again promptly during another inspection.

On his tours, however, Dennis is not faced with bad humour or unwillingness. On the contrary, his work and expertise are greatly appreciated by the employees. "I know how to talk to my colleagues on construction sites. It is important to raise awareness and this can only be achieved at eye level." Being an electrician, he used to work on various construction sites himself and knows where to look: "I know where I didn't comply with safety precautions at the time and how I would have appreciated someone talking to me. This is my compass." It is important to him not to simply shut down the construction site, but to explain the facts in an understandable way and to make it clear that working safely won't slow things down.

In addition to empathy, an overview of the current regulations is of course also necessary. Dennis must therefore regularly familiarise himself with new regulations and have an overview of all contractors. To this end, he broadens his horizon with continuous training and further qualification, because the more he knows, the better he can respond to events on site.

Regular feedback also helps with learning. He regularly exchanges ideas with other project managers, whether from partner companies or at BGE. Seeing the developments makes the 41-year-old particularly proud: "There are sites where things didn't go really well at the beginning. Today, however, employees approach me from the outset and ask for my advice. They know that I don't want to obstruct their work, I just want to ensure safe working conditions."

7

Lydia Kabacinski – Ms Sunshine

"I'm delighted every time I drive up to the facility, see the winding tower winch moving and realise that the facility is breathing."

Always in a good mood, Lydia greets her colleagues with a beaming smile and a friendly 'Glückauf'. To them, this special miner's salute is not only a cultural gesture, but also an expression of her appreciation for the tradition embraced at the Konrad mine. She feels very much at home there and is proud to be involved in the construction of the first German repository approved under nuclear law for low and intermediate-level radioactive waste.

Curiosity and her quest for professional development brought her to BGE in 2022. Since then, she has taken on a dual role as manager and person responsible under nuclear law for radiation protection at the facility. This requires both leadership qualities and technical expertise. These are two skills which this young employee brings with her. As a radiation protection engineer, she already worked at the Brokdorf nuclear power plant, which was active at the time, helped to dismantle the Stade nuclear power plant and took on a management position at the age of 21. Now the 29-year-old is gradually building up a team of 40 to prepare for safe storage at the mine.

All her stations have one thing in common: The safety of employees, the environment and people always takes centre stage. She is aware that there is often a considerable amount of fear regarding alleged contamination in neighbouring regions. Lydia therefore considers education about radiation protection measures and, in general, the transfer of knowledge about radioactive radiation to be of fundamental importance. Better information is the only way to allay concerns among the population in the long term. A great deal of communication work is also needed vis-à-vis the workforce in order to explain in a comprehensible manner the diverse and strict protective measures required for the start of storage operations and to anchor these measures in the colleagues' minds.

That's what she and her team are working on every day. Her enthusiasm for her work, her team and the task of final disposal is infectious. "I'm delighted every time I drive up to the facility, see the winding tower winch moving and realise that the facility is breathing," says Lydia Kabacinski with a smile.

8

Patrik Voullieme – The technician

Safety is a top priority at BGE. This applies not only to the final disposal of radioactive waste, but also to the work itself. Various safety systems such as a fire alarm system are used to ensure safety at several administrative sites. Maintaining and monitoring these systems can save lives in an emergency.

This is exactly where Patrik comes into play. He is technically adept and has many years of experience as an electronics engineer for industrial engineering. He has been part of BGE since 2019 and works at the Peine headquarters. His colleagues like him because he creates a good atmosphere with his honest and cheerful manner. To him, the meaningful task was the decisive factor for taking on the job. It motivates him to make a contribution to the intergenerational task of final disposal. And Patrik wants to make things move. He scrutinises existing processes and discusses solutions. In this context, he found an efficient solution for modernising the safety lighting to make maintenance easier. In his opinion, however, change is always teamwork. To him, it is important to consider different perspectives – those of both seasoned and new colleagues – in order to achieve the best result.

Parallel to his work, he successfully completed a distance learning programme to become an IHK-certified master electrician. His innovative spirit and commitment are seen and appreciated. He is currently assuming additional responsibility as acting group leader. This task gives him a lot of pleasure and he can imagine taking the lead completely in the future. Because he can see BGE undergoing change and wants to help shape it. "We are progressive in many aspects and at the same time there are processes and procedures that need to be updated. I want to make my contribution and make a difference," says Voullieme.

"We are progressive in many aspects and at the same time there are processes and procedures that need to be updated. I want to make my contribution and make a difference."

Monica Cremene – The determined one

"You can only handle the many diffefrent tasks if you are communicative within the company and in dealings with authorities."

Monica Cremene, an environmental protection engineer, may be a lone fighter, but she is also a team player. And that's exactly what's needed in her job. As the environmental protection officer at the Morsleben repository, she is responsible for water protection, waste management and much more. There are plenty of laws and regulations in environmental law and Monica ensures that they are applied at the sites.

Commissioning and accompanying waste water sampling, keeping an eye on water law authorisations, drawing up special operating plans and technical documents – her tasks are varied and require extensive specialist knowledge.

Monica is involved in many projects internally. Almost every project is a construction project that regularly generates waste, and that's where she comes into play. She is convinced: "What you give, you get back. Life is like a boomerang." This motto helps her to do her job well.

The mother of a son works alone – and with everyone! The reason: She always depends on the support of colleagues and, of course, service providers, because environmental protection is teamwork. "You can only handle the many different tasks if you are communicative within the company and in dealings with authorities."

The reason she's so successful in her job is probably because of the time she spent working in different countries with different cultures where she learnt one thing for certain: Integration works through language. She was born in Romania and later lived in Hungary: "If you don't speak the language, you end up living in your own world and never really arriving." Therefore, when she arrived in Germany in 2014, it was particularly important for her to learn the language first. She attended several courses at an adult education centre and in 2021 became a German citizen.

She demands a lot from herself and wants to make progress every day. And so it's hardly surprising that a good day at work is a day when she was able to tick off a lot of tasks.

10

Alexander Weis – The construction site conductor

His career aspirations were already clear from an early age: Alexander Weis always wanted to become a civil engineer. But instead of building standard houses, he focussed on tasks with that 'certain something'. He has achieved this goal today. The 38-year-old plans and coordinates underground construction work at the Asse mine. But that's not all.

It's no coincidence that one day he would work for a project that deals with radioactive waste. When he was six years old, his family moved from Aachen to Helmstedt. His father had accepted a job at the Morsleben repository for radioactive waste. So he came to realise early on that the safe disposal of nuclear waste is a special and important task in our society. During his university studies, he was already attracted to specialised civil engineering in Switzerland. After graduating, he joined Gesellschaft für Nuklear Service (GNS) where he was involved in planning the infrastructure for the Konrad repository. After another job at Kerntechnische Entsorgung Karlsruhe GmbH (KTE), he joined the contingency planning team at the Asse mine in 2015.

Alexander now plans the entire spectrum of all underground contingency and construction measures at Asse. This includes drilling, concreting and rehabilitation work, as well as the installation of shuttering walls. As a precondition for working in a mine, upcoming measures must be announced early on, so that colleagues can obtain the necessary authorisations. These procedures are complex and often take several months. Like a conductor, he orchestrates many different contractors for the mine. Together with a colleague, he not only keeps an eye on imminent work, but also on things that are sometimes several years in the future. Everything Alexander Weis is planning is aimed at protecting and stabilising the mine, where low and intermediate-level radioactive waste was stored until 1978.

A few years ago, in addition to his actual job, Alexander was also the site manager for above-ground operations for the Remlingen 10 and 11 exploratory boreholes that served to explore the geological structure of the cap rock. "It was super exciting, enormously strenuous, but also absolutely very informative for me personally," says Alexander about his special task. "I was very motivated by the trust placed in me when I was assigned these tasks. Every day I am aware of the great responsibility we have here at Asse. Solving problems is simply my thing, both privately as a firefighter and in my job."

"Exploring the cap rock was super exciting and extremely strenuous, but also absolutely informative for me personally."

11

Mirjam Ebert – The lady with the many hats

"I have quite a number of functions and therefore have to change roles frequently. I often tell people that first I need to change my hat."

Mirjam Ebert is actually a radiation protection engineer and works in product control at Salzgitter. Her path there was anything but straightforward. After almost completing a degree in geology and an excursion into teaching, she realised that she was not interested in a traditional university career. Further studies without an income were no longer an option, so she followed her interest in medicine and began training as a medical radiology assistant, only to follow a teacher's recommendation to start and complete a dual study programme – safety with a focus on radiation protection. Her actual dream job, practical radiation protection in a nuclear power plant, did not materialise at first, but her knowledge from her geology studies led the now 43-year-old to work at the Asse mine in 2011. "I was a bit sad about it at first. But then I came to realise that there is almost nothing more exciting than final storage, and I can't really imagine doing anything else."

Well, at least in theory. Mirjam now spends the majority of her working time standing up for other colleagues as a works councillor on various committees. "I have quite a number of functions and therefore have to change roles frequently. I often tell people that first I need to change my hat." Her career in interest representation is almost stereotypical: class speaker, school speaker, active in the student council and study commission, now chairwoman of the Salzgitter works council, general works council and collective bargaining commission. When asked why, she ponders for a moment, then gushes with enthusiasm: "You know, representing my colleagues just feels natural to me. I find it hard to accept injustice and I want to help, especially when some general conditions lead to unfair treatment. When I can then solve problems, it just feels great."

Colleagues from almost all areas are represented at BGE's Salzgitter site. As a result, there is a thematic diversity that can only be found at headquarters in Peine. Of course, this sometimes makes her work that bit more difficult because she has to think her way into many different perspectives. "But that's exactly what makes it exciting for me because I have to shed the blinkers of my technical field and gain a little bit of insight in all areas."

It's no coincidence that Mirjam chose blinkers as a metaphor. She spends most of her free time with her horses. However, there is one thing she regrets about moving her centre of life from Baden-Württemberg to Lower Saxony: "In the thirteen years I've been here, I haven't managed to set up a regular skat group. But – let's see how many people will contact me now," she says with a laugh.

12

Jan-Philipp Brandtner – The counsellor

"There are always new challenges and even I can still learn more about many topics. The professional exchange with my colleagues in the legal field is very valuable to me."

Since January 2020, Jan-Philipp has been a permanent member of the legal department specialising in civil law. He already got to know the organisation in 2017 as part of a three-month internship during his law studies, which at the time was still operating under the name 'Deutsche Gesellschaft zum Bau und Betrieb von Endlagern für Abfallstoffe mbH' (DBE). "During my internship, I already gained an interesting insight into the areas covered by BGE and in particular the topic of final disposal. It is important to me to pursue a meaningful activity and it motivates me to play my part in solving this socio-political problem," says Jan-Philipp.

The legal department supports all areas of the company as well as BGE Technology GmbH, a subsidiary of BGE. His main task in the civil law department is to advise colleagues on legal issues. "I often come into play when a legal assessment of complicated issues and disputes with suppliers becomes necessary." The work brings with it a great deal of responsibility, as the construction projects often involve large sums of money or time-critical issues, for example.

Commitment is particularly important to the 34-year-old. He delves into topics very conscientiously and always tries to provide a reliable assessment. His colleagues appreciate this and rely on his expertise. "I like the trusted collaboration with colleagues from the various departments, as they often assure me that my support is valued." Due to the company's versatility with several large-scale projects, he is constantly faced with different issues, ranging from construction and architectural law to defects or warranty claims and the drafting of contracts. Even more exotic topics such as hunting law end up on his desk. "There are always new challenges and even I can still learn more about many topics. The professional exchange with my colleagues in the legal field is very valuable to me."

And when he's not at work in Peine, the Hanover native lives in Hildesheim, he is a Werder Bremen fan and usually watches his favourite team's matches on TV, but also likes to watch them away from home in the Rhine-Main region, as he shares this passion with a cousin who lives near Bonn.

13

Natalja Berg – The document tamer

Originally from the South Urals region of Russia, Natalya experienced the effects of the Chernobyl disaster as a child. Many people from the restricted zone resettled to their home region. This experience is what first sparked her interest in nuclear energy and environmental protection.

