

The Sustainable Development Strategy of the German Hard Coal Mining Industry

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Foreword: Some characteristics of the German Economic System

- Germany does not have a liberal or capitalistic tradition
- Since the founding of the German Reich in 1871 Germany has developed "social market economy" organized by the government
- Companies, organisations, trade unions, banks, political parties, the churches and the government are working closely together (consensus economy); typical: round table conferences
- Social peace is highly appreciated
- Tax rates are traditionally high (up to 45% income tax, 19% VAT)



Life Cycle of Coal Mining



Short Period

Long Period





Hard-coal mining in Germany: 3 mining areas



Colliery	Coalfield	Year of closure
Auguste Victoria	Ruhr area	2015
Prosper Haniel	Ruhr area	2018
Anthracite Ibbenbüren	Ibbenbüren	2018



Hard Coal from the Ruhr: Nothing is for Eternity



- Coal mining was the basis of Germany's "economic miracle" after World War II.
 But
- Production of hard coal began to decline in the 1960ies.
- The lifecycle will probably end in 2018.

Technische Fachhochschule Georg Agricola Why did the German hard coal lifecycle end?



1600 Depth

[m]





Inclined shafts

 Single-seam winning

Thick seams

 Two-directional working

Rectangular

roadways

simple



- Vertical shafts
- Multi-seam winning
- Medium and low seam thicknesses
- Several faces advancing
- Transition from rectangular to archprofile roadways
- One face advancing
 Convergence

400

difficult



- Interconnected mines
- Complex logistics
- Deep workings require climate control and building materials
- Difficult strata control in

roadways

800

- Internal subsidence damage
- Complex planning processes

complex

200



Nothing is for Eternity: Coal Production in the UK





Nothing is for Eternity: Coal Production in Colorado, USA

From stagnation to decline?







Post-mining in Germany

- Necessary activities in the post-mining period have been neglected for a long time
 - Environmental impacts
 - Social impacts (especially in the mining communities)
 - Economic impacts.
- Funding for post-mining activities usually has come from the society ("tax payer").



Sustainability and (Post-)Mining

- Sustainable is "the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (United Nations 1987)
- Sustainability:
 - 1. Social sustainability: The share of wealth for as many people as possible
 - 2. Economic sustainability: A durable positive economic development
 - 3. Environmental sustainability: The preservation of nature



Sustainability and (Post-)Mining

This three-dimensional approach can be applied to current mining and post-mining activities

- 1. Environmental dimension: Sustainable management of mining impacts on the environment
- 2. Economic dimension: The costs of managing mining damage and perpetual tasks should be payed by the responsible company and be kept as low as possible
- 3. Social dimension: Ensure good standard of living and good perspectives in the mining regions, avoid unemployment



Examples of Post-Mining Challenges



Cross section coalfield in the Ruhr Area



RAG: the last hard coal mining company in Germany

- Since the 1960s hard coal mining in Germany has been continuously declining due to non competitive production costs.
- In 1969 most of the remaining coal mining companies merged to form an umbrella company called Ruhrkohle AG.
- RAG received state subsidies to ensure a domestic power and coking coal supply in Germany and to reduce mining jobs in a social responsible way.



The History of RAG - Overview

1969	1997	2007	2018	2019
Ruhrkohle AG established , 2nd largest private company in Germany that time	Reorganised as RAG group, among top 10 private coal produ- cers in the world	Core business: mining of German coal; selling of all other coal- related activities	End of subsidized hard coal production	RAG continues to pursue post- mining activities (less than 1.000 employees)
RUHRKOHLE AG RUHRKOHLE AG	RAG	RAG	RAG	RAG



The End of hard coal mining in Germany

- In 2007, the German Federal Goverment passed a bill to finish the subsidized hard coal production in 2018
- RAG was split up into three parts: and converted to a new set up foundation: RAG-Stiftung (foundation)
 - 1. The subsidized coal mining unit plus coal trade, land management and site development and other coal related service companies ("black side")
 - 2. Profitable businesses outside the coal industry, mainly concentrated under the new found EVONIK Industries ("white side")
 - 3. A new foundation named RAG-Stiftung, being main shareholder of both sides.
- The foundation has to ensure that the proceedings from the profitable businesses will be used to cover the costs of the post-mining activities to avoid the use of tax money.



RAG-Stiftung (RAG-Foundation)





As of: 31 Dec. 2014

THE RAG-STIFTUNG AT A GLANCE





The Legacy of Coal Mining and Perpetual Tasks

- RAG has defined two different kinds of challenges in postmining regarding:
- **1. Legacy:** The old mine structures (former collieries, coking plants, slap and coal heaps etc.), the removal of mining damage caused by e.g. subsidence and the securing of abandoned shafts and former close-to-surface mining panels.
- 2. Perpetual tasks: Measures to handle permanent features that result from the end of underground hard-coal mining by the RAG, i.e. the pit water drainage, the landfill measures where mining subsidence occurs, and the cleaning of groundwater at former mining locations.



Examples of challenges to master mining impacts technically





Handling of Mine Water





Handling of Mine Water

- RAG pumps 92 million cubic meters of mine water per year in its three coal fields.
- RAG is currently operating a total number of 16 drainage systems including active and abandoned collieries. It is intended to reduce this number to 8 drainage systems.
- This project will lead to a cost reduction, and it would help to discharge some water bodies that still receive strongly mineralized mine water today.
- In the future this system is to be replaced by a well drainage where immersion pumps will be used.



Post-Mining as an academic Discipline

TFH Georg Agricola has established Post-Mining in research and education:

- Post-Mining Research Institute
- Master Course Geo-Engineering and Post-Mining (MGN)





Master course Geoengineering and Post-Mining (MGN)





Bärbel Bergerhoff-Wodopia, Member of the board of the RAG-Stiftung, welcomes the first generation of MGN students



Current Research Projects

- Acquisition of density stratification in flooded mine workings
- Monitoring of underground flooding processes
- Analysis of waterbearing adits or drainage adits
- Analysis of terminated flooding processes of mines in Germany, Europe and worldwide





Securing social Sustainability in the Communities

- Effective post-mining activities can not only avoid or mitigate risks, but provide opportunities by reinventing brownfields to create new jobs from e.g.:
 - Energy-producing utilization of methane that is released from coal beds
 - Wind wheels on refuse dumps
 - Production of biomass on former mining areas
 - Pump-storage power plants either on refuse dumps or underground in existing mine structures
 - Photovoltaic plants on mining areas
 - Heat from mine water or exhaust heat
 - Geothermal energy



Ewald Colliery: An Example of a Reinvented Post-Mining Location





Securing social Sustainability: Reduction of Workforce





Securing social Sustainability in the Communities

- Main Idea: The mining past is not a burden, it is a precious heritage to enhance towards the future ("Industrial Culture").
- What is necessary:
 - Changes in mentality, culture, strategy and action
 - An evolutionary process based on the strengthening of strengthes in the mining regions
 - Integrated regional planning and milestones (decade projects)
 - Lighthouse projects widely visible (heritage sites and future sites)
 - Strategy and public relations.

Vision: Ruhr Metropolis 2030





- In 2030 the Ruhr Metropolis will be a model region for sustainable solutions of global challenges
- a "boomtown" like 200 years ago
- a knowledge region with a Meta-Cluster *Energy-Materials-Logistics* as USP
- The education system will be international outstanding.
- Ruhr Metropolis will be a Hot Spot for talents worldwide.



Thank you for your kind attention and Glückauf!



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