

# Consensus-oriented dialogue

experiences from Geesthacht

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# Nuclear Research Reactor



The nuclear research Reactor of Helmholtz-Zentrum-Geesthacht (HZG , prior GKSS), which was shut down in 2010.

**Environmental groups and  
citizen initiatives want  
consensus-orientated dialogues  
however reject to monologues**

**HZG asked a simple question:**

*„What would need to be in place for you to participate?“*

# How HZG Envisions Its Role

“In conjunction with the citizens, the HZG would like to identify the need for information, citizen concerns and possible conflicts in the course of ... dismantling the nuclear facilities and would like to achieve amicable solutions to these issues within the legal framework. “

# Predialogue



Silke Freitag, Mediator "HZG im Dialog"

# How HZG created confidence

- HZGs choice of the **facilitator**
- HZGs offer to **delay the application** for decommissioning the research reactor
- HZGs offer to **finance an independent expert** chosen by the Monitoring Group
- HZGs offer to **talk about the history** of the Research Centre and leukemia

# Terms of a successful dialogue

Setting “*Fundamentals of Cooperation*”:

- involving the legal *decision makers*
- balancing *transparency* and *confidentiality*
- getting support from *independent experts*
- deciding *consensus-orientated*
- dealing with *dissent*
- coping with the past in order to find solutions for the future

# Transparency and Confidentiality

disinviting the press during the  
dialogue-meetings

and

publishing press releases together

posting every expert's report on the  
webpage

# Examples of consensus found

Direct dismantling of the Research Reactor.

Dismantling the reactor pressure vessel of the vessel "Otto Hahn" as soon as possible on property of HZG.

# Dealing with dissent

*“It is ... important for the Monitoring Group and the HZG that contrary points of view and the resulting dissent are made public. In the ... dialogue process, common press and public relations endeavors will be used to present viewpoints of the HZG and the Monitoring Group in a balanced manner to the public.”  
(Fundamentals of Cooperation 2013)*

# Making dissent public

Permission to store the reactor pressure vessel of the vessel “Otto Hahn” was given by the authorities “for scientific research”. The Monitoring Group doubts the validity of this . From their point of view there has not been any research on the containment in the past centuries. However HZG and the inspecting authorities see the permission as valid due to routine radiation survey (see press release in April 2016).

# Problems of the Monitoring Group

The Monitoring Group has **no legal framework** and **no financial independence**.

The consensus-orientated dialogue is solely based on the goodwill of HZG.

# Further Information

[www.hzg.de/dialog](http://www.hzg.de/dialog)