After working for many years as a documentalist at a pharmaceutical company in Hanover, she decided to reinvent herself halfway through her career. She had already had her eye on BGE as an employer since moving to Peine and was surprised that such a large company was based there. A visit to the Konrad mine further fuelled her enthusiasm for the topic of final storage and she applied for a job in the 'press office and online publishing' department, which was rather uncharted territory for her. Public relations work is very important for BGE, as the final disposal of nuclear waste often triggers concerns and fears among the population in neighbouring regions.

Natalja is mainly responsible for the topic of accessibility. This meant that she first had to acquire the necessary technical expertise. It was easy for her because she was committed to lifelong learning and open to new challenges. These are qualities that are also essential for the success of final disposal. For the past two years, she has been responsible for preparing and publishing accessible documents. She ensures that people with visual impairments can take part in communication. It is particularly important to promote dialogue with the public when it comes to the emotive issues surrounding final storage. "I think it is an important social responsibility to protect people and the environment and to enable everyone to take part in the process. I'm really very proud to make my small contribution."

Natalja is always in a good mood and meets colleagues at Peine headquarters with a cheerful smile. She also has a green thumb. In summer, her favourite place to spend time is in her garden. She grows a wide variety of tomatoes there. For Natalia, it is "the best plant ever." Her colleagues are also delighted when she shares a selection of her harvest with them.

"I think it is an important social responsibility to protect people and the environment and to enable everyone to take part in the process. I'm really very proud to make my small contribution."

14

Burkhard Cronauge
– Sometimes low down, sometimes high up

"Final storage is a highly emotive topic. People's fears need to be taken seriously – and the best way to do this is through personal dialogue. We are doing everything we can to dispose of radioactive waste safely."

Burkhard knows where to go and sometimes stands in the way for precisely this reason. Why? He works as a surveyor at the Mors mine – mainly underground. He can often only do his job if others make room for him.

He is a mining surveyor by trade – specialised training in the surveying industry that qualifies him to work in mines. He must regularly map the current status of the workings. He also monitors rock movements, as the stability of the mine is important. Marking out drifts, i.e., the underground paths, and specifying directions are also part of his job – this information is needed so that the miners know in which direction to work. He is particularly fascinated by the variety of work tasks.

He has been involved in final storage for many years. Coming from the hard coal industry, he decided in favour of the Gorleben site. What particularly appealed to him at the time was the challenge of completely rebuilding a mine.

He took one thing in particular from this time: "Final storage is a highly emotive topic. I learnt that you have to take people's fears seriously. The best way to do this is through personal dialogue. We are doing everything we can to dispose of radioactive waste safely." We have to get the message across. It is also important for future communication about the site search."

After a stint in the surveying department at the Peine headquarters, he finally arrived at the local Morsleben mine surveying department. This is his favourite place, the old mine, because there is still a lot to do and he spends a lot of time there. The maps of the old mine often no longer reflect the current situation, so Burkhard has to stand in the way from time to time. This requires quick consultations with colleagues. It is also important to him to learn from others. He greatly appreciates the professional dialogue with his colleagues.

Burkhard doesn't always look at the world from below – occasionally also from above. The 58-year-old is an enthusiastic motorised pilot. But not only that: As a flight instructor, he lays the foundations for the future cockpit career of new generations of pilots. Be it privately or with an airline, what fascinates him about flying? Burkhard enthuses: "I take off and the rest of the earth stays below me."

To him, this is a very special form of freedom. You hover above things and get some distance from the issues that preoccupy you."

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT REPORT

Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung mbH (BGE), Peine

BALANCE SHEET AS PER 31 DECEMBER 2023

Assets

		31 Dec. 2023	31 Dec. 2022
		€1,000	€1,000
A.	**Fixed assets**		
	I. Property, plant and equipment		
	Land, rights equivalent to land and buildings, including buildings on third-party land	3,909	3,977
		3,909	3,977
	II. Financial assets		
	Shares in affiliated companies	690	690
		690	690
		4,599	**4,667**
B.	**Current assets**		
	I. Inventories	11,446	15,171
		11,446	15,171
	II. Receivables and other assets		
	1. Trade receivables	223	176
	2. Receivables from the shareholder	155,812	124,698
	3. Receivables from affiliated companies	147	161
	4. Other assets	12,514	12,738
		168,696	137,773
	III. Bank balances	448	161
		180,590	**153,105**
C.	**Prepaid expenses**	**1,141**	**128**
		186,330	**157,900**
Trust assets		**1,137**	**3,373**

Liabilities

		31 Dec. 2023	31 Dec. 2022
		€1,000	€1,000
A.	**Equity**		
	I. Subscribed capital	2,825	2,825
	II. Capital reserve	37	37
	III. Retained earnings	1,942	1,942
	IV. Net income for the year	171	0
		4,975	**4,804**
B.	**Provisions**		
	1. Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	15,423	16,836
	2. Other provisions	70,734	67,435
		86,157	**84,271**
C.	**Liabilities**		
	1. Accounts payable	65,721	46,122
	2. Liabilities to the shareholder	3,550	3,768
	3. Due to affiliated companies	1,439	908
	4. Other liabilities	24,305	18,027
		95,015	**68,825**
D.	**Prepaid expenses**	**183**	**0**
		186,330	**157,900**
	Fiduciary obligations	**1,137**	**3,373**

INCOME STATEMENT

for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
		€1,000	€1,000
1.	Sales revenues	641,507	540,900
2.	Other operating income	3,538	11,448
		645,045	552,348
3.	Material costs		
	a) Expenditure on raw materials, consumables and supplies and on purchased goods	49,873	38,206
	b) Expenditure on services purchased	337,483	276,610
		387,356	314,816
4.	Personnel costs		
	a) Wages and salaries	183,935	168,732
	b) Social security contributions and expenses for pensions and other benefits	43,917	41,302
		227,852	210,034
5.	Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	68	68
6.	Other operating expenses	29,873	26,878
		645,149	551,796
7.	Income from holdings	171	0
8.	Other interest and similar income	3	0
9.	Interest and other expenses	439	480
10.	Taxes on income and revenue	-610	-3
11.	**Earnings after taxes**	**241**	**75**
12.	Other taxes	70	75
13.	**Net income for the year**	**171**	**0**

NOTES FOR THE 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

General Remarks

The annual financial statements of Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung mbH (BGE) for the financial year from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 were prepared on the basis of the accounting provisions of the German Commercial Code (HGB, *Handelsgesetzbuch*). In addition to these regulations, the provisions of the Act on Limited Liability Companies (GmbHG, *Gesetz betreffend die Gesellschaften mit beschränkter Haftung*) and the articles of association had to be observed. According to the size categories specified in section 267 HGB, BGE is a large share capital company.

The income statement is prepared using the nature of expense method in accordance with section 275 (2) HGB.

BGE is entered in the commercial register of Hildesheim Local Court (*Amtsgericht Hildesheim*) under HRB 204918. The sole shareholder is the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV). The company has its registered office in Peine.

Information on accounting and valuation methods

In principle, the company does not have its own property, plant and equipment to be capitalised because BGE transfers ownership or expectant rights to movable assets procured for operation purposes and financed by the BMUV to the BMUV at the time BGE itself acquires such rights.

The property, plant and equipment recognised relates to the recognition of the administrative building (including land) in Peine acquired in 2021. Financing was primarily provided from own funds of the predecessor company Deutsche Gesellschaft zum Bau und Betrieb von Endlagern für Abfallstoffe mbH (DBE). The property is recognised at cost under fixed assets and was offset against the tenant loan granted to PALEA Grundstücks-Verwaltungsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG in the same amount. Fixed assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful life (administration building over 33 years, outdoor facilities over 10 years).

Other property, plant and equipment in conjunction with the Peine property was also recognised at acquisition cost less investment grants, so that the respective asset is recognised at a carrying amount of zero. Accordingly, no depreciation is recognised.

The shares in affiliated companies recognised in financial assets are recognised at acquisition cost. Loans were recognised at nominal value.

Payments on account are recognised at nominal value.

Inventories, receivables and other assets are recognised at nominal value. Impairments are recognised as necessary.

Cash and cash equivalents are recognised at their nominal amount.

Prepaid expenses relate to expenses prior to the balance sheet date that represent expenses for a certain period after this date.

Subscribed capital is recognised at nominal value.

Provisions are recognised at the settlement amount required according to prudent business judgement.

With the exception of provisions for pensions, provisions with a remaining term of more than one year are discounted, corresponding to their remaining term, at the average market interest rate of the past seven years.

The provisions for pensions are recognised on the basis of actuarial calculations using the projected unit credit method, taking into account the 2018 G mortality reference tables by Prof Dr Klaus Heubeck, Cologne. The pension obligations recognised as liabilities are based exclusively on individual commitments in accordance with the benefit regulations and the contribution-based pension scheme of Bochumer Verband. Provisions for pensions are recognised using the average market interest rate of the past ten years published by Deutsche Bundesbank (section 253 (2) HGB). Assuming a remaining term of 15 years, this corresponds to 1.83% (previous year: 1.78%). The salary trend remained unchanged at 2.75% and the pension trend remained unchanged at 2.0% or 1.0% for awards with guaranteed adjustment. Age and gender-dependent probabilities are applied to the expected employee development (churn).

The difference resulting from the different recognition of pension provisions at the seven-year and ten-year discount rate (€134,000) is not subject to a distribution restriction in accordance with section 253 (6) second sentence HGB due to sufficient free reserves.

Furthermore, provisions are recognised for contingent liabilities from pension entitlements. Provisions are generally discounted in accordance with their term (section 253 (2) HGB). Since the remaining term is less than one year, the provisions were not discounted.

Anniversary provisions within other provisions are also recognised on the basis of actuarial calculations using the projected unit credit method, taking into account the 2018 G mortality reference tables by Prof Dr Klaus Heubeck, Cologne. The current actuarial interest rate is 1.75% (previous year: 1.44%).

The provisions for death benefit obligations are also recognised on the basis of actuarial calculations using the projected unit credit method, taking into account the 2018 G mortality reference tables by Prof Dr Klaus Heubeck, Cologne. The current actuarial interest rate is 1.75% (previous year: 1.44%).

Other provisions include amounts for services rendered by contractors that have not yet been paid out, fees for the ongoing application procedure for decommissioning the Morsleben repository for radioactive waste and for decommissioning the Asse II mine. The remaining provisions (personnel obligations, sales tax risks and annual financial statement costs) take into account all recognisable risks and uncertain obligations.

Liabilities are recognised at the settlement amount.

Deferred tax assets were not recognised. The recognition of deferred taxes is based on a tax rate of 29.3% (15.82% for corporation tax, including solidarity surcharge and 13.48% for trade tax). Differences between commercial and tax law exist in particular in the provisions for pensions, long-service awards and death benefits as well as costs for the process of decommissioning the Morsleben repository for radioactive waste and the Asse II mine.

In the current reporting year, the procedure of forming provisions for outstanding incoming invoices was changed. In previous years, provisions were reversed in full as per the balance sheet date and additions to provisions were recognised as expenses. From the current reporting year onwards, provisions for outstanding incoming invoices are now also updated in line with actual requirements, i.e., a distinction is made between utilisation, reversal and unchanged continued existence of a provision.

With the exception of provisions for outstanding invoices, the accounting and recognition methods have not changed compared to the previous year and have been consistently applied.

Information on the balance sheet

Fixed assets primarily include property, plant and equipment as well as shares in the subsidiary BGE Technology GmbH (BGE TEC). The statement of changes provides information on developments in the reporting year.

Receivables from the shareholder (€155,812,000; previous year: €124,698,000) result from accounting of services provided by BGE. Receivables from affiliated companies (€147,000; previous year: €161,000) relate exclusively to BGE TEC and result from services invoiced under the agency and service agreement. As in the previous year, all receivables, with the exception of receivables relating to non-current provisions (€25,795,000; previous year: €28,033,000) and other assets, have a remaining term of up to one year.

Other assets (€12,514,000; previous year: €12,738,000) relate, among other things, to claims from recharges to applicants as part of product control and tax refund claims.

Cash and cash equivalents (€448,000; previous year: €161,000) consist of short-term bank balances.

The capital reserve of €37,000 is made up of capital shares of the predecessor companies DBE and Asse-GmbH that were not contributed to increase subscribed capital.

