

## Informing the public in compliance with the Major Accidents Ordinance

Dear Sir/Madam

Our plant is subject to the Major Accidents Ordinance. This means that safety precautions are very high, are monitored by the authorities and meet the high standards of our group of companies.

An event is only referred to as an “accident” if hazardous substances are released as a result of fire, explosion or similar occurrences and people and/or the environment are exposed to serious danger.

In order to ensure the safety of the population at all times, measures to prevent and avert hazards have been taken and have been made binding. Our facilities are constantly monitored and audited in accordance with the Specialist Waste Disposal Company Ordinance and DIN EN ISO 9001:2000.

The hazards posed to people and the environment by our facility are limited. This document is intended to provide you with information about possible accidents and about the safety measures that have been taken.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Arnd Schneider, Head of Waste Recovery Plant HW, Werra Plant

Phone: 06624 81 3050

### **Site: Wintershall Underground Recovery Plant**

---

#### **1 | Operator**

K+S Minerals and Agriculture GmbH

Herfagrund

DE-36266 Heringen

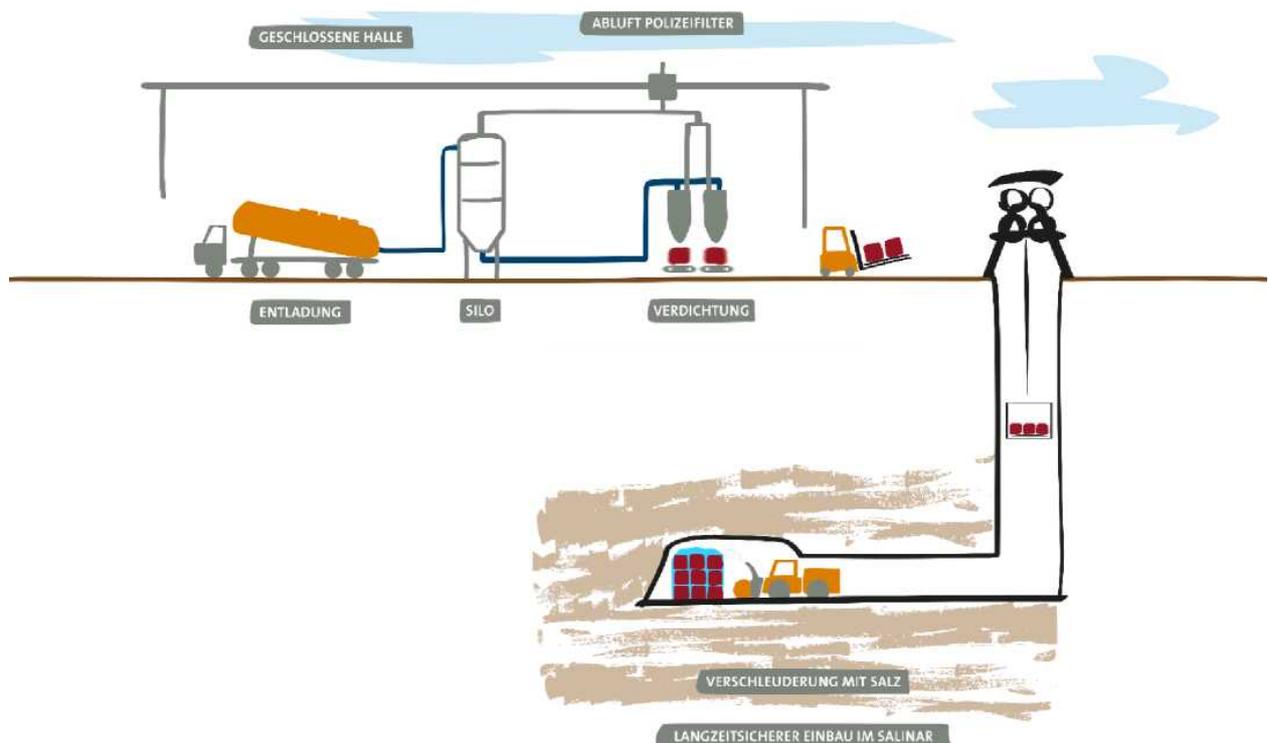
#### **2 | Confirmation of the operational area**

K+S operates an underground waste disposal site and an underground reutilisation facility at the Herfa-Neurode site. The operational area of the waste handling facility is subject to the Major Accidents Ordinance. It is a high classification operational area. The safety report, prepared in accordance with section 9(1), has been submitted to the competent authority.

### 3| Activities in the operational area

In an enclosed hall, waste in solid and dust form is first transferred to stationary silos. The material is then transferred into big bags and mechanically compacted on vibratory plates. The big bags are transported underground via the shaft, where they are stacked in the appropriate caverns.

*Schematic sequence*



### 4| Designation of the substances which could present a danger and their essential hazard characteristics

The substances handled in the plant are mainly residues from the flue gas cleaning of incineration plants.

They contain heavy metals, the concentrations of which can be hazardous to water and thus relevant for accidents. In case of contact with water, hydrogen may be formed by aluminum-containing components in the waste, but not in accident-relevant quantities.

The hazards that may arise in the event of an accident are environmental hazards. There are no acute health hazards or physical hazards.

## **5| Information on how the public would be warned in the event of an emergency and on correct conduct in such case.**

### **Note on electronic access to further information.**

There is an alarm and hazard aversion plan which is updated twice a year. This includes the alert plan and the emergency plan. Our plant staff is well trained, knows the procedures and is able to take the necessary measures immediately and limit the consequences of the accident as much as possible.

Usually, a critical event is first recognized by an employee.

Every event involving substance release is documented and reported. The task of the on-site person in charge is to quickly assess the event and the danger it poses.

If the event can be noticed outside the plant premises, measures will be initiated to inform the public and to ensure appropriate conduct.

The public is warned through announcements made by the police and fire brigade, local television and radio stations and Internet services.

### **What to do in the case of an accident?**

- Keep calm
- If necessary and possible, please warn other people
- Follow the instructions issued by emergency services

In addition, in the event of an emergency, all information can be found on the K+S website:

[www.ks-entsorgung.de](http://www.ks-entsorgung.de)

## **6| Date of the last inspection of the facility by the competent inspection units or reference to electronic access to this information. Information on the monitoring plan and access to environmental information.**

The facilities are regularly inspected by experts as part of safety-related considerations. The relevant documents are available to the competent monitoring authority. Detailed information on the on-site inspection and the monitoring plan compliant with section 17(1) of the Major Accidents Ordinance can be viewed at the Kassel Regional Council.

## **7| General information on the hazards that may arise from an accident**

Despite all safety measures, a release of hazardous substances may occur, but it may not necessarily adversely affect or endanger the neighboring area.

The following operational processes may result in the emission of incineration residues:

- Rupture of an unloading hose during the unloading of a truck
- Hitting and damaging a silo
- Damage to a truck, accidents during transportation and unloading
- Leakage at a facility part or container (big bag)
- Willful misconduct

Dangers for people and the environment initially arise from contact with water.

## **8| Appropriate measures to prevent accidents and to limit the effects of accidents as far as possible**

K+ S has implemented technical measures to avoid these risks. Thus, the materials are handled exclusively in halls. The subsequent place of use of the materials is underground, in the completely dry environment of the salt deposits. The influence of the substances on the biosphere is excluded by the geological layers.