

Nuclear or coal? – The German Greens have chosen coal

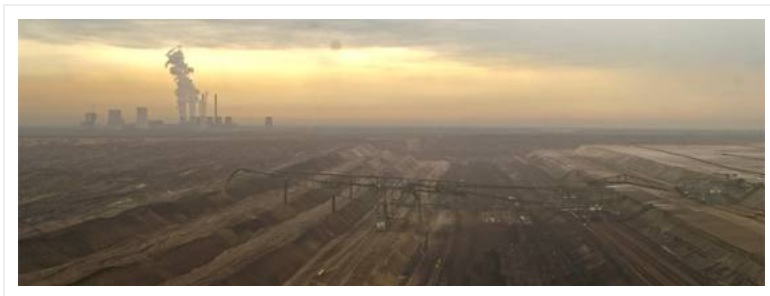
17 November 2014

31 comments

Spiegel Online [is reporting](#) ([translation here](#)) that Germany is planning to back away from its 2020 climate target of 40% emissions reduction, because of a continued reliance on coal to run the German economy as a result of the nuclear phase-out known as the 'Energiewende'.

In fairness, Spiegel has long been pretty sceptical on the Energiewende – but for good reason. It really is pretty much impossible for Germany to exit the two main sources of baseload electricity generation, coal and nuclear, at the same time. Faced with a choice, so-called 'green' Germany appears to be prepared to sacrifice its climate targets on the altar of its anti-nuclear ideology. I had expected a couple more years to pass before this became glaringly obvious to everyone except the most blinkered anti-nuke campaigners, but it seems to be happening earlier than I'd thought.

Take for example this [widely-leaked letter](#) from Germany's energy minister Sigmar Gabriel to the Swedish prime minister, pleading with him not to withdraw investments from Vattenfall's open-cast coal mines at Welzow-Sud II and Nochten II. Here's a pretty photo of the latter:



The letter (which I'm assuming is genuine) really does include some tasty morsels, especially the very explicit acknowledgement that when faced with the choice between coal and nuclear, Germany is choosing coal. Here's my favourite passage:

As you know, Germany has decided to phase out nuclear energy by 2022. We believe that this is a necessary step, and this decision is backed by the vast majority of the German population.

Phasing out nuclear energy is a real challenge even for a highly industrialised, energy-intensive country like Germany. But we believe we will be able to master this challenge.

However, we also strongly believe that we cannot simultaneously quit nuclear energy and coal-based power generation.

(Emphasis added, to make the blindingly obvious even clearer.)

The German Greens, who are anti-nuclear to the core of their political marrow, would like not to have to acknowledge this outright contradiction between their concern for climate change and their opposition to nuclear. Cue the recent [strong words](#) from the Green Party accusing the federal government of "trickery" and demanding a date for a coal phase-out.

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The German Greens must know that the latter is impossible if Germany is to retain a strong manufacturing sector and a functioning electricity grid. It is simply not possible for intermittent solar and wind, which can generate close to zero electricity for days at a time even when average production is rising, to run a modern high-energy economy alone. So the coal must stay, and the climate targets must go.

This is what happens when ideology hits reality. And ironically the German federal government is being criticised by the Greens for implementing the very same impossible policies that the Greens have always demanded since they first joined the SPD coalition back in 2000 – a complete phase-out of nuclear power and its replacement by 'renewable' sources (including, by the way, highly environmentally destructive biomass burning on a very large scale).

I recently did a [debate on BBC radio](#) (full audio [here](#)) with Hans-Josef Fell, energy spokesman for the German Greens, who takes credit for having [written the feed-in tariff](#) laws (known as the EEG) that have driven the Energiewende. I repeatedly demanded to know why, if the Greens were so concerned about climate change, they did not ask for a coal phase-out before that of nuclear. Fell was incensed and kept returning to Chernobyl as justification ("Look to the people who have lost their homelands" [from nuclear accidents]) – I did not feel that the actual climate issue held much interest for him.