BGE exercised the option under Art. 67 (1) first sentence of the Introductory Act to the German Commercial Code (EGHGB, *Einführungsgesetz zum Handelsgesetzbuch)* and, since the introduction of the German Accounting Law Modernisation Act (BilMoG, *Bilanzrechtsmodernisierungsgesetz*) as of 1 January 2010, has been spreading conversion expenses for provisions for pensions on a straight-line basis over a maximum period of 15 years. The annual amount of €214,000 is included in other operating expenses. As per the balance sheet date, underfunding of pension provisions therefore totalled €216,000.

Other provisions include the following items:

Other provisions	2023	2022
	€1,000	€1,000
Provisions for outstanding invoices	48,389	43,249
Provisions for personnel obligations	7,853	8,472
Provision for costs for the process of decommissioning the Morsleben repository for radioactive waste	5,614	6,413
Sales tax risks	5,538	5,803
Provision for costs for the process of decommissioning the Asse II mine	3,282	3,418
Year-end closing costs	58	80
Total	**70,734**	**67,435**

The provision for year-end closing costs for 2023 were recognised at €58,000. The difference of €22,000 results from final invoices for services for the 2021 and 2022 financial years.

Personnel-related provisions mainly include obligations from holiday and time credits.

Liabilities to affiliated companies result in full from the service relationships with BGE TEC. Liabilities to the shareholder result primarily from the product control accounts settled in the name and for the account of the BMUV.

Other liabilities totalling €24,305,000 (previous year: €18,027,000) essentially include obligations from sales and wage taxes still to be paid (€24,161,000; previous year: €18,006,000) for the months of November and December as well as other payment obligations to personnel (€123,000; previous year: €26,000).

As in the previous year, all liabilities have a remaining term of up to one year.

There is no security in the form of liens or similar rights.

Deferred income relates to sponsorship grants already received for 2024 for the Clay Conference taking place in 2024.

The amount of €1,137,000 recognised in the balance sheet relates to security deposits held in trust for obligations under the Lower Saxony Nature Conservation Act (NNatSchG, *Niedersächsisches Naturschutzgesetz*) for compensation and replacement measures in the Gorleben area. The utilisation of €2,236,000 is attributable to a compensation payment to offset a compensation deficit for unfeasible measures to purchase land. The trust assets are matched by trust liabilities in the same amount.

Information on the income statement

Sales revenues are broken down by area of activity as follows:

	31 Dec. 2023	31 Dec. 2022
	€1,000	€1,000
Konrad	337,043	286,956
Asse	152,212	127,717
Morsleben	75,816	61,873
Site selection	42,526	34,290
Gorleben	17,426	12,779
Product control	16,050	16,888
Other sales revenues	434	397
Total	**641,507**	**540,900**

Other sales revenues include services for the subsidiary BGE TEC (€346,000; previous year: €324,000) and income from canteen operations (€88,000; previous year: €73,000). All sales revenues were generated in Germany.

Other operating income (€3,538,000; previous year: €11,448,000) includes income relating to other periods (€3,065,000; previous year: €10,981,000). This includes provisions no longer required for outstanding invoices from contractors (€2,649,000; previous year: €10,932,000), from an unjustified claim by a former contractor (€172,000), insurance compensation and damages (€78,000), reimbursements from the employers' liability insurance association for the raw materials and chemical industry (*Berufsgenossenschaft Rohstoffe und chemische Industrie*) (€69,000; previous year: €0) and other reimbursements from previous years (€97,000).

Cost of materials includes the cost of raw materials and supplies (€49,873,000; previous year: €38,206,000) and expenditure on services purchased (€337,483,000; previous year: €276,610,000).

Expenditure on services purchased mainly comprises expenditure for provisions for outstanding invoices, contracts for work and services, employee leasing, security services, maintenance measures and energy costs.

Personnel expenses include pension expenses totalling €251,000 (previous year: €853,000). The expenses are influenced by the annual actuarial calculation and adjustment of pension obligations.

Depreciation and amortisation (€68,000; previous year: €68,000) relates to the acquisition of the administration building with outdoor facilities in the company's own name in 2021.

Other operating expenses (€29,873,000; previous year: €26,878,000) mainly include general administrative costs, including rental expenses, expert and external support services, ancillary personnel costs and fees in conjunction with nuclear regulatory supervision. This item also includes the pro-rata conversion expense from the introduction of the German Accounting Law Modernisation Act with regard to the underfunding of pension provisions as per 1 January 2010 in the amount of €214,000 per year.

Interest expenses of €439,000 (previous year: €480,000) primarily relate to expenses from the compounding of provisions (€429,000; previous year: €479,000).

Income taxes totalling € 610,000 are attributable to refunds from the previous year's assessments. There are no income taxes for the 2023 financial year due to the lower taxable result and the tax loss carried forward.

Contingent liabilities and other financial obligations

The company conducts its business operations in Peine. The property was acquired in its own name in 2021. In order to achieve its objectives, the company rented additional building parts and storage space and has obligations totalling €7,569,000.

Financial obligations from other existing rental, hiring or leasing agreements totalled €1,752,000 for the agreed terms on the balance sheet date. The existing contracts result in financial obligations totalling €9,321,000.

To secure existing and future receivables of Volksbank BRAWO eG from BGE TEC, a guarantee in the amount of €750,000 is in place for individual receivables. Utilisation is not expected since BGE TEC has sufficient liquidity.

Other information

Bodies

Management Board

The company was managed by the following managing directors in 2023:

Stefan Studt, Rickert,
Chairman of the Management Board
until 31 August 2023

Steffen Kanitz, Dortmund,
Deputy Chairman of the Management Board
until 31 May 2023

Dr Thomas Lautsch, Peine,
Technical Managing Director,
from 1 September 2023 sole Managing Director

The following Managing Directors were appointed as of 1 January 2024:

Iris Graffunder, Stutensee,
Chairwoman of the Management Board

Marlis Koop, Hildesheim,
Managing Director and Labour Director

At its meeting on 29 November 2022, the Supervisory Board resolved to fill the position of a member of the Management Board with a woman in 2023 in accordance with the statutory requirements (section 77a GmbHG) and to appoint at least one female Labour Director in accordance with the German Co-Determination Act (MitbestG, *Gesetz über die Mitbestimmung der Arbeitnehmer*). It was not possible to fill this vacancy in 2023. In the course of replacing the two departing Managing Directors, both vacant positions were filled with female Managing Directors from 1 January 2024.

Remuneration of the Management Board in the 2023 reporting year comprises fixed salary payments including fringe benefits. No performance-related remuneration components are paid.

Managing Director	Basic remuneration	Ancillary payments	Other remuneration	Total remuneration pursuant to sec. 285 (4) HGB	Additions to provisions for pension plans pursuant to sec. 249 HGB
	€1,000	€1,000	€1,000	€1,000	€1,000
Stefan Studt	197	6	-	203	89
Steffen Kanitz	115	7	-	122	-222
Dr Thomas Lautsch	275	5	-	280	35
Total amount	**587**	**18**	**-**	**605**	**-98**

Provisions totalling €6,790,000 (excluding Mr Studt and Mr Kanitz) have been recognised for pension obligations to former members of the management of a merged legal entity, whose current remuneration amounted to €594,000.

Supervisory Board

BGE has been subject to the German Co-determination Act (MitbestG) since 2021. Among other things, this act stipulates equal representation on the Supervisory Board. In 2023, eight employee representatives elected in accordance with the provisions of the German Co-determination Act and eight shareholder representatives appointed by the shareholder were members of the Supervisory Board:

In 2023, the Supervisory Board comprised the members listed below:

- **Dirk Alvermann,**
  Employee Representative of BGE
- **Christina Egelkraut,**
  Employee Representative of BGE
- **Dr Markus Fritschi,** former Deputy
  Chairman of the Management Board of Nationale Genossenschaft für die Lagerung radioaktiver Abfälle (Nagra)
- **Dr Christian Greipl,**
  Head of Division at the BMUV
- **Professor emerita Dr Karin Holm-Müller,**
  Former Professor of Resource and Environmental Economicsat at University of Bonn
- **Franz-Gerhard Hörnschemeyer,**
  Trade Union Secretary of IG BCE,
  (Deputy Chairman)
- **Dr Holle Jakob,**
  Head of Division at the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) (until 31 December 2023)
- **Dr Andreas Kerst,**
  Head of Unit at the BMF
- **Sylvia Kotting-Uhl,**
  Former Member of the Bundestag
- **Christian Kühn,**
  Parliamentary State Secretary at the BMUV
  (Chairman)
- **Carsten Meyer,**
  Employee Representative of BGE
- **Christina Offermanns,**
  Employee Representative of BGE
- **Dr Thomas Schröpfer,**
  Employee Representative of BGE
- **Lilian Tschan,**
  State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS)
- **Marike Vornkahl,**
  Trade Union Representative of IG BCE
- **Sebastian Zwetkow-Tobey,**
  Employee Representative of BGE

Contrary to section 6.2.2 of the German Public Corporate Governance Code (PCGC), no age limit was set for serving as a member of the Supervisory Board of BGE in order to enable the company and the Board to benefit from additional specific expertise and experience.

The Management Board reports to the Supervisory Board in accordance with section 90 of the German Stock Corporation Act (AktG, *Aktiengesetz*). In addition, BGE's articles of association provide that transactions of fundamental importance are subject to approval by the Supervisory Board. These are, in particular, decisions and measures that could lead to a significant change in business activities within the scope of the articles of association or to a fundamental change in the company's net assets, financial position or results of operations or the risk structure.

By way of a resolution of the shareholder meeting on 23 August 2017, the attendance fee for Supervisory Board members who are neither members of the German Bundestag nor members of the Federal Government, nor in a service or employment relationship with the Federal Republic of Germany, was set at €4,000.00 per year. By way of a superseding resolution of the shareholder meeting on 8 September 2023, each member of the Supervisory Board who is not also a member of the Federal Government or a Parliamentary State Secretary was granted remuneration of €4,000.00 per year for their work on the Supervisory Board with retroactive effect from 1 June 2023.

The following Supervisory Board members received the following attendance fees for 2023:

- Dirk Alvermann €4,000.00
- Christina Egelkraut €4,000.00
- Dr Markus Fritschi €4,000.00
- Prof emerita Dr Karin Holm-Müller €4,000.00
- Franz-Gerhard Hörnschemeyer €4,000.00
- Sylvia Kotting-Uhl €4,000.00
- Carsten Meyer €4,000.00
- Christina Offermanns €4,000.00
- Dr Thomas Schröpfer €4,000.00
- Marike Vornkahl €4,000.00
- Sebastian Zwetkow-Tobey €4,000.00
- Dr Christian Greipl €2,333.33
- Dr Andreas Kerst €2,333.33

For 2023, these members of the Supervisory Board were paid attendance fees totalling €49,000.

The Executive Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee were established in May 2022 in addition to the existing Mediation Committee. The committees have an equal number of shareholder and employee representatives. The task of the committees is to prepare decisions for the plenary session which is responsible for the final resolution.

Public Corporate Governance Code

In June 2023, the company issued the declaration of compliance with the German Federal Government's Public Corporate Governance Code (PCGK) for 2022 and published it on the company's website. The declaration of conformity for 2023 is to be published in June 2024.

German Sustainability Code

In October 2023, BGE published the 2022 Sustainability Report that was prepared in 2023. The 2023 Sustainability Report is to be published during the course of 2024. These reports replace the non–financial statement pursuant to section 289 et seqq. HGB.

Auditor's fee for the financial statements

The total fee charged by the auditor for the financial year is presented in BGE's consolidated financial statements.

Number of employees

In accordance with section 267 (5) HGB, the company employed an annual average of 2,128 own employees.

Sites	Annual average number of employees	of whom female
Peine/Berlin	736	306
Konrad	461	42
Morsleben	173	27
Gorleben	43	3
Salzgitter	127	67
Wolfenbüttel/Remlingen (Asse)	588	115
Total employees	**2,128**	**560**

Shareholding

The shareholding relates to the 100% interest in BGE TEC, Peine.

BGE TEC generated net profit of €67,000 in 2023.

BGE TEC's equity totalled €2,680,000 as per 31 December 2023.

