

Follow-up audit of key recommendations: payout process

Decommissioning Fund and Waste Disposal Fund for Nuclear Installations

Key facts

The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) conducted a follow-up audit on the implementation of its recommendations at the Decommissioning Fund and the Waste Disposal Fund for Nuclear Installations (STENFO). In its 2021 report, it issued three recommendations on the monitoring of nuclear power plant decommissioning.¹

The SFAO audited the implementation of all the report's recommendations, and found that the recommendations could be closed.

Cooperation between STENFO and ENSI for the funds' payout process has been defined and is applied

STENFO is, in particular, responsible for paying out fund assets to the operators for decommissioning and disposal on a project-by-project basis and according to defined criteria. The binding rules in this regard are set out in the "Guidelines on the payout process". The payouts are also tied to the progress of project performance. Assessing this progress requires in-depth knowledge and project know-how. The Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI) has this knowledge. It is also involved in providing project support, owing to its general supervisory activities. Cooperation between the two institutions as regards the payout process forms part of the Guidelines.

The payout process has come into play for the first time with the decommissioning of the Mühleberg nuclear power plant. Lessons learned from this must therefore be regularly integrated into the payout process or the Guidelines, as part of a continuous improvement process. Over the last two years, the Guidelines have been applied, and modified twice in light of experience.

Original text in German

¹ "Audit of the monitoring of nuclear power plant decommissioning" (audit mandate 20018), available on the SFAO website.