

## AWG Press Release (Version 6 March, 2024, 10:00 GMT)

(As cited on: <https://scilog.spektrum.de/der-anthropozoeniker/anthropozoen-keine-epoche-fuer-die-menschheit/> )

The results of voting on the Anthropocene within SQS were announced 05 March 2024 without the authorization of the Chair of the SQS or overall authorization of its executive. Issues remain that question the validity of the vote and the circumstances surrounding it, in part concerning relevant information just received today from the President, International Union of Geological Sciences. When these are resolved and clarified, we hope shortly, we will be positioned to comment further, but are unable to talk directly on this matter at present.

- Irrespective of the vote, the AWG stands fully behind its proposal, which demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt the following:
- The Earth System now clearly lies outside of the relatively stable interglacial conditions that characterized the Holocene Epoch beginning ~11,700 years ago.
- The Earth System changes that mark the Anthropocene are collectively irreversible, meaning that a return to the stable conditions of the Holocene is no longer possible.
- Anthropocene strata are distinct from Holocene strata. They can be characterized and traced using >100 durable sedimentary signals including anthropogenic radionuclides, microplastics, fly ash and pesticide residues, most of which show sharp increases in the mid-20th century, concurrent with the “Great Acceleration” of population, industrialization and globalization.
- The base of the Anthropocene is clearly identified in the proposed stratotype section at Crawford Lake, Canada, by a sharp upturn in plutonium concentrations in annually laminated sediments deposited in 1952 CE, coincident with the beginning of thermonuclear bomb testing. This marker level has been traced with great precision in strata around the world including at the three proposed Standard Auxiliary Boundary Stratotypes (SABS) and other reference sections.

All these lines of evidence indicate that the Anthropocene, though currently brief, is – we emphasize – of sufficient scale and importance to be represented on the Geological Time Scale and terminating the Holocene.

We, as a group of many eminent researchers in our field of expertise, wish to carry on, in an informal capacity if necessary, and will continue to argue the case that the evidence for the Anthropocene as an epoch should be formalised, as consistent with the scientific data presented in the submission. If the above vote is confirmed by ICS then the current proposal cannot progress. Given significant issues with the procedure and circumstances of the vote, though, currently being pursued, we cannot confirm that the vote will be upheld.