Peine, 28 March 2024

Iris Graffunder
Chairwoman of the Management Board

Marlis Koop
Managing Director and Labour Director

Dr Thomas Lautsch
Technical Managing Director

Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung mbH (BGE)

DEVELOPMENT OF FIXED ASSETS 2023

	Acquisition and production costs				
	As per 1 Jan. 2023	**Additions**	**Grants**	**Disposals**	**As per 31 Dec. 2023**
	€1,000	**€1,000**	**€1,000**	**€1,000**	**€1,000**
I. Property, plant and equipment					
1. Land, rights equivalent to land and buildings, including buildings on third-party land	4,073	85	-85	0	4,073
	4,073	**85**	**-85**	**0**	**4,073**
II. Financial assets					
1. Shares in affiliated companies	690	0	0	0	690
2. Other loans	(€250)	0	0	0	(€250)
	690	**0**	**0**	**0**	**690**
Total fixed assets	**4,763**	**85**	**-85**	**0**	**4,763**

Depreciation				Book values	
Accumulated depreciation 1 Jan. 2023	**Additions to depreciation**	**Disposals**	**Accumulated depreciation 31 Dec. 2023**	**As per 31 Dec. 2023**	**As per 31 Dec. 2022**
€1,000	**€1,000**	**€1,000**	**€1,000**	**€1,000**	**€1,000**
96	68	0	164	3,909	3,977
96	**68**	**0**	**164**	**3,909**	**3,977**
0	0	0	0	690	690
0	0	0	0	(€250)	(€250)
0	**0**	**0**	**0**	**690**	**690**
96	**68**	**0**	**164**	**4,599**	**4,667**

MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR THE 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE COMPANY

The Act on the Reorganisation of the Organisational Structure in the Field of Final Disposal (*Gesetz zur Neuordnung der Organisationsstruktur im Bereich der Endlagerung*), which came into force on 30 July 2016, reorganised the responsibilities of the institutions involved. The Federal Government established Bundesgesellschaft für Endlagerung mbH (BGE) to fulfil the tasks of final disposal in accordance with the Act on the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy and Protection against its Hazards (AtG, *Atomgesetz*) and to carry out the site selection procedure in accordance with the Act on the Search for and Selection of a Site for a Repository for High-level Radioactive Waste (StandAG, *Gesetz zur Suche und Auswahl eines Standortes für ein Endlager für hochradioaktive Abfälle*). It is organised as a company under private law and is owned by the Federal Government. BGE's sole shareholder is the Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV).

By way of a decision dated 24 April 2017, last amended by decision dated 28 February 2022, the BMUV (itself acting as the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety) transferred to BGE the performance of federal tasks pursuant to section 9a (3) first sentence AtG and the sovereign powers required for this pursuant to section 9a (3) third sentence first half-sentence AtG.

The transfer includes:

1. the construction, operation and decommissioning of repositories as well as the operation and decommissioning of the Asse II mine pursuant to section 57b AtG with all associated tasks pursuant to section 9a (3) first sentence AtG,
2. the sovereign powers to issue administrative acts
   a. pursuant to section 3 (1) second sentence of the Ordinance on Requirements and Procedures for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste (AtEV, *Verordnung über Anforderungen und Verfahren zur Entsorgung radioaktiver Abfälle*) which confirms the suitability of waste packages for final disposal,

   b. pursuant to section 2 (5) first sentence number 1 in conjunction with the second and third sentences of the Waste Management Transition Act (EntsorgÜG, *Entsorgungsübergangsgesetz*) with which the eligibility for delivery of waste packages containing radioactive waste with negligible heat generation to the third party pursuant to section 2 (1) first sentence of the Waste Management Transition Act is determined,

   c. pursuant to section 7 (2) of the Ordinance on Requirements and Procedures for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste, with which the waste is retrieved for disposal in a repository and

   d. pursuant to section 34 (1) or (2) in conjunction with section 35 (1) of the Geological Data Act (GeolDG, *Geologiedatengesetz*), which decide on the public provision of non-governmental specialised or assessment data

in accordance with the provisions set out in the notice of transfer.

By transferring the fulfilment of the tasks of the Federal Government pursuant to section 9a (3) first sentence AtG, BGE also becomes the project sponsor within the meaning of the Act on the Search for and Selection of a Site for a Repository for High-level Radioactive Waste.

With the exception of the Konrad project, BGE is also the building owner within the meaning of the relevant building regulations. With effect from the end of June 2019, ownership of the Konrad project was transferred to the Federal Government. In order to fulfil its tasks, the latter set up a construction administration at the German Environment Agency ('privileged construction' pursuant to section 74 of the Lower Saxony Building Code (NBauO, *Niedersächsische Bauordnung*) and supervision of the construction work); on the other hand, BGE was authorised to fulfil all of the building owner's tasks/duties not incumbent on the German Environment Agency in the Konrad project on behalf of the Federal Government.

Furthermore, in a letter dated 13 September 2019, the BMUV (acting, on its part, as the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety) transferred responsibility for the development of the final storage containers for high-level radioactive waste exclusively and fully to BGE.

On 3 June 2022, following approval by the Supervisory Board, BGE's shareholder meeting decided to close the Gorleben mine after the Gorleben salt dome had been eliminated in the first stage of the site selection process on the basis of the statutory geological requirements and criteria. BGE was commissioned with decommissioning. Decommissioning includes the backfilling of the mine and shafts using the salt from the salt pile and the dismantling of the facilities above ground, provided that no other use can be considered for these above-ground facilities.

BGE has been subject to the German Co-determination Act (MitbestG) since 2021. Among other things, this act stipulates equal representation on the Supervisory Board. In 2023, eight employee representatives elected in accordance with the provisions of the German Co-determination Act and eight shareholder representatives appointed by the shareholder were members of the Supervisory Board:

The Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS) deploys personnel to BGE as part of personnel secondment or assignment.

The company's contracts with third parties are awarded in accordance with public procurement law.

BGE TECHNOLOGY GmbH (BGE TEC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of BGE. Its field of activity includes, amongst other things, consulting and engineering services as well as operational services for the planning, construction, operation and decommissioning of nuclear and conventional facilities.

CONTROL SYSTEM

BGE's task is the safe final disposal of radioactive waste. In this way, it helps to protect people and the environment and contributes to solving a socio-political problem.

In order to accomplish this, BGE ensures that the tasks assigned to it are implemented in a responsible and transparent manner. This includes construction and operation of the Konrad repository, retrieval of radioactive waste from the Asse II mine and its decommissioning, keeping open and decommissioning the Morsleben repository, decommissioning the Gorleben mine and the selection of a site for a repository for highly radioactive waste, including container development. The tasks also include product control which ensures that only confirmed waste packages are stored in the Konrad repository.

Safety comes first in the fulfilment of tasks. This includes the occupational safety aspects of radiation protection, health protection as well as operational and long-term safety.

BGE is equally committed to the responsible use of the financial resources available to it for these tasks and to compliance with all legal requirements and obligations to provide evidence that govern the awarding of contracts and use of funds by a public sector company. In this respect, the principles of efficiency and economy pursuant to section 7 (1) of the Federal Budget Code (BHO, *Bundeshaushaltsordnung*) must also be observed. It is not the purpose of the company to make a profit. Further special guidelines for action result from nuclear and mining law.

The guiding principles for accomplishing the company's tasks are its mission statement and corporate goals. These guidelines are supplemented by the articles of association, the rules of procedure for management and the 'Statutes on the economic management and financial and asset management of BGE' (financial statutes) stipulated by the shareholder, the internal regulations based thereon, the business plan approved by the shareholder, as well as the project schedules and flowcharts.

BGE's integrated management system is being further developed. In an internal project, the technical system components – such as compliance, data protection, energy, quality, risk, safety, environmental and sustainability management, including sustainability reporting in accordance with the CSR Directive – are to be further merged into an integrated management system focussed on safety by the end of 2025. The project ends with a successful certification audit in accordance with ISO 9001 (quality management) and ISO 45001 (ocupational health and safety management) as well as successful validation in accordance with EMAS (Eco Management and Audit Scheme). EMAS includes the requirements of ISO 14001 (environmental management) and ISO 50001 (energy management).

The company uses various financial and non-financial performance indicators to manage its activities with regard to its corporate objectives and the implementation of its corporate strategy. These are continuously analysed on the basis of the internal regulation 'Components of corporate management" and mapped in the reporting system.

Key financial performance indicators are project costs and the overheads contained therein (overarching costs). In the 2023 business plan in the version of the 2nd addendum, net costs including investments in BGE's fixed assets and the acquisition of land for the Federal Government were budgeted in the amount of €637,976,000, corresponding to the actual costs of €637,976,000 (net).

Project costs (net)	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
	€1,000	€1,000	€1,000	€1,000
Konrad	289,015	333,328	333,328	322,939
Asse	129,616	152,676	152,676	169,404
Morsleben	61,454	75,958	75,958	75,671
Gorleben	12,731	17,430	17,430	24,784
Site selection	34,290	42,532	42,532	56,304
Product control	16,888	16,052	16,052	18,745
Total (net)	**543,994**	**637,976**	**637,976**	**667,847**

For information: The actual costs for 2023 in the above table include property acquired on behalf of the Federal Government totalling €543,000.

The aforementioned costs resulted in a liquidity requirement of €729.4 million for 2023, which was made available from the federal budget.

The difference between the costs of €637,976,000 and revenue of €641,507,000 recognised in the income statement results from the balance of advance payments made and reversed as well as the acquisition of property on behalf of the Federal Government. In addition, project costs include recharges to BGE TEC, revenue from reclassifications due to the German Accounting Directive Implementation Act (BilRUG, *Bilanzrichtlinie–Umsetzungsgesetz*) and from the Asse canteen operations.

The development of the performance indicators is explained in the following chapters, in particular in the course of business and in the results of operations, financial position and net assets.

Forecast net costs including investments in BGE's fixed assets in the 2024 business plan amount to €667,847,000. The corresponding, updated milestones and activities are shown in the forecast report.

The company's activities are not only scrutinised and monitored by the shareholder, the Supervisory Board, the Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management (BASE) and other authorities, but are also the focus of public attention. The company therefore provides regular and ad hoc information about its projects and seeks to engage in dialogue with experts and the public. The main developments and decisions in the projects are documented and generally made public.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The focus of BGE's research and development (R&D) activities in 2023 was on the site selection process. The 'Site selection research agenda' lists and prioritises the research priorities and activities that are important with regard to the implementation of the site selection process.

The research focuses on the radiotoxic and chemotoxic behaviour of radioactive waste in the repository, geoscientific issues, repository planning and preliminary safety investigations as well as the transfer and interactivity of socio-technical issues. The contents and timing of the R&D activities are presented in the research roadmap for the site selection process, which was updated in June 2023.

