

Press Release

Kassel/Philippsthal (Germany), December 27, 2021

K+S finally discontinues injection New chapter in disposal at the Werra potash plant

In recent years, K+S has significantly reduced the volume of saline wastewater arising from the production of high-quality fertilizers at the Werra plant. At the end of 2021, K+S will finally discontinue injection and break new ground.

“We have already consistently reduced injection over the past few years,” explains the Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of K+S AG, Dr. Burkhard Lohr: “This process was associated with great efforts and high capital expenditure. Now, as agreed, we are finally discontinuing injection at the end of the year and opening a new chapter in saline wastewater disposal in the Hesse-Thuringia potash district, providing long-term security for production at the Werra plant.”

In the production of high-grade potash fertilizers and other mineral products, solid and liquid residues inevitably arise under the current state of the art. Although K+S has already more than halved the volume of saline waters over the past 20 years, the remaining wastewaters will have to be disposed of safely in the future as well. Besides discharge into the Werra river, particularly more concentrated saline waters were injected into deep rock formations in the past - a form of disposal that is common worldwide in the potash industry and had been practiced in the Werra valley since 1925.

Since the mid-2010s, K+S has committed to gradually reducing injection and completely discontinuing it by the end of 2021. Along with further measures to reduce



saline wastewater, this was an important component of the planning of the Weser River Basin Community (FGG Weser) in the 2015-2021 river management period, which has been successfully implemented. The volume of wastewater injected was also further reduced as part of corresponding agreements with Werra municipalities and environmental associations. The additional savings of one million cubic meters of saline wastewater in the injection process by the end of 2021, as stipulated in a settlement with BUND, were already achieved in April 2020, with the total amount saved in the injection process actually amounting to around 1.4 million cubic meters. Now the injection will finally end.

Pioneer for environmentally friendly mining

"K+S has kept its word and is once again a reliable partner," says Dr. Burkhard Lohr. "We are serious about being a pioneer of sustainable and environmentally friendly mining, and will continue our contribution to relieving the burden on the environment." The target values set by the FGG Weser in mid-November for the river management period until the end of 2027 will further improve the water quality of the Werra and Weser rivers step by step. K+S furthermore keeps its promise not to discharge any more production water into the Werra river from 2028 onwards.

New disposal methods are needed for achieving these ambitious targets without injection. The cornerstone of the new disposal concept is the storage of highly concentrated salt water in the Springen mine field, for which the approval process is currently underway. "We are confident of beginning storage in the first half of 2022. In this way, production at the Werra plant will be secured in the long term," explains Lohr.

About K+S and the Werra integrated plant

We make an important contribution to society: We enable farmers securing the world's food supply. Our products keep numerous industries running. We enrich consumers' daily lives and ensure safety in winter. With around 11,000 employees, production sites on two continents, and a global distribution network, we are a reliable partner for our customers. At the same time, we are realigning ourselves: We are focusing even more strongly than before on fertilizers and



specialties. We are becoming leaner, more cost-efficient, more digital, and more performance-oriented. On a solid financial basis, we are tapping into new markets and business models. We are committed to our responsibility towards society and the environment in all regions in which we operate. Learn more about K+S at www.kpluss.com.

The Werra integrated potash plant, with its sites at Hattorf and Wintershall in Hesse as well as Unterbreizbach and Merkers in Thuringia, is the largest site of K+S Minerals and Agriculture GmbH. The Werra potash plant produces not only fertilizers but also intermediate products for a wide range of technical and industrial applications as well as for the pharmaceutical, food, and animal feed industries. It employs almost 4400 people, including 300 trainees. It is therefore an important employer and training company in the triangle of towns between Bad Hersfeld, Bad Salzungen, and Eisenach. The plant is also an important customer for local small and medium-sized businesses and significantly contributes to value creation in the region. This makes it a key component in the economic and demographic development of the East Hesse/West Thuringia region.

Your contact person

Press:

Michael Wudonig

Phone: +49 561 9301-1262

michael.wudonig@k-plus-s.com