Unfortunately, the Green anti-nuclear ideology has become so pervasive in Germany (I have countless frightening anecdotes about this from friends who have dared raise the subject in polite conversation in Germany) that there is little prospect of a policy reversal. So although Sigmar Gabriel is for [now denying](#) that Germany is about to scrap its unilateral climate targets (it will still be bound by EU targets of course) my guess is that this is a kite-flying exercise, and that the 40% cut by 2020 will indeed be dropped. This really seems unavoidable given that meeting the target now requires a close to arithmetically impossible cut in annual emissions, as Janne Korhonen pointed out to me on Twitter:



Mark Lynas @mark_lynas 17 Nov
"Germany plans to withdraw from binding 2020 climate targets" - [thegwpt.com/germany-announ...](#) Anyone know if this is true?
#Energiewende

Janne M. Korhonen @jmkorhonen [Follow](#)
[@mark_lynas](#) 2020 targets are arithmetically impossible. Wd now require abt 3.7% annual reductions until 2020, recent trend has been abt 0.7.
7:04 AM - 17 Nov 2014
7 RETWEETS 2 FAVORITES

So when climate policy-makers gather in Lima this year, and in Paris next, all eyes will be on the climate laggards who are still addicted to fossil fuels even when the US and China have announced firm plans for serious climate targets. That list of climate laggards will now include Germany, thanks to none other than the German Green Party.

The Greens are being hung by their own petard, and they don't like it. Neither will the climate.

Posted in: [carbon](#), [climate change](#), [Germany](#), [nuclear power](#)

31 comments



Clyde Davies says:
17 November 2014 at 2:01 pm

There is a third way through all of this, of course, which would appeal to many Greens. It's that we virtually give up electricity and go back to living a pre-Industrial lifestyle, becoming subsistence farmers, spending all day on our smallholdings growing all our own food (vegan of course), unable to read except during the hours of daylight, and God forbid should we wish to drive anywhere.

But of course we'll make an exception for use of washing machines, won't we?

[Reply](#)



Robert Wilson says:

17 November 2014 at 2:02 pm

Mark,

A second issue worth drawing attention to is that Gabriel was saying exactly the same thing in the late 2000s.

He makes this clear when James Hansen talked to him. Hansen met him, and Gabriel firmly stated that Germany could not move away from coal and nuclear at the same time.

[http://books.google.co.uk/books?](http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=zB7VvLoeLD4C&pg=PT118&lpg=PT118&dq=Sigmar+Gabriel+new+coal+plants&source=bl&ots=2Ko94296oz&sig=-7AXykDmJ2GJVvyZ8rAG9yol)

[id=zB7VvLoeLD4C&pg=PT118&lpg=PT118&dq=Sigmar+Gabriel+new+coal+plants&source=bl&ots=2Ko94296oz&sig=-7AXykDmJ2GJVvyZ8rAG9yol](http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=zB7VvLoeLD4C&pg=PT118&lpg=PT118&dq=Sigmar+Gabriel+new+coal+plants&source=bl&ots=2Ko94296oz&sig=-7AXykDmJ2GJVvyZ8rAG9yol)

Reply



Bas says:

18 November 2014 at 11:59 am

Of course.

He has to follow the priorities of the Energiewende (my post below summarizes them). He cannot change those priorities himself.

Such a fundamental change will start a long, intensive and elaborate discussion under German scientists and the public.

Remember that it took ~10-20 years of hot discussions by the German population and ~€200mln of consultancy studies, before the 50years Energiewende scenario was accepted in 2000.

Realize also that the German public knows a lot more about the damage **Chernobyl radiation** caused than UK public.

Further that they are more conscious about the waste problem. The Germans stored waste in a stable salt mine, 600m below surface. However the 600m deep underground network collapsed partially due to the heat of the waste, and the waste started to leak. Predictions are that radio-active material will reach surface groundwater. So they have to take it out.

The €100billion Sellafield waste problem is small compared to that.

So no chance they downgrade their first priority (all nuclear out).

Austria being closer to Chernobyl and having more ties to people living in the surroundings of Chernobyl, even installed a law that forbids the import or transit of any nuclear generated electricity.



Robin Curtis says:

17 November 2014 at 2:55 pm

I just find it utterly extraordinary that a country with the political stability, and technical sophistication of Germany – chose to close its nuclear plants rather than phase them out as they expired. By then they could have pulled off their ambitious conversion to renewables. In the meantime they burn coal, and even worse lignite. Lunacy prevails – planet warms.

Reply



Bas says:

18 November 2014 at 11:20 am

Robin,

They are only closed being >30years old.