The main R&D projects (> €1 million) in terms of the research budget are listed below:

Project	Purpose	Current term
European Joint Programme on Radioactive Waste Management (EURAD)	Scientific collaboration in five projects: the GAS (Mechanistic understanding of gas transport in clay materials) & HITEC (Influence of temperature on clay-based material behaviour) research projects, the UMAN (Uncertainty Management multi-actor network) and ICS (Interaction with Civil Society) studies and in the SoK (State of Knowledge) knowledge management programme	2019–2024
Synthesis platform for safety investigations in the site selection process (OpenWorkFlow)	Support for verification in the context of preliminary safety investigations	2021–2024
Research into the effects of mining activities at great depths on the integrity of crystalline rock in the context of the final disposal of highly radioactive waste (PRECODE)	Fundamentals of repository planning and design	2021–2026
Influence of thermal maturity on the coupled hydromechanical properties of low-permeability claystones (MATURITY)	Characterisation and safety assessment of claystone	2021–2026
Uncertainties and robustness with regard to the safety of a repository for high-level radioactive waste (URS) (6 individual projects)	Clarification of the influence of uncertainties in the representative preliminary safety investigations	2021–2025

Project	Purpose	Current term
Thematic research on the long-term stability of geological conditions (erosion, exhumation, uplift)	Quantification and forecasting of erosion processes in Germany	2022–2024
Further development of geomechanical-numerical modelling to characterise the tectonic stress state for the final disposal of radioactive waste in Germany (SpannEnD 2.0)	Development and presentation of the stress model for final disposal in Germany	2022–2026
Participation in the Grimsel rock laboratory (Switzerland) with various test series	CFM – Migration of radionuclides	2021–2024
	HotBENT – Influence of higher temperatures on bentonite barriers	2021–2027
	Benterest – Enhancement of Bentonite Models for High Temperature Ranges up to 200°C – Further development of numerical tools and coupled thermo-hydromechanical (THM) material models for bentonite	2022–2027
Development of geophysical measurement procedures and combinations of methods for the creation of high-resolution surface exploration programmes (GeoMetEr)	Determination of the optimum choice and combination of surface geophysical exploration methods with a focus on the use of new exploration methods, the development of data processing and inversion procedures as well as the joint inversion and interpretation of several exploration methods to improve the significance of geophysical measurements	2023–2028
Thermal base data for the evaluation of the temperature field of sedimentary sub-areas in the site selection procedure (Thermobase)	Developing a deeper understanding of the thermal field in sedimentary sub-areas of Germany	2023–2025
DOSIS – Development of an optimised, combined and high-resolution imaging method for the site investigation of radioactive repositories	Obtaining more detailed and accurate analyses of seismic surface measurements for exploration	2022–2024

Project	Purpose	Current term
DeSpriBi – Demonstration structure in anhydrite with MgO shotcrete and bitumen	Construction of a demonstration structure in anhydrite with MgO shotcrete and bitumen in the external Bernburg rock salt mine as an R&D project. The demonstration structure is to be used to determine the special properties of drift seals, to compare the data for the long-term safety analysis and to demonstrate the technical feasibility of the sealing structures.	2023–2026
FUNGUS (Functional assessment and geomechanical and fluidic properties of a MgO drift closure structure – interactions with salt solution and mine atmosphere)	The project is based on the STROEFUN research project (fluid-technical proof of function for sealing structures and liquid-supported sealing of the contact area). The FUNGUS project will address the following topics in greater depth: • Continuation of injection measures with different injection materials • Application of a salt solution to the structure to simulate an access scenario • Continuation of the parameterisation of the structure/construction material and in particular the contact between construction material and rock under the conditions of mine atmosphere and convergence at the site • Development of a model to simulate the flow processes	2023–2025
Thermodynamic reference database (THEREDA)	R&D project to create an internally consistent database for geochemical modelling	2020–2025

Following publication of the European Commission's call for proposals for a EURAD 2 follow-up research programme in spring 2023, preparations were made for BGE's technical participation in the projects as the mandated German waste management organisation (duration 2024–2029).

Net costs for R&D activities for the projects totalled €14,413,000 in 2023 (previous year: €10,149,000). These are included in the project costs.

BUSINESS REPORT

Business performance

The company's financial management is based on its articles of association, the delegation of duties, the business plan and the resolutions of the Supervisory Board and the shareholder meeting. The details of economic management are set out in the 'Statutes on economic management as well as financial and asset management' (as per 2021).

Overarching

The SAP S/4HANA system was successfully put into operation in October. The follow-up support phase was completed in November with the system handover to BGE's regular ITC operations. Ongoing developments (primarily developments in the areas of business warehouse, materials management and IT infrastructure) will be continued from February 2024. BGE's IT security concept in accordance with BSI IT baseline protection was finalised with external support and handed over to BASE in the third quarter.

The 'Industry 4.0 – Security' workshop series was completed in 2023. The safety requirements for the digitalisation of mining systems were developed in this series of workshops.

The 'fleet management' project with the components of collision warning and avoidance, traffic guidance and escape route management was launched. The focus of the new system is on user-orientation in order to ensure the acceptance of such a system. At the same time, the contract is currently being awarded to a system provider so that development of a corresponding system can begin.

The technology concepts OPC UA (Open Platform Communications Unified Architecture) and driverless transport systems were trialled and presented throughout the company.

During the site selection process, communication focussed on the specific procedure for narrowing down the sub-areas to a few site regions. During the construction of the Konrad repository, communications focussed on the complexity of constructing the above-ground infrastructure for the storage of radioactive waste and the delay in construction. In April, BGE organised a public specialist workshop for the Asse project on the risks of retrieving radioactive waste from the Asse II mine. Topics included the impact analyses which BGE carries out parallel to all operations, the handling of possible incidents, the handling of the risks of ionising radiation during the retrieval process and the further processing of the waste above ground as well as possible transport processes of radionuclides from the mine into the biosphere.

The land owner declarations of assessment for the 300 or so parcels of federal land used by BGE to levy property tax on the basis of the new law from 2025 were transferred to the tax offices on time by January 2023.

With regard to the BASE inspection carried out in 2022 in accordance with section 58 (4) AtG, the tax assessment notice announced for 2023 is still pending.

Construction of the Konrad repository

The Konrad mine is being converted into a repository for low and intermediate-level radioactive waste. Subsequently, up to 303,000 m³ of low and intermediate-level radioactive waste will be stored. It is the first repository in Germany to be licensed under nuclear law. Approval for the construction and operation of the repository was granted in 2002 with the planning approval decision.

The tasks of the Konrad project include the above-ground and underground planning and construction measures for the construction of the Konrad repository as well as the safe operation of the mine in line with requirements.

Konrad 1

The construction of the heating centre and the workshop with filling station of the Konrad 1 mine were completed. In addition to the workshop area on the ground floor, the workshop building consists of office and training rooms on the upper floor as well as technical rooms and a fire water supply (cistern) for the K1 site in the basement.

The K1 North hoisting machine was successfully commissioned without the rope in place.

The bottom frame was installed on the 3rd level. A bottom frame is a guiding device in the shaft at the point where the (horizontal) drift meets the (vertical) shaft. This completes the qualification of all bottom frames of the Konrad 1 shaft.

In addition, preparations for changing the guide frame took centre stage. Due to its structural condition and dimensions, the old guide frame from 1958 is not designed to take the future loads from the shaft hoisting system and will therefore be replaced. Preparatory measures have already been carried out for the guide frame replacement, including the dismantling of the tensioning weights for the working platform in the shaft sump, the final positioning of the 6 kV cables in the shaft cellar and the removal of red lead on the northern and southern towers of the guide frame. In addition, 4 core drillings were carried out at depths of 5m and 9m for the counterweight track rod displacement and remaining work on the insets during the last upward journey of the working platform. However, the replacement of the guide frame was postponed because BGE must revise and supplement the structural analyses for the new guide frame and resubmit them for review, so that the final review and approval of the structural analyses by the expert is still pending.

Konrad 2

As regards the above-ground facilities of the Konrad 2 (K2) shaft, work on the construction of the fan building has begun and the concrete base for the fan building has already been poured.

The existing shaft cellar cannot bear the loads from the winding tower and must therefore be demolished and rebuilt. The shaft cellar is the upper extended area of the shaft containing the equipment for loading the hoisting cage and maintenance equipment. Media pipes, lines and cables enter the shaft through the shaft cellar. Excavation of the construction pit was started and the old foundations were removed in order to rebuild the shaft cellar.

The report on the cutting forces to which the structure of the shaft cellar is exposed by an earthquake was finalised and submitted to BASE for approval.

Approval for the production of the K2 winding tower was granted and production of the winding tower has begun. The K2 winding tower will reach a height of 42 metres to accommodate the planned 8-rope rope guiding system. It is designed as a steel framework construction. More than 1,000 tonnes of steel are required for this. The hoisting cage has a capacity of 25 tonnes and is designed for a maximum speed of 12 metres per second.

The excavation pit for component A1 of the reloading hall was stabilised and prepared for the imminent start of construction. Construction of the reloading hall is divided into three construction phases. With a total length of 140 metres, the reloading hall with adjoining buffer hall is the largest building to be erected at the K2 mine. In the building complex, the arriving containers with low and medium-level radioactive waste are radiologically checked, lifted from lorries and railway wagons and transported underground through the K2 storage shaft.

Mine

Installation of the inner shell and the carriageway in the northern storage transport section as well as the inner shells in the 'tank farm' and 'lubricant storage' areas was completed.

Installation of the assembly pit was completed and the carriageway poured in the 'repair yard' area.

The exploratory drillings were completed as part of the investigation programme for the subsequent development of storage field 5/2. The geological characteristics of the planned area of storage field 5/2 are being investigated with a total of 14 boreholes.

Mobile storage equipment

The vehicles and mechanical equipment required for storage operations are currently in the planning and approval phase under nuclear law and/or in production.

Production of the 3rd backfill transport vehicle has begun at the contractor's premises. In final storage operation, the vehicle will transport the backfill material to the storage chambers. Once the waste containers are in place, the chambers are filled with the backfill material.

In the fourth quarter, the preliminary test documents of the transport vehicle and of the injection manipulator vehicle were submitted to BASE for approval.

Since June 2023, BGE and BASE have been working intensively to coordinate the concept of the overall acceptance test. The revision of the concept is currently being finalised.

In 2023, higher costs than originally planned were incurred for the construction of the Konrad repository. The main cost changes in 2023 result from the following measures:

The costs for the early continuation of the underground development activities (installation of inner shells, construction of roadways in the mine side rooms, conversion to fully continuous operation, additional quantities and inflation-related price adjustments for wet shotcrete, etc.), which result from the postponement of the K1 guide frame replacement to 2025, exceed the planning estimates for the K1 guide frame replacement originally envisaged for 2023.

The subsequent redefinition of the assessment basis for the approval procedures under mining law by the Federal–State Office for Mining, Energy and Geology (LBEG, *Landesamt für Bergbau, Energie und Geologie*) has resulted in higher fees for approvals under mining law. Additional provisions for the recalculation of fees totalling €5.8 million had to be recognised retroactively for the years 2020 to 2023 in the 2023 annual financial statements.

This is offset by shifts in work and costs after 2024, including for workshop K1, which could no longer be accepted in 2023 due to the pending installation of the extinguishing water supply (due to delivery difficulties on the part of the contractor with regard to the pump systems). Furthermore, the work and costs of the construction measures for the reloading hall and the fan building will be postponed to 2024 and beyond, in particular due to the postponement of the building construction measures due to the additional structural calculations required in advance for the earthquake case, including their approval.

Decommissioning of the Asse II mine

Between 1967 and 1978, around 47,000 m³ of radioactive waste was stored in a total of 13 storage chambers at the 511, 725 and 750 metre levels. Section 57b of the Atomic Energy Act ('Lex Asse') stipulates that the Asse mine must be shut down immediately. Before decommissioning, the stored radioactive waste must be retrieved.

The K513 district road must be upgraded for retrieval operations since the width and load-bearing capacity of the existing district road are not designed for heavy goods traffic during the upcoming construction phase and subsequent retrieval operations. Furthermore, temporary closure of the district road is planned for waste transports from the Asse 5 shaft to the waste treatment plant. A cooperation agreement was drawn up with the district of Wolfenbüttel for the upgrade in 2023. In September and November 2023, this agreement was discussed in the Committee for the Environment, Climate Protection, Sustainability and Agriculture of Wolfenbüttel district. No recommendation for a resolution was made by the district to the district council on these dates, so that the district council of Wolfenbüttel district was unable to pass a resolution at the end of the year.

The approval structure of application complex I (sinking of shaft 5, connection to the existing mine, conversion of the ventilation system for radiologically contaminated exhaust air via shaft 5) is currently being coordinated with the Lower Saxony Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Protection (MU). The presentation of the approval strategy and the sequence of steps was submitted to the MU in September.

The results of the 3D seismic survey carried out in 2020 to create a geological 3D model of the cap rock have been available since 2023. The results can now be used for more targeted, safety-orientated dimensioning of the retrieval mine.

The implementation, geotechnical and radiological risks of retrieval were discussed in a specialist workshop with the involvement of the public. The resulting report was then submitted to the shareholder and the Supervisory Board.

The stabilisation of the mine workings continued in 2023. To this end, several supporting structures were built in 2023, mainly in the area of the spiral section, and existing cavities no longer required for retrieval were backfilled in selected mine areas. These include the former temperature test field at the 775 metre level, the backfilling of residual cavities as part of the roof gap backfilling and deep exploration as well as the construction of flow barriers.

A reduction in the retaining volume of the access solution at the main access point at the 658 metre level was identified at the end of 2022. At the same time, accesses to the 725 metre level increased. Investigations have shown that the drainage gradient to the 3/658 mining access was lost due to the displacements in the rock. In 2023, the solution management of the retaining point was adapted and the access solution was actively pumped out at times. However, the main retention point is still in an abnormal operating condition and needs to be fundamentally repaired. Planning work for this has begun.

