

IKSE – MKOL Internationales Elbeforum

European Water Framework Directive in the Elbe Basin - with a special focus on Lignite Mining and Water abstraction fees

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Significant Water Management Issues (Germany)

- Improvement of hydromorphological structure and biological continuity of surface waters
- Reduction of significant loads of nutrients and pollutants in the surface water and the ground water
- sustainable water management (available water resources vs. uses with aspects of Low Water, Water scarcity, hydrological extreme events, and others (like temperature + newly introduced for the 3rd River Basin Management Circle: **Implications of Climate Change**)
- **And: (Lignite) Mining** (Elbe, Rhine, NRW)

Significant Water Management Issues

Elbe Basin (Germany) sustainable water management

An especially increased need for regionally adopted programs and strategies is seen for the areas affected by lignite mining on the rivers Upper Havel (!?), Schwarze Elster and Spree.

(Consultation document significant water management issues - Die Flussgebietsgemeinschaft (FGG) Elbe

Anhörung zu den wichtigen Wasserbewirtschaftungsfragen für die Aufstellung des Bewirtschaftungsplans WRRL für den dritten Bewirtschaftungszeitraum in der Flussgebietsgemeinschaft (FGG) Elbe,

https://www.fgg-elbe.de/anhoerung/wichtige-wasserbewirtschaftungsfragen-2020.html?file=files/Downloads/EG_WRRL/anh/bew-fr/wwbf_2020/Anhoerungsdokument-WWBF_final.pdf)

Significant Water Management Issues

Background documents – Elbe Basin (Germany)

On the topics of ‚sustainable water management‘ and ‚climate change‘ there is a resource background document available that was published in 2015 without being updated for the current consultation.

The potentially usable water quantity for the Elbe Basin is calculated to be 27,403 Million m³/a, total water abstraction is 5,451 Million m³/a, re-released water amounts to 5,540 Million m³/a. **Cooling water** with 3,512 Million m³/a has by far the biggest share of the water abstractions.

The same numbers for the whole of Germany are: 33.036 Million m³/a Water abstractions, with cooling water 25,176 Million m³/a and re-released water 36,892 Million m³/a.

(source: BfG 2014 & DESTATIS 2013)

Water Abstraction Fees - Overview of revenues in states/provinces sharing the Elbe River Basin

The **sustainable water management** background document also gives an overview of the water abstraction fees that have been collected in 2010 ranging from Zero to 78.7 Million €.

Bundesland / Federal State	Amount of Water abstraction fee in Million Euros
Bayern / Bavaria	No abstraction fees
Berlin	Groundwater abstraction fee 51.8
Brandenburg	15.1
Hamburg	4.8
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	1.9
Niedersachsen / Lower Saxony	78.7
Sachsen * ¹ / Saxony ¹	5.1
Sachsen-Anhalt	9.8
Schleswig-Holstein	40.4
Thüringen / Thuringia	No abstraction fees

*¹2011

Water Abstraction Fees Rates in Brandenburg

	Groundwater (€/m ³)	Surface water (€/m ³)
Cooling water		0,0058
Public water	0.10	Not specified
Industrial use	0.115 (standard rate)	0,023
Agriculture	Exempted since January 2018	Exempted since January 2018
Mine draining	0.00	0.00
Other exempted uses include Aquaculture, Geothermal use, measures for soil and water body restoration, administrative measures to counter dangers in connection to raising groundwater levels, partly mineral water	0.00	0.00

Source: Brandenburg Water Law - **Brandenburgisches Wassergesetz (BbgWG)**, last amended 4. December 2017, current rates apply since 1st January 2018.

