
Energy Insider

The 'Greenies' and who controls them

by William Engdahl

The remarkable thing I have seen in West Germany is the extent to which the same individuals and think tanks as in the United States have largely succeeded in bringing nuclear power development to a screeching halt. Since the mid-1970s, and most intensely since the early months of the anti-nuclear Carter administration, the West German nuclear program has suffered a de facto moratorium. The first visible reason for this energy sabotage centers around the operations of the anti-growth environmentalists, called *die Grünen* (the greenies) here.

Die Grünen, significantly, have been financed by dollars from the same coffers that set up the anti-growth radicals in the United States in the late 1960s. These funds initially flowed from the boardrooms of McGeorge Bundy's Ford Foundation to lower levels of operatives, such as Petra Kelley. Kelley, now a functionary with the European Community in Brussels, was formerly an aide to anti-growth, pro-drug legalization Sen. Edward Kennedy. She helped in setting up the umbrella anti-nuclear operation in the early 1970s known as the European Movement Against Nuclear Power. Kelley works with *die Grünen*, together with such a collection of fruitcakes as "ex" neo-Nazi August Hausleiter. Josef Beuys of the so-called Free University for Creativity, himself a devotee—along with such "pro-nuclear" industrialists as Peter von Siemens—of the neo-fascist anthroposoph organization in Bavaria, is another leader of *die Grünen*. And the Frankfurt Zoo's Bernhard Grzimek, an "animal lover" who was formerly Nazi Minister for Food Distribution under Hitler, has helped to train key leaders such as Herbert Gruhl of *die Grünen* over the last decade. It is not surprising, then, that older German citizens, who hold chilling memories of the rise of a similar anti-science movement out of the beer-halls of Bavaria some 50 years ago, refer to the current movement as the "green fascists." Only the color of their shirts is different.

Die Grünen in Germany is spawned out of the aristocratic sewers of the Club of Rome; Amory Lovins's Friends of the Earth/Europe, headquartered in London;

Julian Huxley's International Union for the Conservancy of Nature at Morges, Switzerland; and the World Wildlife Fund, now headed by John Loudon, the former head of Royal Dutch Shell. The movement got its substantial seed capital from such sources as IBM, Ford Foundation, Robert O. Anderson's Atlantic Richfield Foundation, and the Volkswagen Foundation.

However, such an anti-growth movement could hardly have succeeded by itself, funding notwithstanding. It has depended for its success largely on internal subversion against Chancellor Schmidt's own government. The most blatant source of this subversion has been Interior Minister Gerhard Baum. Baum, known to be soft on terrorism and drugs, also controls government licensing of nuclear power plants.

To illustrate the absurdities of the current situation, one nuclear industry source told me that an electric utility must prepare for Baum's office and other officials some 300 pounds of various environmental impact studies and related engineering-safety studies just to license an ordinary coal plant. And the experimental high-temperature nuclear reactor required more than 6,000 pounds of such paperwork. Little surprise, then, that progress is infinitesimal. The predictable result of such nonsense is that a typical West German nuclear plant costs more than twice that of its counterpart in France where licensing is streamlined.

Today, West Germany, with 13 nuclear plants on-line, ranks a far-distant second in European nuclear capacity, having 8,250 megawatts, compared to France's approximately 14,000 megawatts; in 1979, Germany was ahead of France. In addition, with West Germany now importing large amounts of both coal and oil, nuclear energy is the only rational alternative.

This month, official debate began on the latest Federal Energy Plan. Schmidt has already announced a commitment to speed up the nuclear-licensing process. He has also announced plans to complete two to three new nuclear plants each year. This would be a positive shift, albeit far less than needed to gear up German exports for developing-sector industrialization.

A key question is the fate of such advanced research projects as the high-temperature reactor (HTR), which has the capability to double the potential overall energy efficiency for nuclear-generated power from 30 percent to about 60 percent of total energy. The process heat from the HTR, as well as the ability to use the HTR to make energy-intensive economical synthetic gas and hydrogen fuels, makes the future of this program crucial.

Schmidt's cabinet has resolved to continue construction of the research and development facility for the 300 megawatt prototype high-temperature reactor, and the equally important 300 megawatt fast-breeder demonstration project at Kalkar.