In 1988 at the latest, saline solutions from the cap rock began entering the mine workings in the area of the southern flank. As a result of the continuing convergence movements, there is a risk that the solution inflow in the mine workings could shift and come into contact with radioactive waste or even develop into an uncontrollable solution inflow. Possible changes in the solution inflow cannot be predicted and an inflow of solution beyond design levels cannot be ruled out. Criteria for the inflow of solution beyond design levels were developed in 2023 and submitted as a report to the shareholder and the responsible authorities. The aim of the report is to establish comprehensible decision criteria for the definition of an inflow of solution beyond design levels. If the contingency measures have to be implemented due to an inflow of solution beyond design levels, retrieval operations must be discontinued.

The evaluation of potential cavern sites for the storage of counterflooding solution was completed in 2023 and the most suitable site was identified. Following approval by the Supervisory Board in November 2023, contract negotiations with the cavern operator can now begin.

In May, BGE began drilling the B 12/750–B underground exploratory borehole above storage chamber 12 at the 750 metre level. The final depth of 126.4 metres was reached at the end of 2023. Radar measurements and magnetic investigations from this borehole will be used to obtain information about the contour of the roof (ceiling) and the position of the drums within the chamber. Subsequently, a deflected borehole into storage chamber 12 (*ELK 12*) will be drilled from this borehole so that the chamber can be explored, for instance, using a camera, and information regarding the composition of the chamber atmosphere and the activity values can be obtained. These exploration results will be incorporated into planning of the retrieval procedure and the recovery technology and will be used in future approval procedures.

The recovery technology for retrieving the radioactive waste was further developed and tested. In 2023, for instance, test rigs for detection and handling tests were set up in a test hall.

The purpose of the Remlingen 18 (R18) surface exploratory borehole is to definitively confirm the suitability of the planned site for the new Asse 5 shaft required for retrieval and to determine the basis for planning the shaft extension. Drilling started in October and will reach a depth of 245 metres by the end of 2023.

The assessment of fundamentals for planning the above-ground facilities of the Asse 5 mine was completed in November 2023.

Design and approval planning for the new transformer station required for retrieval has commenced.

Negotiations for the acquisition of the land still required for the waste treatment plant with the interim storage facility continued in 2023. However, negotiations were difficult, so that it was not possible to reach an agreement with the owners.

Construction work on the new radiation protection laboratory began in the fourth quarter of 2023.

The following measures were subject to postponement of work and cost increases:

For the R18 exploratory borehole, the access rights for the subsoil investigations that were linked to the acquisition of the parcel were only obtained at a later date. Furthermore, the preparation of the tender documents for the construction of R18 took longer than originally planned, resulting in postponement of work and costs from 2022 to 2023.

Furthermore, the procurement of test vehicles and tools was brought forward for the development of the recovery technologies for retrieval operations from the 511, 725 and 750 metre levels, which also meant that costs were shifted to 2023.

Design planning for the retrieval procedures at the 725 and 750 metre levels required additional work due to a necessary revision of the procedure.

This is offset by the postponement of work and costs from 2023 to subsequent years. This concerns, for instance, radar tomography and geological monitoring for the exploration of the 700 metre level, the construction of the multi-storey car park and the conversion of the heating centre.

Decommissioning of the Morsleben repository for radioactive waste (ERAM)

Between 1971 and 1991 and from 1994 to 1998, a total of around 37,000 m³ of low and intermediate-level radioactive waste was disposed of in the Morsleben repository. Radioactive waste was also stored temporarily. The tasks in conjunction with the Morsleben repository for radioactive waste include the planning approval procedure for decommissioning and the maintenance of decommissioning capability.

Completion and submission of the application documents in the planning approval procedure is scheduled for 2026. The planning approval decision for decommissioning is expected in 2028. In 2023, important progress was made with the demonstration structures and the approval documents for decommissioning.

Demonstration structures serve to determine the special properties of drift seals, to compare the data for the long-term safety analysis and to demonstrate the technical feasibility of the sealing structures. A drilling programme was carried out in 2023 to construct the demonstration structure at the ERAM: Backfill and cable holes were drilled. The contour of the structure was adapted at the exit points of the backfilled boreholes. Trial operation of the semi-mobile construction materials plant has begun and multi-shift construction materials production was successfully implemented.

In the external demonstration structure in rock salt, which is being built with magnesia concrete at the Glückauf Sondershausen potash plant, the boreholes for the geotechnical explorations were drilled and the corresponding characterisation of the location was completed. Implementation planning for the construction materials mixing plant is currently being drawn up, the results report for site characterisation is being prepared and design planning for construction is being finalised.

For the external demonstration structure made of shotcrete/bitumen in the Bernburg rock salt mine, a test borehole was drilled for site characterisation and the test site was driven by drilling and blasting. Implementation planning for the test has been finalised. In the fourth quarter, technical centre and field tests were carried out to determine the construction material formulation (large-scale shotcreting tests for the shotcrete formulations).

As part of the planning approval procedure, the procedural document 'Safety concept and identification of decommissioning measures' was finalised and sent to the Saxony-Anhalt Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection and the Environment (MWU) as a preliminary review version. The 'safety concept' and the 'regulatory framework' already submitted are the key documents for the further course of the procedure.

Construction of the new company building was completed and the move into the building began. The application and the application documents for the procedure under nuclear law were submitted to the MWU for the renovation of the Bartensleben security building. Dismantling of the above-ground control area and the relocation of the control area transition to underground continued. Further exploratory measures were carried out underground as part of the preparations for securing storage H.

The costs for decommissioning the Morsleben repository for radioactive waste in 2023 were higher than planned. The deviations are mainly due to the following measures:

In the case of the external demonstration structures and the accompanying investigations for the demonstration structure at the ERAM and the new construction of the operations building, cost increases result from the time risk discounts included in the planning that did not materialise in 2023, as a result of which work was brought forward. The costs for the construction of the new operations building also increased because the building had to be larger for the new operations management department and due to the general increase in construction prices.

Measures that could not be implemented in 2022 to the extent planned led to costs being postponed to 2023. This mainly concerns the expansion of the transformer switchgear station, the renewal of lighting at Bartensleben, the replacement of the boiler house boiler and the technical equipment for the demonstration structure.

Decommissioning of the Gorleben mine

The Gorleben site is no longer part of the site selection procedure for a repository for high-level radioactive waste. In the interim report on sub-areas published on 28 September 2020, the Gorleben-Rambow salt structure is not designated as a sub-area and is therefore excluded from the further site search process. The Gorleben mine is therefore no longer to be kept open in accordance with section 36 (2) third sentence StandAG. Following approval by the Supervisory Board, the shareholder meeting commissioned BGE in 2022 with the decommissioning of the Gorleben mine.

Important work was carried in 2023 out for the decommissioning of the mine. The contract for decommissioning phase 1, i.e., the 'relocation of the salt pile underground, backfilling of the remaining cavity of the mine workings', was awarded in the third quarter.

The specifications for phase 2 'Dismantling, backfilling and closure of the shafts' were drawn up by a contractor. A first draft was available in the third quarter. After the content was clarified with the LBEG, the specifications were finalised at the end of 2023.

The documents for the approval procedure under mining law were submitted to the LBEG for the dismantling of the loading facility. Dismantling began in the fourth quarter. The temporary operations building was dismantled in 2023 and the construction of the car park at gatehouse 1 was completed.

Site selection procedure

The site selection procedure consists of three phases. The first phase with two steps concludes with the identification of siting regions for above-ground exploration. Phase II includes the above-ground exploration with a proposal for the underground exploration of sites. Phase III concludes the underground explorations with a site comparison and proposal.

The site selection procedure is currently in step two of phase 1. This is where the operations to achieve the milestone 'submission of the proposal for the siting regions including above-ground exploration programmes' are carried out. In 2023 specifically, methodological work on carrying out the representative preliminary safety investigation (rvSU), the repeated application of the geoscientific assessment criteria (geoWK), the possible application of the planning science assessment criteria (planWK) and the site-related exploration programmes were continued.

Work was also carried out on cross-phase tasks. These either have no direct influence on the achievement of the milestone 'submission of the proposal for the siting regions including above-ground exploration programmes' or extend beyond this milestone. These operations include, for example, repository container development and above-ground facility planning of the future repository.

Product control

As part of product control, it is checked whether the waste complies with the applicable final disposal conditions and water law requirements.

An annual plan coordinated with the applicants was drawn up for the qualification of waste containers. 672 applications were originally planned for 2023; 455 applications were in fact submitted. This corresponds to a plan/actual deviation of 32% on the part of the applicants. At 62.5%, the 'waste package documentation' application category has the largest plan/actual deviation, followed by the 'process qualification' application category with 53%. In contrast, the number of applications actually submitted in the 'amendment application' category is significantly higher than planned. The technical assessment in the area of product control of radioactive waste and container type testing was carried out with the involvement of experts. They were commissioned with a total of 445 test procedures in 2023 and submitted 445 test results and opinions. During the same period, 167 change requests, 181 documentations and 35 process qualifications were approved by product control as part of radiological examination. In 2023, 16 notices

were issued as part of the container type test. A total of 399 notices were therefore issued by product control in 2023. This corresponds to a waste package volume of 640 m³ of radiologically product-controlled waste products (drums) and 1,110 m³ of radiologically product-controlled waste packages.

As part of the 'Nuclear Waste Logistics' (NWL) project to introduce a digital application management system, the productive system was activated for all users in January 2023, which maps the complete application management of product control. Releases 4 and 5, which essentially represent the full implementation of project management including the migration of all ongoing processes, were also completed in 2023. In addition to the application management function, the functions of rolling annual planning, the workflows for processing status meetings and the NWL information platform (knowledge centre) were completed. A total of 64 applications were submitted via the NWL system in 2023.

The retroactive introduction of a new accounting system for product control that covers costs and is based on causation has been delayed due to final coordination requirements between the BMUV and the applicants.

The costs of the expert examinations were lower than planned due to the significant shortfall in the number of applications received in 2023 and the unrealised external support for container type testing.

In order to clarify and specify the requirements resulting from the final disposal conditions and the product control reports, technical notes were prepared and published by BGE. These documents serve, among other things, to identify appropriate procedures for handling the product control process. Both regular technical discussions and specific technical and status meetings were held in 2023 to coordinate work in the areas of product control and type testing in a targeted manner. Current issues were discussed, time-critical tasks identified and scheduled, and their completion was monitored with the participation of the parties obliged to deliver, container manufacturers, experts and supervisory authorities.

In 2023, coordination with the waste originators, the Lower Saxony State Agency for Water Management, Coastal Defence and Nature Conservation (NLWKN, *Niedersächsischer Landesbetrieb für Wasserwirtschaft, Küsten- und Naturschutz*), the BMUV and the MU on the material description of radioactive waste was continued as part of the extended water law permit. These coordination processes are still more extensive and time-consuming than expected. The discussions with the MU and the NLWKN focussed, among other things, on evaluations of the substance groups of polychlorinated biphenyls and polyaromatic hydrocarbons. Experience gained from discussions on these topics also suggests that considerable time will be needed in the further implementation of the requirements from Annex 4 of the Konrad planning approval decision. The successful release of material vectors and subsequently of material descriptions of the waste packages until the planned commissioning of the Konrad repository is therefore not ensured to the required extent. To make matters worse, the new Drinking Water Ordinance (TrinkwV, *Trinkwasserverordnung*), which came into force on 24 June 2023, introduced new and stricter limit values. These are directly incorporated into the procedure for implementing the extended water law permit. This led to the blocking of numerous other substance list entries and other process stop points with increased time requirements. This delays the release of the material characterisation of the radioactive waste required for storage at Konrad.

Coordination work with the polluters to adapt the complete list of substances established for the work in the process of the Commission for Reviewing the Financing of Nuclear Energy Phase-out (KFK, *Kommission zur Überprüfung der Finanzierung des Kernenergieausstieg*) was continued in 2023.

In addition, further research was carried out regarding the state of knowledge of future waste inventories. A new waste prognosis survey was carried out among the waste producers. Furthermore, concepts were developed to establish a national waste database.

The requirements for a high-level radioactive waste forecast inventory and the legal options for obtaining relevant data were agreed with the site selection department.

