Best practices in lignite production: public participation in the planning and the rehabilitation of lignite sites to win acceptance

10<sup>th</sup> Coal Dialogue Wednesday, 11 June 2014

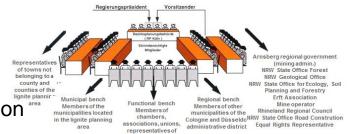
Michael Eyll-Vetter, Vice President, Mine Planning RWE Power, Cologne





# Holistic opencast mining concept

- 1 Lignite's necessity for energy supply
- 2 Complex approval procedures
  - ♥ Overall concept approved by Lignite Commission
  - Individual aspects and details under mining, water and public law
  - Public participation, stakeholder dialogue, information



# 3 Mining process meets high standards



...from start

...to finish

Technical: emission control

Ecological: recultivation

♦ Social: resettlement



### 4 Diverse activities to ensure public acceptance

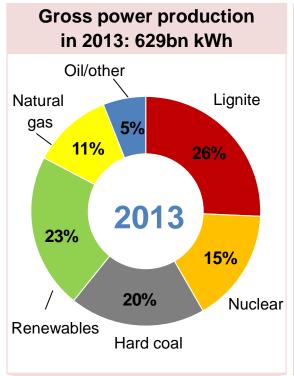
- ♥ Public acceptance depends on dialogue at all levels
- Highly visible projects and activities support the development in the region

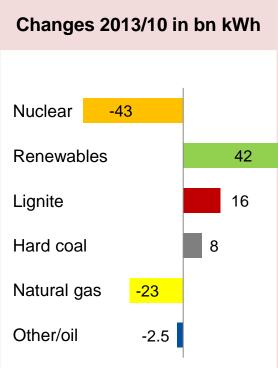


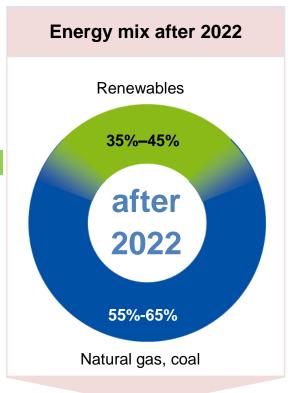




# Lignite makes a crucial contribution to security of supply and price control in Germany's energy mix







Lignite is a mainstay of Germany's electricity supply

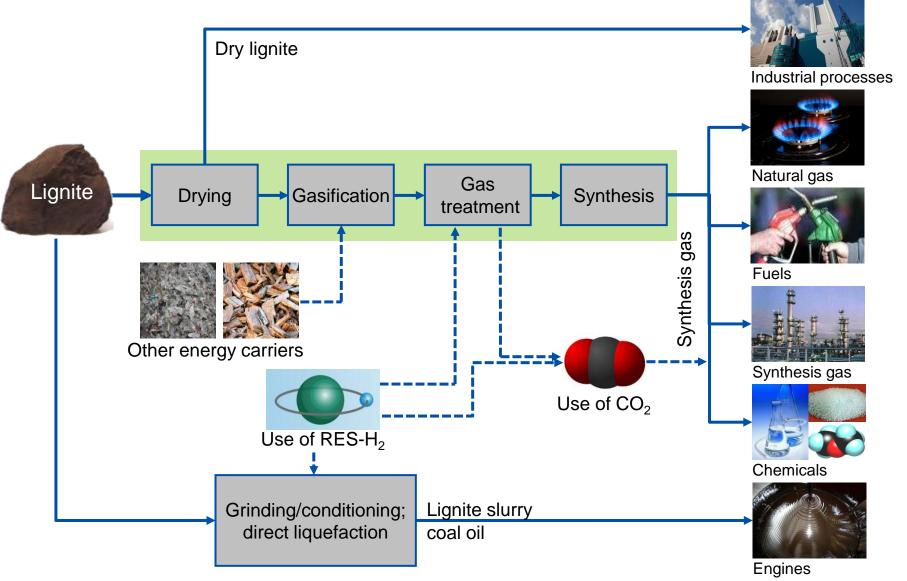
Lignite, hard coal and RES closed the capacity gap formed since 2010

Lignite will also be a mainstay of the energy mix of the future



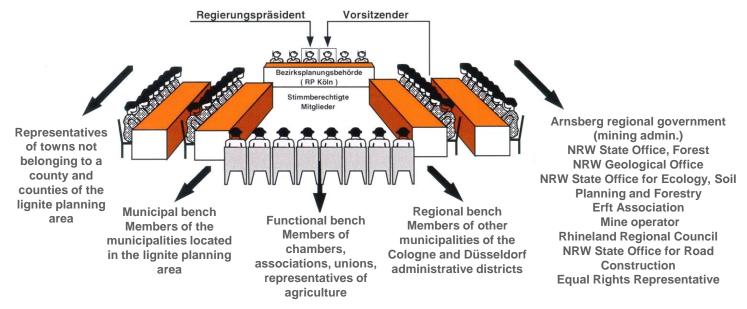


# Ways to make use of lignite





# Lignite Commission as a committee of experts and policymakers for overall lignite planning

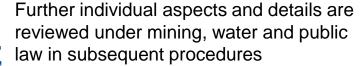


The Lignite Commission acts in collaboration with stakeholders from the region and specialist representatives and draws up a Lignite Mining Plan incl. environmental and social impact assessments



Jointly developed regional planning decision:

