

Media release

16 May 2023

KKB: unit 1 taken off grid for fuel element replacement

Axpo today took unit 1 of Beznau Nuclear Power Plant (KKB) off grid for scheduled replacement of fuel elements. After 318 days of operation the plant will now be inactive for around two weeks.

As unit 1 of Beznau nuclear power plant powers down it brings to a close a production cycle that began on 1 July 2022. During this time, unit 1 produced around 2.8 billion kilowatt hours of electricity. This equates to the average annual consumption of 620,000 four-person households.

During the two-week shutdown, KKB specialists will replace 16 of a total of 121 fuel elements in the reactor core. They will also carry out recurrent checks and system tests. Around 150 external experts will assist the 500 or so members of staff at KKB.

As the plant powers down, steam will be visible above the turbine hall (non-nuclear part of the plant). There is no danger to people or the environment. The fuel element replacement is overseen by the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI).

The Beznau nuclear power plant produces around 6 terawatt hours of electricity, safely and reliably, every year – which meets about one tenth of Switzerland's power requirements. The two power plant units are taken off grid separately in spring/summer for fuel element replacement or revision. They then resume their contribution to Switzerland's security of supply, which is particularly vital in the winter months.

More information

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About Axpo

Axpo's ambition is to provide a sustainable future for society through innovative energy solutions. Axpo is Switzerland's largest producer of renewable energy and an international pioneer in energy trading and the marketing of solar and wind power. The company has more than 5,000 employees who combine experience and expertise with a passion for innovation and the shared search for ever better solutions. Axpo relies on innovative technologies to meet the ever-changing needs of its customers in over 30 countries in Europe, North America and Asia.