RESULT OF OPERATIONS, FINANCIAL POSITION AND NET ASSETS

Earnings position

The company's sales revenues increased by €100,607,000 to €641,507,000 compared to the previous year (€540,900,000). Of this amount, €641,073,000 (previous year: €540,503,000) is attributable to the shareholder. Sales revenues also include invoices to the subsidiary BGE TEC for services totalling €346,000 (previous year: €324,000) as part of the management and service agreement as well as income from canteen operations (€88,000; previous year: €73,000).

Other operating income (€3,538,000; previous year: €11,448,000) mainly includes income for provisions no longer required for expected benefit settlements in 2022 (€2,649,000; previous year: €10,932,000). Other operating income totalling €889,000 (previous year: €516,000) is attributable to offset remuneration in kind, insurance reimbursements, recourse and compensation claims against contractors, reimbursements from the employers' liability insurance association for the raw materials and chemical industry, credit notes from contractors and a reimbursement of costs for a research contract.

Operations management costs totalling €645,048,000 (previous year: €552,348,000) are broken down as follows:

	2023	2022
	€1,000	€1,000
Cost of materials	387,356	314,816
– Expenditure on raw materials, consumables and supplies	49,873	38,206
– Expenditure on services purchased	337,483	276,610
Personnel costs	227,852	210,034
Depreciation	68	68
Other operating expenses	29,873	26,878
Interest and other expenses	439	480
Taxes on income and revenue	-610	-3
Other taxes	70	75
Total	**645,048**	**552,348**

Expenditure on services purchased includes, in particular, expenses for provisions for outstanding service invoices in 2023, contracts for work and services, employee leasing, security services, maintenance measures and energy costs.

Personnel costs include all wages and salaries, social security contributions and pension expenses.

Other operating expenses totalling €29,873,000 (previous year: €26,878,000) mainly include general administrative costs, including rental expenses, expert and external support services, ancillary personnel costs and fees in conjunction with nuclear regulatory supervision.

Net assets and financial position

Total assets increased by €28,430,000 compared to the previous year and now amount to €186,330,000 (previous year: €157,900,000). This is mainly due to the increase in receivables from the shareholder for provisions that have not yet become effective and the increase in liabilities.

Of the fixed assets totalling €4,599,000 (previous year: €4,667,000), €3,909,000 (previous year: €3,977,000) is attributable to property, plant and equipment and €690,000 (previous year: €690,000) to financial assets.

The reported property, plant and equipment (Peine property) was recognised at cost and offset against the tenant's loan granted to the seller. Other property, plant and equipment in conjunction with the property in Peine was recognised at cost and offset against the investment grants paid by the shareholder in the same amount (net method), so that the respective assets are recognised at a carrying amount of zero. Accordingly, these assets are not depreciated.

In addition to receivables from the shareholder totalling €155,812,000 (previous year: €124,698,000), current assets include advance payments (€11,446,000; previous year: €15,171,000) to contractors, other assets (€12,514,000; previous year: €12,738,000) and bank balances (€448,000; previous year: €161,000).

On the liabilities side, current assets are mainly offset by accounts payable, other liabilities and provisions.

Provisions increased to €86,157,000 (previous year: €84,271,000) and result from the following circumstances: pension provisions and similar obligations (€15,423,000; previous year: €16,836,000), outstanding invoices (€48,390,000; previous year: €43,249,000), procedural costs for the decommissioning of the Morsleben repository for radioactive waste (€5,614,000; previous year: €6,413,000) and for the decommissioning of the Asse II mine (€3,282,000; previous year: €3,418,000), sales tax risks (€5,538,000; previous year: €5,802,000), personnel obligations (€7,853,000; previous year: €8,473,000) and costs for the annual financial statements (€58,000; previous year: €80,000).

Within liabilities (€95,015,000; previous year: €68,825,000), accounts payable are the largest item at €65,721,000 (previous year: €46,122,000). Other liabilities (€24,305,000; previous year: €18,027,000) mainly include sales tax and wage tax liabilities still to be paid. A further €4,989,000 (previous year: €4,676,000) was recognised for liabilities to the shareholder and the subsidiary.

Equity increased to €4,975,000 in 2023 due to the annual surplus resulting from the distribution of €171,000 in BGE TEC's profits carried forward. The equity ratio is 2.7% (previous year: 3.0%).

The financial position is secured at all times thanks to the financing provided by the shareholder from federal budget funds. For this reason, separate credit lines with banks are not required and are therefore not maintained.

PERSONNEL AND SOCIAL REPORT

Personnel development

As per 31 December 2023, the company had 2,419 employees at a total of eight sites, divided into 2,249 own employees (annual average 2,128), 71 civil servants and public sector employees assigned by the Federal Office for Radiation Protection and 99 temporary employees.

In 2023, a total of 190 new hires were made on the basis of 422 job advertisements; this includes 20 temporary employees who were taken on mainly on fixed-term contracts. In addition, 97 employees were given permanent employment contracts. As per 31 December 2023, there were a total of 95 fixed-term employment contracts.

On the balance sheet date, seven out of 16 Supervisory Board mandates were held by women (43.8%). The proportion of women on the Management Board was already 0% when the commercial director left on 30 July 2021. At its meeting on 29 November 2022, the Supervisory Board decided to fill the position of a member of the Management Board with a woman in 2023 in accordance with legal requirements. It was not possible to fill this vacancy in 2023. As of 1 January 2024, the two vacant management positions were filled with two female managers.

According to the gender equality plan, a quota of 30% women at management levels 1 to 3 had to be achieved by the end of 2023. This totalled 24% at the end of 2023 (including allocated employees).

In 2023, time recording was fully implemented at all remaining BGE sites. All previously agreed test operations were transferred to live operations. This system ensures electronic time recording, which also enables employees to submit different applications, provides digital time booking overviews and supports various change notifications.

A large number of different company regulations, including general works/company agreements, were revised, reorganised and negotiated. In addition, improved coordination between the employer and the works council was achieved in a general works council conference conducted to review the handbook of company regulations.

The key recommendations of the internal review were successively edited and further implemented with internal and external support.

Together with the collective wage agreement that was finally negotiated during the year, further collective agreements were drawn up as amendments ('collective agreement on the use of temporary employees') and first-time agreements ('collective agreement on company bicycle leasing'). At the end of the year, the 'collective agreement on pension plans via a pure contribution commitment' (social partner model) was also concluded, providing many employees with a modern form of company pension scheme. This makes BGE the first company in Germany to implement a regulation in accordance with the new Company Pension Reinforcement Act (BRSG, *Betriebsrentenstärkungsgesetz*) outside of a territory-based collective labour agreement.

Training and professional development

In 2023, BGE's Future Day was held once again as a presence event in which around 100 pupils took part.

The internal management development programme ('lokIN'), which is aimed at more than 300 managers, was launched in the fourth quarter in the form of 270° feedback.

As part of professional development, 4,350 training measures were organised for the company, which mainly served to maintain or develop the skills and qualifications of employees.

In 2023, all 15 training places and one place on the dual study programme in safety engineering with a focus on radiation protection were filled. Forty-two trainees were employed at four locations as per 31 December 2023. Eighteen trainees successfully passed their exams, of whom 15 were offered fixed-term and two permanent contracts.

Occupational health and safety

Occupational safety is a top priority when planning and executing any kind of work.

The total number of accidents at the company comprises seven reportable accidents at BGE (2022: 10) and three at contractors (2022: 14).

Based on the results of the online employee survey on mental stress in the workplace, proposed measures were identified and decision papers prepared for the higher-level steering committee and for management. At the same time, the organisational units concerned were assisted in defining and implementing suitable measures.

BGE's managers were trained to carry out behaviour-orientated inspections. Brief introductory impulses on occupational safety topics are given in meetings. In addition, health days were held for employees at all sites and partner companies received further training on behaviour-orientated safety awareness. The range of services for workplace health promotion was expanded.

FORECAST, OPPORTUNITY AND RISK REPORT

Opportunity and risk report

BGE's risk management is derived from the overarching corporate strategy and is a key corporate management tool. The company-wide software-supported risk management system identifies, analyses and evaluates relevant risks in all areas of the company according to defined criteria. Identified risks are grouped into nine categories according to their causes. Following the risk assessment, risk management measures are defined and their effectiveness is regularly reviewed and a new risk analysis carried out. Reporting on the prioritised risk situation is carried out on a departmental basis. In BGE's centralised risk management system, the risk registers of all areas of the company are merged into one risk register and the overall risk situation is identified. The holistic risk management process is carried out on a quarterly basis. Risks that are identified between the reporting dates are immediately reported to the risk owners in the form of an ad hoc report.

The overall risk situation and key topics are regularly discussed in risk committee meetings and the prioritised risks of major projects in the steering committees. BGE's Supervisory Board is regularly informed about risks relevant to the company.

In 2023, quantitative analyses of priority risks were carried out for the first time with concrete schedules considered. This provides important insights into the potential for delays. To further develop risk management, the additional software application, which can be used to link identified risks with the data of the repository project schedules, was adapted to BGE's specific requirements and piloted in 2023. Its phased introduction will continue in 2024.

In addition to the further development of company-wide risk management, the systematisation of the internal control system (ICS) was completed by central risk management in 2023. All areas of the company and staff units were taken into account in the ICS. A control review was carried out for 95% of all areas of the company and staff units during the reporting period.

After all project areas were included for the first time, the topics addressed were compared. As a result, the key controls of the project areas were thematically standardised. In one area, it was not possible to finalise the underlying reconciliation and determination of the contact persons for control review until December 2023. The first review of this area will therefore not take place until 2024.

There are no going concern risks that could have a significant impact on BGE's net assets, financial position and results of operations and jeopardise its continued existence, as the costs of economic management are reimbursed by the BMUV from the federal budget as part of the call for funds procedure. The BMUV reimburses the costs incurred on a cost price basis.

The risk complexes relevant to the company from BGE's perspective are presented below.

Delays in approval procedures and legal action against decisions

A large number of approvals from various areas of law, such as nuclear and mining law, must be obtained and complied with for the search for, construction and decommissioning of repositories. If approval risks materialise, this generally has a major impact on schedules, which can lead to time-critical effects in major projects. One of the reasons for these risks is delays in approval procedures.

For example, there is not always consensus regarding the requirements for the application documents, or experts are involved too late. Furthermore, approval procedures could be delayed due to additional requirements and change requests from the approval authority. Moreover, executing approvals may require additional time for processing conditions and ancillary provisions in accordance with the approval, which BGE can only predict with a high degree of uncertainty. In particular, the nuclear approval procedures required for the construction of buildings with nuclear relevance are particularly risky, as extensive requirements exist in this area for the verification of design-relevant criteria, such as the consideration of earthquake conditions.

Possible legal action against decisions by the approval authority can also cause considerable delays. In principle, legal actions have a suspensive effect unless immediate enforcement is possible by law or by order of the authority. Provided that a legal action would not have a suspensive effect, BGE could – at its own risk – initially continue with its projects as planned. However, claimants can also take action against this by way of interim relief proceedings.

Due to the high impact on schedules, implementing risk minimisation measures is a particularly high priority. BGE initiates the approval procedures as early as possible and works closely with all approval authorities in good time in order to coordinate the requirements for the application documents and enable the necessary resource planning. In order to manage the risks, the public in particular is also involved in the run-up to the approval procedures through exchange formats with environmental and nature conservation associations. Furthermore, should changes to plant parts, systems and components become necessary, for example, the necessary requirements for the documents in the approval procedure under nuclear law are coordinated with the authority at an early stage in order to speed them this procedure. The risk of bringing action itself cannot be legally ruled out. The aforementioned measures are intended to increase the acceptance of the projects. In addition, an order for immediate enforcement is sought.

Radiological damage

There is a risk of employees and/or the general public being exposed to radiation from the waste under BGE's control. Incidents can lead to long downtimes at the facilities. BGE's expertise and professional competence may be called into question. One focus is the risk of radiation exposure in the event of an inflow of solution beyond design levels in the Asse mine without sufficient time remaining for the full implementation of the contingency measures under the contingency planning regime. The main reasons for this are, on the one hand, the precautionary measures defined in contingency planning but not yet fully implemented, which are realised in advance to establish contingency preparedness and, on the other hand, the contingency measures that have not yet been fully prepared, which are implemented after the emergency has been identified (inflow of solution beyond design levels) and will take at least four to five years. Keeping the mine open for a long time increases the probability of an inflow of solution beyond design levels. Proper operation and the retrieval of waste from the Asse mine are no longer possible when the inflow of solution beyond design levels occurs.

