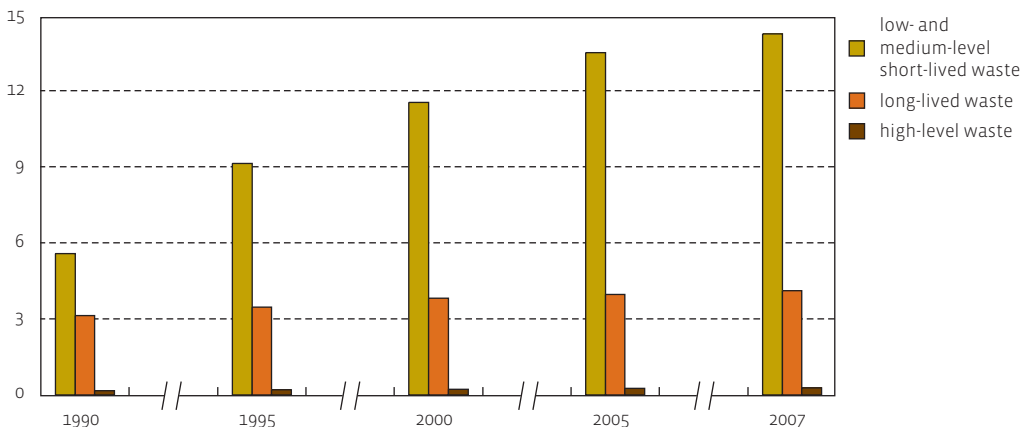


amount of radioactive waste (1 000 m³)



The figure shows a complete overview of waste for Belgium (including also other sources than nuclear power stations) stored by Belgoprocess in Dessel. Unprocessed used nuclear fuel (high-level waste) and dismantled steam generators are being stored at the nuclear power station sites in Doel and Tihange and are therefore not included in this figure.

Source: Belgoprocess

Decreasing share of nuclear energy in Belgian electricity production

The share of nuclear energy in Belgian electricity production was 54 % in 2007. In 1990 this was still 60.3 %. Furthermore, the Belgian government decided in 2003 to gradually phase out nuclear energy: existing nuclear power plants will be closed as soon as they are 40 years old (the last in 2025) and no new nuclear power plants can be built for industrial electricity production.

Nuclear waste storage increases in anticipation of final storage

The volume of low and medium radioactive waste that is created for each unit of electricity produced in the nuclear power plant in Doel has decreased considerably in past decades and is now approximately 5 m³/TWh. That waste is transferred to Belgoprocess where, together with waste from other sources, it is temporarily stored in anticipation of final storage. Surface storage in Dessel is proposed for definitive storage (storage location construction to start in 2012).

The major part of high-level waste (unprocessed used nuclear fuel) produced in Belgian nuclear power stations is stored temporarily at these nuclear sites. At the end of 2006 there were already 1 226 tonnes of this material stored at the site in Doel, and every year ± 60 tonnes are added. The rest of the high-level waste and all of the long-lived waste will be temporarily stored by Belgoprocess. For high-level and long-lived waste research into a definitive storage method is still going on.

amount of waste (m ³)	1990	2000	2005	2007	estimate by 2070
low- and medium-level short-lived	5 565	11 543	13 495	14 244	70 500
long-lived	3 124	3 818	3 966	4 104	8 900
high-level	173	224	253	274	4 900