<https://bravors.brandenburg.de/gesetze/bbgwg>

Water Abstraction Fees Rates in Saxony

	Groundwater (€/m ³)	Surface water (€/m ³)
Cooling water	0.076	0.005
Public water	0.015	0.015
Industrial use	0,076 (= other uses)	0.020 (= other uses)
Agriculture	0.025	0.005
Mine draining	0.00 lignite mines 0.015 other mines	-
Permanent Water Level Keeping	0.015	-
Other uses	0.076	0.020
Exemptions for lignite mines, hydropower, geothermal uses, (partly) mineral water, aquaculture, abstractions due to water management (required by administration)		

Source: Saxony Water Law § 91, Sächsisches Wassergesetz vom 12. Juli 2013 (SächsGVBl. S. 503), das zuletzt durch Artikel 2 des Gesetzes vom 8. Juli 2016 (SächsGVBl. S. 287) geändert worden ist

<https://www.revosax.sachsen.de/vorschrift/12868-SaechsWG#p91>

Water Abstraction Fees - Rates in Saxony-Anhalt

	Groundwater (€/m ³)	Surface water (€/m ³)
Cooling water	0.02	0.01
Public water	0.05	0.05
Industrial use	0.07 (other uses)	0.04 (other uses)
Agriculture	0.02	0.005
Mine draining	0.00	0.00
	0.02 (sand & gravel)	0,005 (sand & gravel)
Aquaculture	0.0025	exempted
Other uses	0.07	0.04
Exemptions for hydropower, geothermal uses, navigation, water management, groundwater stabilization, mining, surface water for aquaculture		

Source: Verordnung über die Erhebung eines Entgelts für die Entnahme von Wasser aus Gewässern für das Land Sachsen-Anhalt (Wasserentnahmeentgeltverordnung für das Land Sachsen-Anhalt - WasEE-VO LSA) Vom 22. Dezember 2011

<https://www.landesrecht.sachsen-anhalt.de/bsst/document/jlr-WaEntgVSTpELS>

Water Abstraction Fees

Rates in NRW – North Rhine - Westfalia

	Groundwater (€/m ³)	Surface water (€/m ³)
Cooling water	0.035	0.035
Cooling water (Water just running through)	0.0035	0.0035
Public water	0.05 (standard rate)	0.05 (standard rate)
Industrial use	0.05 (standard rate)	0.05 (standard rate)
Agriculture, forestry	exempted	Exempted
Mine draining	0.05 (standard rate)	0.05 (standard rate)
Ordered by administration, (partly) mineral water, fishery (aquaculture), hydropower & geothermal use, (inland) navigation, construction, fire protection,	Exempted	Exempted

Source: Water abstraction law of NorthRhine Westphalia,
 Wasserentnahmeentgeltgesetz des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen – WasEG,
https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_text_anzeigen?v_id=100000000000000000191



Data Availability

Availability of water (abstraction) related information as well as information to assess the implementation of the cost-recovery principle at facility level is generally very poor and un-transparent.

Only the Czech Republic provides for a user-friendly system where information of volume of water abstraction and discharge for many industrial and commercial activities is available online.

There are no open access online databases providing data in Germany or Poland.

MIND THE GAP

Mapping hidden subsidies for the coal and lignite industry
a snapshot report for Czech Republic, Germany and Poland



Mapping hidden subsidies for the coal and lignite industry

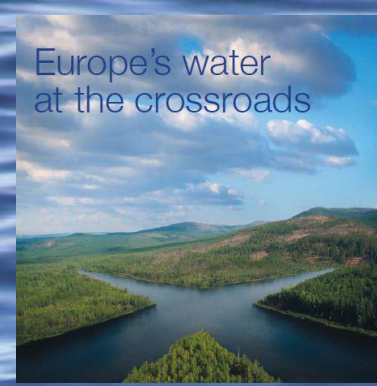
A snapshot report for Czech Republic, Germany and Poland

Published: 11 December 2020

**Video link:
Big coal drains water and skip
the bills**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QQ0taf5byrk

<https://eeb.org/library/mind-the-gap-report/>



Europes Waters need

- **a better integration of Water protection into other policy fields like Energy, Agriculture, Navigation, Flood protection and Nature Protection**
- **a better understanding of the importance of wetlands and wet buffer zones for Climate Change adaptation and mitigation**
- **a more consequent use of the polluter pays principle**
- **A wider public reception about aquatic Biodiversity including a more comprehensive environmental education on Rivers and Lakes**

Thank you for your attendance!

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