BGE has a comprehensive safety and radiation protection management system that has been approved by federal-state ministries and BASE. One focus is on implementing the precautionary measures from the contingency plan to reduce the probability of occurrence and impact of an inflow of solution beyond design levels at the Asse mine.

Disruptions in storage operations
The release of substance list entries by the competent authority is not possible due to pending determinations and open application procedures in the supervisory procedure for the extended water law permit for the Konrad repository. As a result, a final material characterisation and the associated assessment and approval of waste packages for storage in the Konrad repository by product control is not possible, so that only interim decisions or decisions confirming compliance with radiological requirements will continue to be issued. There is a risk that not enough waste containers will be available to ensure continuous storage. Extensive coordination discussions are ongoing between BGE and the responsible authority to approve substance list entries. In addition, possible alternatives for dealing with the extended water law permit are being examined.

Land acquisition not successful in time/ lack of use and access rights
Additional land must be acquired for BGE's projects. Acquisition negotiations with owners are often difficult and could fail in the worst case. Negotiations on the acquisition of land harbour the risk of additional financial expenditure on the one hand and delays on the other, which could seriously jeopardise the achievement of the project objective.

Furthermore, access and use rights must sometimes be obtained in the run-up to planning and executing construction projects, for instance, for subsoil exploration. The risk of use and access rights not being obtained is also particularly relevant for the sites to be explored, as this could significantly delay the site selection process. These risks will be minimised through targeted communication measures.

Accidents and serious industrial accidents
Employees can be fatally or seriously injured. In addition, considerable material damage can occur. Accidents and serious industrial accidents can result in long downtimes of facilities. BGE's expertise and professional competence may be called into question. The occupational health and safety management system in place at BGE goes far beyond the legal requirements. At and across all sites, there are departments responsible for occupational safety which, in cooperation with the responsible managers of the areas, supported by the employees as experts on site, continuously identify possible weak points through inspections and risk analyses and support them with solution approaches for the development and introduction of improvement measures. Extensive health and safety documentation is also available. Alongside nuclear safety, occupational health and safety is one of the most important management tasks in the BGE organisation. This is ensured through extensive professional development and information measures.

Shortage of skills and applicants

The phase-out of commercially utilised nuclear energy and the extraction of fossil fuels is leading to a shortage of young talent in occupational groups relevant to BGE. As a result of the phase-out, training centres such as nuclear facilities, mines or mining-related companies as well as research and teaching (universities, research institutions) will no longer be available. This makes it increasingly difficult to maintain long-term expertise and recruit staff in the German-speaking market. The required specialists are not sufficiently available on the labour market for certain technical and scientific subjects. This means that BGE may experience a shortage of young talent and delays in project work. In addition, changes in the staffing of key positions can lead to a loss of experience and expertise. This can also have a negative impact on securing the availability of personnel needed to comply with approval prerequisites (such as personnel required under nuclear law). The aim of prospective personnel planning is to recognise the need for skilled labour at an early stage and recruit them accordingly. This includes recruitment of university graduates and their training and long-term familiarisation with the specialist topics relating to repositories. A pool of experts for specific tasks will be set up for the technical department and made available to the projects according to the tasks at hand. HR marketing activities and tools are being further expanded in order to increase awareness of BGE on the labour market.

Compliance violations

Violations of internal and external rules and laws can lead to major reputational damage and financial consequences. To strengthen compliance management, an internal compliance and anti-corruption officer was appointed in 2023. In accordance with the legal requirements of the Whistleblower Protection Act (HinSchG, *Hinweisgeberschutzgesetz*) and the Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG, *Lieferkettensorgfaltspflichtengesetz*), an external reporting office, which is also accessible to third parties/affected parties, was set up in the financial year in addition to the internal reporting portal for compliance violations. In addition, a code of conduct was drawn up and adopted by compliance management. Compliance and corruption prevention were also key topics of internal training courses in the past year. Furthermore, the TAX compliance policy and the ICS controls relating to taxes, duties and fees were revised.

FORECAST REPORT

With regard to the forecast costs, reference is made to the table in the 'control system' section. The milestones on which the 2024 business plan is based are updated on a quarterly basis. Plan changes are disclosed in the quarterly reports.

Due to the continuing high level of inflation, further price increases are to be expected, which will have a direct impact on the costs of ongoing projects. This development must be closely monitored to ensure compliance with the 2024 budget provided by the BMUV from the federal budget.

Overarching

The information events on site selection and the development of social media channels as well as press monitoring, including the preparation of the daily press review, will be continued. Based on the results of the surveys regarding the public perception of BGE, the communication offerings are being expanded and adapted. Events on corporate culture are being intensified as part of internal communications.

In November 2024, the 9th International Conference on Clays in Natural and Engineered Barriers for Radioactive Waste Confinement will be jointly organised by BGE and the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources in Hanover.

The measures for the company-wide switch to e mobility will continue in 2024, as will the updating of the IT security concept, the expansion of company-wide WiFi availability above and below ground and the digitalisation projects for the mines. This includes the development of concepts and support for the development of battery-powered work machines as well as a pilot project on traffic route management, in which a fleet management system is to be developed and tested to increase safety when using heavy machinery and vehicles underground.

To prevent any obstruction of underground operations, plans are in place to set up and operate a technical centre in a rented hall where the digitisation solutions are to be tested.

Construction of the Konrad repository

In 2024, the Konrad project will focus on the start of construction of the new shaft cellar following subsoil improvement by means of high-pressure grouting and the construction measures for the reloading hall at Konrad 2 as well as the construction of the conveyor and loading system at Konrad 1. Phase 2 of the review of the safety requirements for the Konrad repository has been completed.

At the Konrad 1 mine, construction of the conveyor and loading system will begin and construction work on the individual sections of the internal infrastructure will continue.

Planning of mechanical equipment such as the storage technology and planning of the storage operations as well as construction of the reloading hall will be continued at shaft 2. Installation of the inner shells is planned in the inset of the 2nd level. Construction will begin on the shaft cellar and the buffer hall. Furthermore, construction of the ventilation building and the award procedure for the security building will be continued.

Underground construction work is scheduled to be completed for the construction of the carriageway superstructure in all of the ancillary mine rooms. Construction work on the 2nd level workshop and the backfill processing plant will begin.

Assembly and delivery of the storage vehicles (including side stacking vehicle, transport vehicle, stacking vehicle, straddle carrier and spray manipulator vehicle) will also continue. Trial operation of the backfill transport vehicle will commence.

Decommissioning of the Asse II mine

The exploration of storage chamber 12 on the 750 metre level will be completed in 2024, as will design planning for the retrieval of radioactive waste from the 511 metre level. Furthermore, planning for the retrieval of radioactive waste from the 725 metre and 750 metre levels and the development of retrieval techniques for all three levels will continue.

The R 18 exploratory drilling for the new shaft 5 is scheduled for completion in 2024. The preliminary plans for the above-ground facilities of Asse 5 will be finalised.

Negotiations to acquire the land for the construction of the waste treatment plant with interim storage facility will continue.

The necessary documents for the regional planning procedure will be submitted to the Braunschweig Regional Development Agency.

In order to stabilise the mine workings, backfilling of the roof gap and residual cavities in the mine workings not required for retrieval will be continued as part of contingency planning/preventive measures. Backfilling work will take place, for instance, at working face 3 on the 490 metre level, in the central mine area of the 725 metre level and in the south-western section up to the helix on the 800 metre level.

Until the caverns for permanent storage of the MgCl2 solution are available, the contract for an interim solution will be concluded in 2024. The aim is for a contractor to deliver the required MgCl2 solution, for instance, by rail, in the event of an inflow of solution beyond design levels and the need for counterflooding.

Further measures and explorations are planned in 2024 for rehabilitation of the main solution collection point on the 658 metre level. Following this, preparation of the application and approval documents for the rehabilitation of the main solution collection point will commence.

Installation of the technical equipment for the new emergency storage facilities (cavern sections on the 825 metre level) is also scheduled to begin.

Construction of the radiation protection laboratory will be continued and planning and tendering of the construction work for the conversion of the heating centre will be completed.

Decommissioning of the Morsleben repository for radioactive waste

Preparation of the procedural documents as part of planning of the decommissioning measures, including the sealing of drifts, and planning for the shaft seals will continue. In addition, the following documents will be finalised and submitted to the Saxony-Anhalt Ministry of Science, Energy, Climate Protection and the Environment (MWU) : Preliminary review version of the procedural document 'shaft seals', preliminary review version of the procedural document 'methodological procedure for assessing the radiological impact and for assessing the protection goals for operational safety after closure of the repository', final document on the 'general site description' as well as the preliminary review version of the document 'geological site description'.

There are also plans to start explorations, including radar and permeability measurements in boreholes and mechanical/hydraulic laboratory tests on the demonstration structure with shotcrete and bitumen in Bernburg. The demonstration structure in the anhydrite at the ERAM is due to be concreted in 2024. Drifting is planned for the mass concrete demonstration structure in the rock salt in Sondershausen.

On the 1st level in the north field of the Bartensleben shaft, work will be continued on restoring access to the solution access in gate road 5.

Once approval of the security and access building under nuclear law has been granted, its construction will be put out to tender.

Gorleben
In order to continue safe operation and enable safe closure, maintenance measures, geotechnical, hydrogeological and hydrological operational monitoring measurements (for instance, of groundwater and mine water) and all necessary mine surveying work are being carried out.

Dismantling of the loading facility on the mine site will be completed at the beginning of 2024.

Backfilling of the mine workings is scheduled to begin in 2024 along with dismantling of the salt pile (phase 1 of closure, 'relocation of the salt pile underground, backfilling of the remaining cavity of the mine workings'). Publication of the tender for shaft backfilling (phase 2) is also planned. For the third phase of the closure, consultation with stakeholder groups regarding reuse of the site will take place in 2024.

Site selection procedure

The site selection project for 2024 is focussing on work to identify site regions for above-ground exploration.

During the identification of potential siting regions, the implementation of the representative preliminary safety analyses is the most effective tool to narrow down the size of the sub-areas and thus constitutes the greatest workload in 2024. With reference to the representative preliminary safety investigation, the methodological approach for review steps 2 to 4b will be further developed in 2024. Further essential work on the way to siting regions is the renewed application of the geoscientific assessment criteria and, if necessary, the application of the planning science assessment criteria and the development of proposals for siting regions including the associated site-related exploration programmes. The development of methods for this are to be largely completed by 2024.

The first of annually recurring publications of work status information is planned from the fourth quarter of 2024, initially for the application of review steps 1 and 2 of the representative preliminary safety investigation. In 2024, a GIS-based web application will be used to communicate and present the current status of work on category D and C areas. Work on implementing the representative preliminary safety investigation will proceed in parallel in all host rock types.

Work in the area of repository container development will focus on the development of repository container concepts for deep geological disposal in crystalline host rock and clay rock.

Repository planning and the mathematical design of the above-ground nuclear and conventional facility components required for the construction of a repository for high-level radioactive waste in accordance with section 9a (3) first sentence AtG will commence.

Product control

As regards the safety of a repository in the operational and post-operational phase, the radioactive waste to be disposed of must fulfil specific requirements for waste product quality, waste containers and waste packages.

Product control focuses on the review and approval of repository documentation for radioactive waste, process qualification of conditioning procedures with review and approval of flow charts and applications for amendments to flow charts as well as container design tests that have already been approved.

The largest budget item is external services by independent expert organisations, which are involved as supporting organisations in the areas of type testing and product control of radioactive waste. In this context, the applicants are planning to submit 612 applications in 2024.

The product control area plans to release 2,500 m³ of radiologically product-controlled waste in 2024, depending on the number of applications received. In addition to the expert services, further cloud-based provision and further development of the software and training are also planned as part of the phased rollout of the NWL project platform.

The retroactive introduction of a new billing system for product control that covers costs and is based on causation will take place in 2024.

In 2024, BGE will continue to work on the implementation of the material declaration of radioactive waste in the Konrad procedure under water law.

Peine, 28 March 2024

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