And 30years was the designed operating period. So government avoids to pay compensation to the utilities because of early closures.

E.g. Grafenrheinfeld (1.3GW) started June 1982, is scheduled to close end of next year.

The owner (E.on) decided to close earlier. Next spring because it is not profitable to keep it open (whole sale prices in Germany are now ~3.5cnt/KWh).



Jai Mitchell says:

17 November 2014 at 4:53 pm

"This really seems unavoidable given that meeting the target now requires a close to arithmetically impossible cut in annual emissions"

when you say this, you are making a significant assumption (with a profound corollary).

1. That the process going forward will be made within the economic confines of a "free market" or even a "market driven" system.

which leads inevitably to the following:

1(a). We will fail to adequately reduce our greenhouse gas emissions on a sufficient scale to prevent a moderate runaway warming that will lead to over 6C temperature increase (above pre-industrial) by 2100.

At this point, the only way our society has a hope to continue through the next 2 generations is to implement a total resource mobilization within a command economy structure. Inherent within this necessary action will be a complete recapture of international wealth currently being held in offshore tax havens and a massive wealth redistribution in the form of a decentralization of energy, food and goods production.

Reply



Clyde Davies says:

17 November 2014 at 5:02 pm

"At this point, the only way our society has a hope to continue through the next 2 generations is to implement a total resource mobilization within a command economy structure. Inherent within this necessary action will be a complete recapture of international wealth currently being held in offshore tax havens and a massive wealth redistribution in the form of a decentralization of energy, food and goods production."

Good luck with that.

Reply



Jai Mitchell says:

17 November 2014 at 6:03 pm

Only when we adequately incorporate carbon cycle and frozen soil feedbacks, arctic ice loss rates and sea level rise into our projections of future damage loss estimates will we begin to see the true meaning of "irreversible and catastrophic".



bigcitylib says:

17 November 2014 at 7:37 pm

I think this counts as an official denial:

The country's environment minister is adamant that Germany will not relax decarbonisation targets. Today the energy and economics minister dismissed reports the target would be weakened.

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/11/germany-debates-plan-to-save-2020-emissions-reduction-target/>

Reply



Proteos says:

17 November 2014 at 9:54 pm

Let us set the record straight: the rot-grün coalition followed the 1998 elections for the Bundestag.

The German government does not need to abandon its unilateral targets. After all, up to the very last moment, one can claim the target can still be reached however unlikely it looks. And this year will certainly cheer up the advocates of the German plan: 2014 is a remarkably warm year in Western Europe and as a result, GHG emissions will fall steeply. So hope that the targets can still be reached will still remain.

And anyway the exit from nuclear in Germany has nothing to do with any climate plan, it is just that no self-respecting European politician can back an energy plan that does not claim to avert climate change.

Reply



Bas says:

18 November 2014 at 10:48 am

The priorities of the Energiewende are well-known since 2000 (Der Spiegel knows too):

1. All nuclear out in 2023.

Progress; as scheduled. 10 of the 19 NPP's are out.

No. 11 will close prematurely next spring, as the 1.3GW plant cannot compete in the present German market.

2. Democratize electricity generation.

Progress; >50% of renewable owned by citizens, farmers, small cooperations.

Note that this target was by far priority no.1 until Chernobyl. Chernobyl did hit Germany much more hard than UK. German citizens also know far more about the fate of people who live more nearby Chernobyl.

3. 80% renewable in 2050 (=1.5%/a more renewable)

Progress; few years ahead of schedule.

The idea is that next generations have also a right on fossil fuels, so they can make useful materials from it (e.g. plastics).

The same idea also contributes heavily to the anti-nuclear position as the waste and radiation problems are not solved at all. The Germans don't like the idea that those really expensive problems are inherited by next generations.

4. Affordable costs. Hence the 50years transition period.

Shown by the increasing support of the population. From ~55% in 2000 towards ~90% now.

This is the main reason Gabriel cannot close coal plants prematurely. He would have to pay compensation to the utilities, higher FIT's & subsidies in order to speed up solar, wind, grid extension, storage.

And he doesn't have space for that as Merkel promised last summer that the Energiewende surcharge (~6cent/KWh) would not rise and go down after ~2023. Merkel would fire him, as she keeps her promises (a rare property of politicians).

