

## **SAFETY/SECURITY**

### **Air craft noise – Thousands protested in Frankfurt last Sunday (22 October, 2012)**

One year after opening the new runway thousands of people were demonstrating last Sunday about the increased noise level in the region. They came in shuttle busses to the terminal and made noise playing drums and shouting to air their anger. The organizers, an alliance of 60 citizens' initiatives stated there were 8,000 protestors. They demanded to give up plans to build a third terminal. Addressing the airport operator company Fraport one speaker shouted "stop the greed and megalomania". According to the police there were not incidents.

### **No consequences for the nuclear power plant in Grafenrheinfeld after EU stress test (20 October, 2012)**

After the stress test conducted on nuclear power plants in Europe, Reinhold Scheuring, Manager of the nuclear power plant in Grafenrheinfeld sees no need to upgrade the plant in regards to safety. He stated it is not required in the report pertaining to Grafenrheinfeld. The power plant is constructed to withstand so called 100,000 yearly earth quakes and has four measuring points for measuring vibrations in the ground. In recent weeks, reports circulated, according to the European committee, all German nuclear power plants needed upgrading of their seismic instruments.

## **LEADERS/POLITICS**

### **At a county council meeting, the issue was: What to do with the military training area "Brönnhof"? Green party suggested alternative power. County commissioner Leitherer suggested its use for German Army or alternative energy. Bottom line: It's too early yet. Must wait until 2014 to make decision. (24 October, 2012)**

During the last meeting of the county's environmental committee meeting, County Commissioner Harald Leitherer stated that the base for wind energy in Lower Franconia will be erected in the Schweinfurt County. For the Green party in the district council it was logical to use the conversion areas in the "Brönnhof" for this project. In a request Birgid Röder, member of the district council stated: "The existing infra structure, such as concrete areas and power connections, etc. could be used without elaborate expenses." The exposed location of the "Brönnhof" would be particularly suitable for production of solar energy. Furthermore, the uninhabited area of the military training area is another positive factor since there will not be any complaints from neighbors. County Commissioner Leitherer's opinion for the use of the Brönnhof are: Using the area as a military training center for the Bundeswehr after the drawdown of the U. S. Army, or for production of alternative energy. However; according to Leitherer the ownership of the area is quite complicated. Next to the communities of Dittelbrunn and Üchtelhausen the city of Schweinfurt and a community association of private owners own important properties and a part of the area reaches into the district of Bad Kissingen, involving a total of six owners. To begin with nothing can be planned at the present time since the Federal Real Estate Agency (BImA) will take back the land from the US Army and will decide about possibly necessary soil remediation. Furthermore Volker Leitherer, Chief of the County's Environmental Department also pointed out the existing nature protection areas in the "Brönnhof". There are still many questions to be answered. County Commissioner Leitherer

stated that binding statements concerning the “Brönnhof” cannot be made until the end of 2014 at the earliest.

## **HEALTH/WELLNESS**

**Company Novartis calls back flu vaccines (26 October, 2012)** On Thursday afternoon the highest German authority for vaccinations called back four batches of flu vaccinations “Begrupal” and one batch of “Fluad”, two of the vaccinations approved by the Bavarian Health Insurance companies for their patients. Also in regard to the vaccination “Optaflu” now on the market, the producer stated that it poses no risk of causing cancer since those cells which supposedly cause the risk are deactivated and removed in the end product.

### **Alternate flu vaccine “Optaflu” contains traces of cancer causing DNA (25 October, 2012)**

Due to a shortage of flu vaccines caused by producer Novartis not being able to meet the production deadline, many general practitioners and pharmacies were out of flu vaccines. Since today a new vaccine “Optaflu” is on the market in Bavaria and also available in 30 pharmacies in Lower Franconia. However; many physicians will not administer the vaccine to their patients because it contains traces of a cancer-causing DNA. An example, Steffen van Gelder, a general practitioner in Gochsheim who sent half of his patients willing to get a flu shot home, refusing to use Optaflu.