5. Less GHG; Kyoto target is -20% in 2020 compared to 1990.

Germany is now at -27%. It set the -40% in 2020 target itself.

My estimation; they will reach -35% in 2020. Still far better than any other major country. E.g. USA -5%? UK -15%?

So they reach all targets except the lowest priority intermediate one. With >80% renewable in 2050 they will reduce CO2 due to electricity generation much more (~85%).

Note that electricity generation is only a minor CO2 contributor.

Heating (>90% gas), and transport contribute far more.

And I don't see that the Germans accept that they can no longer drive at >100miles/hr with nice big cars along their many great highways.

Reply



Billy says:

19 November 2014 at 4:53 am

"For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for Nature cannot be fooled."

Bas can fool himself, but he hasn't fooled me. Chernobyl didn't do

anything to Germany at all. Maybe a handful died, but Vattenfall will kill more people on a daily basis. Chernobyl released about 5 EBq or radiation. The nuclear waste stored 600m deep is part of 100 EBq which exists in German soil to this depth. To really understand Chernobyl, you need to educate yourself about natural radiation, and how much difference such events make, bugger all. CO2, that's where the human race is facing a catastrophe.



Bas says:
19 November 2014 at 4:43 pm

@Billy,

Your reality is different compared to that of most scientists in Germany. Considering the many mistakes skeptics made, I'm inclined to believe that the German reality is more future proof.

"Chernobyl: Consequences in Germany"

This [solid study](#) shows highly increased rates of serious handicapped babies.

This [study](#) shows increased rates of cleft lips.

This [study](#) shows increase of perinatal deaths etc.

Fossil fuel

We should move a.s.a.p. towards 100% renewable.

Following Denmark (electricity now ~35% by wind, ~15% other renewable) who will have 100% renewable regarding **all** energy in 2040-2050.

It is only allowed to build a house in Denmark if you can show that it will be 100% energy neutral!

Bicycles have priority at traffic lights in Copenhagen; you press the button at the traffic light and light change to green for your bike within 10 seconds, cars have to wait. Great improvement as the healthy biker now no longer has to inhale the poisonous gas of the passing cars while they wait.
etc.

Germany is ~15years behind, NL (my country) far more.



rrm23 says:
20 November 2014 at 12:50 am

Bas, you mentioned the Asse nuclear waste repository earlier. First this contains only low and medium active waste with negligible heat generation.

Second, for waste repositories in salt mines, it is expected that the cavities slowly collapse under the pressure of the rock above. This intense pressure makes the salt behave like an extremely viscous liquid that encloses the waste and completely suppresses waterflow.

If you can read German, I would recommend:

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Das-Märchen-Asse-Hermann-Hinsch>

The only artificial radionuclide that has made its way out of the repository in tiny quantities is tritium. Due to the complete lack of any real danger, the BfS can waste its time to reduce the tritium emissions into another salt mine from 700 times below the legal limit to 3500 times below the legal limit so that the exposure of the most exposed person is below 0.000003mSv per year (1/30 of a banana-equivalent dose)

http://www.asse.bund.de/EN/3_WhatHappens/OperationOfMine/SalineSolutionsManagement/_node.html



rrm23 says:
20 November 2014 at 11:56 pm

Apologies for broken links in my previous post, hope it works this time

http://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Das_Märchen_von_der_Asse_Gorleben_und_a.html?id=EREGkEg8msgC&redir_esc=y

http://www.asse.bund.de/EN/3_WhatHappens/OperationOfMine/SalineSolutionsManagement/management_saline_solutions.html



Bas says:

21 November 2014 at 1:55 pm

Sorry, for the broken links.

Below the paragraph corrected:

“Chernobyl: Consequences in Germany”

This [solid study](#) shows highly increased rates of serious handicapped babies.

This [study](#) shows increased rates of cleft lips.

This [study](#) shows increase of perinatal deaths

This [study shows](#) the sudden Down syndrome increase in 7 European countries, starting 9months after the Chernobyl radio-active clouds passed...

etc.



Joris van Dorp says:

25 November 2014 at 1:22 pm

Bas is a long-time anti-nuclear serial propaganda poster, for years. His nonsens ‘studies’ have been debunked at AtomicInsights among others, for years. He will continue his anti-science, anti-nuclear crusade, for years. He ignores detailed refutations of his propaganda, but simply moves to another website to copy/paste the same propaganda, somehow ‘forgetting’ that his propaganda was already painstakingly debunked by actual experts, for years.

Google “Bas Gresnigt nuclear”, or “BasM nuclear” to see some of his activities repeated over, and over, and over,

... for years.



Craig Morris @PPchef says:

19 November 2014 at 11:34 am

Mark, I answer your question to Fell here:

<http://www.renewablesinternational.net/will-germany-abandon-carbon-target-for-2020/150/537/83354/>

Reply



marco polo says:

19 November 2014 at 9:05 pm

Of course...there is a third way..

And that would be for big Gov and big Corp to stop cock blocking innovation! To wit:

1. NEC (National Electronic Corp: Japan) Proton Polymer Battery: created in 2000: unavailable: 500,000 recharges, half the size as lithium, low cost materials.
2. SHEP (Stored Hydraulic Energy Propulsion) Also known as the Ilford (the inventor) Pump. Hydraulic driveshaft pump that sets a vehicle in motion, then runs in reverse (brake hp recovery) to slow it down. Tested by Ford in 2002, stellar results: unavailable.
3. Germany's Volkswagen: recent: gets 300mpg: BANNED in the US for being 'too efficient'.

And the list goes on!

Reply



Billy says:

20 November 2014 at 9:48 am

Bas, what are the links please. I'm just reviewing a study that says thyroid cancer went up 143% in Basra, Iraq 2000-2007. When you find the data, thyroid cancer went 7->17, Kidney 11->7, Oral 12->4. It's just scatter.

I have a copy of the Chernobyl Forum report, I can find a number of German authors, and I can quote Prof Gerry Thomas who says "

Prof GerryThomas says there is "absolutely no evidence" for an increase in birth defects"

The Chernobyl Forum report is actually a scholarly piece of work with over 150 recognised international authors from many top universities.

http://www-pub.iaea.org/mtcd/publications/pdf/pub1239_web.pdf

http://www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/chernobyl/WHO%20Report%20on%20Chernobyl%20Health%20Effects%20July%202006.pdf

As to most scientists, I'm not aware of any physics professors who are anti-nuclear (Please name one if you can). My own impression is that among researchers with a sound academic profile, the consensus on the need for nuclear power at about 95%, exceeds that for climate change, 90%.

But I remain highly skeptical that Chernobyl or Fukushima, which actually released only a tiny amount of radiation compared with background, could lead to some mysterious affect that background radiation does not have.

There's also something that I think is probably 100% successful in assessing evidence on a topic that's controversial. That is, after the debate gets heated, one side starts claiming there's a conspiracy. The flat-earthers complain that there's a conspiracy, the Holocaust deniers claim there's a conspiracy, and anti-nuclear people claim there's a conspiracy. Helen Caldicott "The World Health Organization is now part of the conspiracy and the cover-up. This is the biggest medical conspiracy and cover-up in the history of medicine." Cindy Folkers "uncovered a deliberate conspiracy on the part of the government and nuclear industry to intentionally poison the public with radioactive food with the goal of making "contaminated food acceptable." "The main reason for this massive conspiracy being foisted on the public is what is referred to as the Chernobyl Forum, which is a coalition of United Nations related agencies" Applying Ockam's Razor, I have 2 choices. You and Caldicott and Folker are correct, and there's a massive conspiracy involving 8 UN agencies, 150 eminent scientists and the governments of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. OR, you, Caldicott and Folker are simply wrong, and there's no conspiracy ad the scientists are simply giving their opinion. I'm sure Sir William would choose the latter.

But it's also easy to check a few numbers. The amount of radiation simply isn't enough to cause massive effects, the amount of depleted Uranium used in Iraq a tiny amount compared with the natural radiation in the soil, and areas with high natural radiation, such as Ramsar in Iraq, do not have an increased incidence of cancer. The human body contains 4400 Bq of natural radiation, mainly from K40. DNA is bathed in Potassium Chloride, 5Bq of Strontium when Strontium is 10000 times further from the DNA than Potassium is irrelevant.

Reply



Sanne says:

20 November 2014 at 3:51 pm

Chernobyl forum was a cover-up of the IAEA who wants more nuclear.

The 1959 agreement forces the WHO to follow IAEA.

WHO had to sign, as the atomic powers pay the budget.


The [New York Academy of Sciences](#) publishes a book with a far more accurate overview of the real health damage of Chernobyl. The prominent professors (radiation specialists) who wrote the book, estimate 850,000 death in the period until 2006.

Low level radiation has a latency of decades before real damage develops, just as with smoking, so one million deaths due to Chernobyl is an underestimation.

Btw. more sites offer the book; just Google .



Billy says:

 22 November 2014 at 2:09 am

It's a conspiracy baby.

Patriotism might be the last refuge of a scoundrel, but The Conspiracy is the last refuge of the closed-minded ideologue. The Warren Commission investigated the assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy and concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. If you don't believe that, then you believe in The Conspiracy. It's your choice as to whether the CIA, FBI, KGB, Fidel Castro or the mafia were part of the conspiracy. The idea of a Conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination defies Occam's razor. The simplest explanation is that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. But it's impossible to disprove The Conspiracy because the evidence has been hidden by the conspirators, and anyone who doesn't believe that is either "Part of The Conspiracy" or "Sucked in by it".

David Irving is a holocaust denier. "The Holocaust is a hoax arising out of a deliberate Jewish conspiracy to advance the interest of Jews at the expense of other peoples."

James Inhofe is a Republican senator and climate change denier. "The Greatest Hoax. How the Global Warming Conspiracy Threatens Your Future."

And Helen Caldicott is a nuclear science denier "The World Health Organization is now part of the conspiracy and the cover-up. This is the biggest medical conspiracy and cover-up in the history of medicine."

Three conspiracy theories, all of equal (zero) merit.

David Irving, James Inhofe & Helen Caldicott all defy Occam's Razor. The simplest hypothesis is the best. Which is the simpler, that there is a Conspiracy involving the World Health Organization, 7 other UN agencies, the governments of Russia, Ukraine & Belarus and 150 top international scientists from highly prestigious institutions. or Helen Caldicott is simply wrong? Occam's Razor would demand that we choose the latter.

Even though Occam's Razor, of itself, makes me sure that David Irving, James Inhofe & Helen Caldicott are all wrong,, I do like to fact check. One has to believe that there is a Conspiracy involving the World Health Organisation, 7 other UN agencies, the governments of Russia, Ukraine & Belarus and 150 top international scientists from highly prestigious institutions to cover up the fact that the release from Chernobyl is just a tiny drop compared with background. The facts speak for themselves. As to the Yablokov report, it was commissioned by Greenpeace, funded by Greenpeace, and the translation paid for by Greenpeace.

A quick check of the nyas.org states "In no sense did Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences or the New York Academy of Sciences commission this work" & "Importantly, the translated volume has not been formally peer-reviewed by the New York Academy of Sciences or by anyone else" A further review by the NYAS states "published by the New York Academy of Sciences concludes that the value of the report is negative, because it has very little scientific merit while being highly misleading to the lay reader." It also describes the estimate of nearly a million deaths as more in the realm of science fiction than science.



Paul Wick says:

20 November 2014 at 3:39 pm

If you shut down (perfectly good and safe and powerful and clean) nuclear plants you will get an increase in unsafe, dirty, coal (shxty lignite) plants that kill people by the thousands through pulmonary disease, poison the world's fisheries with mercury, and destroy the ecosystem through global warming. German "Greens" are fanatic ideologues, not unlike their grandfathers. They are Browns (lignite coal pushers) although perhaps not Brownshirts. Nevertheless, in a few short years, when molten salt reactors are streaming off multiple assembly lines around the world, providing electricity much cheaper than coal, the Germans, including the brown "Greens" will

jump on board. Cheap talks loudly. In fact, I wager that the Germans will claim to be the world leaders of the whole thing. Just a hunch.

Reply



Graham Strouts says:

21 November 2014 at 10:44 am

Good post. It should make some question as to whether most "climate policy"- in Germany and elsewhere- has ever really been about climate at all, but rather a smoke-screen under which to rustle in regressive and extremist misanthropic policies.

Reply



Bill Schutt says:

22 November 2014 at 2:43 am

Sanne. Have you ever read one peer reviewed article? You only need a tiny amount of common sense to check Ukraine death statistics before making a claim. The 850000 is bull shit. (There is another possibility of course – The Conspiracy) Which study is more credible? Chernobyl Forum or TORCH?

The Chernobyl Forum was established in 2003. It has the support of eight UN agencies, as well as the governments of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. A report was written and the conclusion was that perhaps 4000 cancer cases were caused by the Chernobyl incident. About 150 recognised experts contributed to the report. One of them, Prof Gerry Thomas of the Imperial College London who says "I was anti-nuclear until I worked on the after effects of the Chernobyl accident – now I am very pro-nuclear as I realise that we have an unwarranted fear of radiation" and goes on to state "we live in a radioactive world, we are superbly adapted to it. There are areas of the world that are exposed to natural background radiation 10+ times higher than the average (same maximal dose as radiation workers receive). These populations do not show an increase in cancer."

The European greens didn't like the Chernobyl Forum report and commission their own. They called this report TORCH. (The Other Report on CHernobyl) It's apparent that they could not find anyone, anywhere in any university to give them the report they wanted. Eventually a report was written with two authors. The lead author was Dr Ian Fairlie. He has a website and describes himself as an "Independent nuclear scientist". There are a number of his papers on his site dating back to 1990 and it is quite fair to say they are all anti-nuclear. Some of them seem to relate to Tritium (3H) and I imagine if we had nuclear fusion at the moment, he would be opposed to it. It's my guess that this "Independent Nuclear Scientist" makes all his income giving anti-nuclear people the answer they want. The other author David Sumner is really quite obscure, he seems to have written one paper with Ian Fairlie and contributed to a few books.

Which is the more credible? The report authored by over 100 internationally recognised experts and endorsed by eight UN agencies and the governments of the three worst affected countries. This report is also completely consistent with any calculation based on the relatively small changes in the levels of radiation in the environment. Or the report authored by two so-called independent poms commissioned by the European Green Party. This report assumes that 1 Bq of Sr90 or Cs137 causes much greater harm than 4000 Bq of K40 or Rb87

Reply



Joris van Dorp says:

27 November 2014 at 10:20 am

Sanne = Bas = anti-nuclear propaganda fingerpuppet troll.



Sanne says:

7 December 2014 at 12:24 pm

Never saw this TORCH report. Can you show a link?



Professor José Rubens Maiorino says:
23 November 2014 at 10:46 am

I am concerned about the prejudice of Germany against the Nuclear Generation. The Germans always built excellent reactors and safe have as an example the reactor built in Brazil. Chernobyl was an anomaly because a politically closed system and a project incompatible with the safety standards of reactors built by the Germans themselves. Any energy expert knows that it is impossible to be at the base of the electrical system renewable sources such as solar and wind, especially in countries such as Germany, with low incidence of light, and with a high population density, remembering that these sources occupy huge areas and subjected to seasonability. Now the Germans realize this fact, and appeal to fossil fuels such as coal, which will be much more harmful to people and the environment, as recognized by the IPCC.

Reply



Bas says:
8 December 2014 at 1:17 pm

The Germans experience(d) the consequences of Chernobyl.

They realize that their own nuclear plants could get similar accident (with e.g. a big plane flying into it), and judged the consequences unacceptable in their dense populated country.



Mark Pawelek says:
8 December 2014 at 9:54 am

These are Germany's emissions reductions according to Carbon Brief:
<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/11/germany-debates-plan-to-save-2020-emissions-reduction-target/>

Achieved 1990 – 2000: 16.3%
Achieved 2001 – 2010: 8.1%
Required 2011 – 2020: 15.6%

There's been no progress since 2011, so they still need a reduction of 15.6% on 1990 levels. It's equivalent to a 22% reduction on current 2014 levels by 2020. After 2020, the rest of their nuclear plant is due to close by 2022, costing them 5% of the reductions they made! They have no chance of making that 2020 target. If, by some miracle, they made it – they had no chance of maintaining it.

Reply



Bas says:
8 December 2014 at 1:09 pm

In 2011-2013 German climate didn't cooperate. Colder, so more heating, etc.

But this year they got nice weather, so they will have a great reduction this year.

Post a comment

Name required

Email required but not published

Your website let people know who you are

Your comment

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