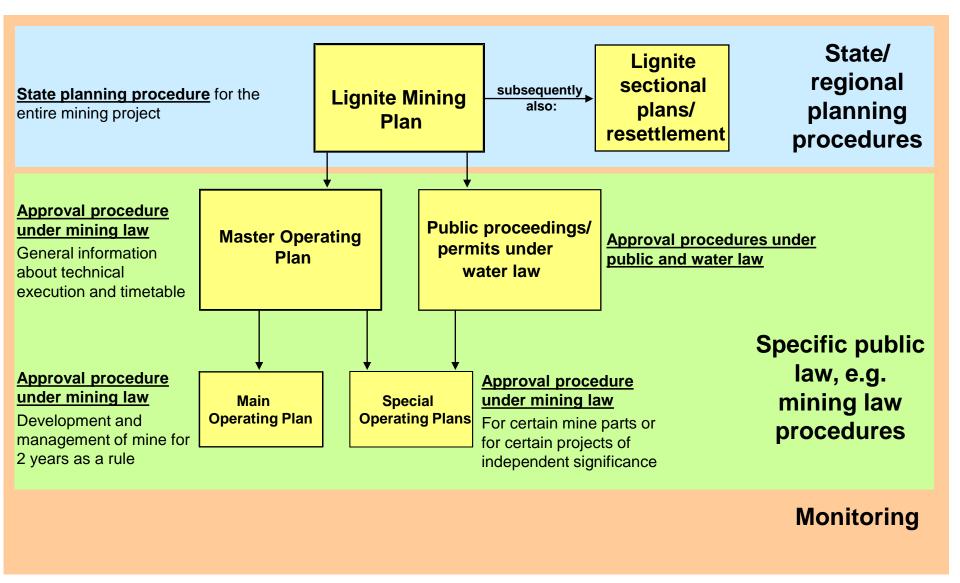
Scope of action for the region AND improved long-term planning and investment reliability for the mining company by committing municipalities







# Approval procedure in brief





# Public participation at several stages of the planning procedure

Informal participation

E.g. replanning of recultivation (Inden residual lake)



Formal participation

Lignite Mining Plan

Master Operating Plan (resettlers, owners)

Special Operating Plan (species protection)

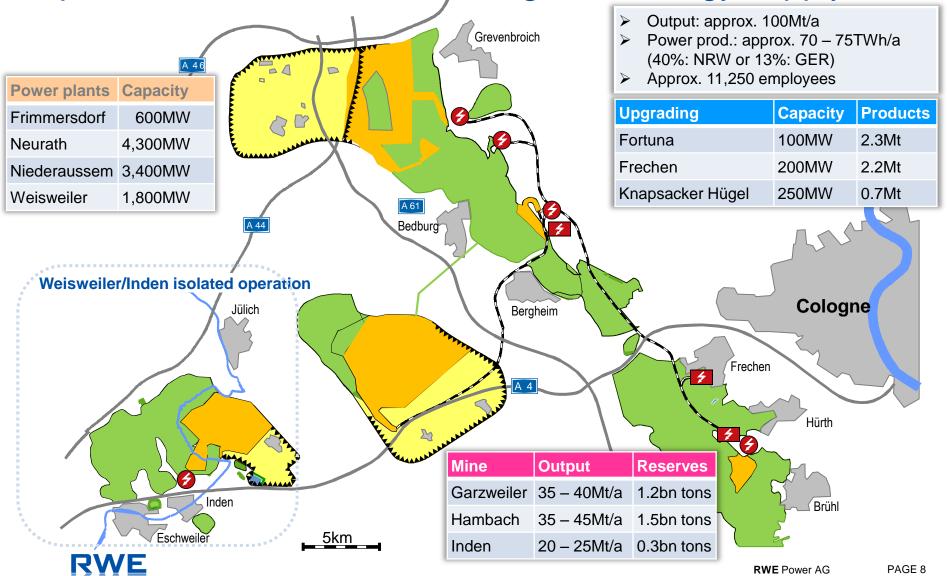
Participation of resettlers in workshops







3 billion tons (2014) of approved deposit reserves provide a reliable basis for long-term energy supply





# Update on the situation of Garzweiler II

- In its judgement of 17 December 2013 the Federal Constitutional Court (BVerfG) confirmed the constitutionality of the Garzweiler II opencast mine as legitimate public interest objective; crucial for power generation
- In March 2014, the state government reaffirmed the necessity of extracting lignite from all three opencast mines.
- Restriction: The 4<sup>th</sup> resettlement section of the Garzweiler II opencast mine, required for extraction after 2030, is to be dispensed with.
- A guideline decision is to be elaborated until 2015.
- This would fundamentally alter basic assumptions underlying the Garzweiler II Lignite-Mining Plan, so that it would have to be amended.
- This declaration of the state government as early as today comes as a surprise; it is important that this process will be well-ordered and free from premature decisions.
- We adhere to the approved extraction boundaries; still, it is necessary that we deal with possible consequences – particularly as regards planning required in future and additional costs.
- We also assess the chances for success of an action.



High technical standards: emission control – continuous development and adjustment



 Operation in a densely populated area requires numerous planning, technical and organisational mitigation measures

# High ecological standards: biodiversity-protection measures and diversified recultivated landscape







- In the Rhenish mining area, over 20,000ha have been recultivated to date
- Compared with pre-mining land use:
  - fewer industrial surfaces,
  - fewer settlements and roads,
  - more new, attractive leisure and recreation areas
- 2,200 animal and > 700 plant species identified after recultivation [incl. 429 endangered "red-listed" species]











# High social standards: resettlement follows individual and shared tangible and intangible values

#### **Social compatibility**

Civic participation

Joint resettlement

Optimisation of infrastructure

#### **Transparency**

Compensation declaration applicable to the entire Rhenish mining area

Evaluation by district government and Lignite Commission

Mediation body

#### Sustainability

Innovative energy concepts
Resource-preserving
construction methods



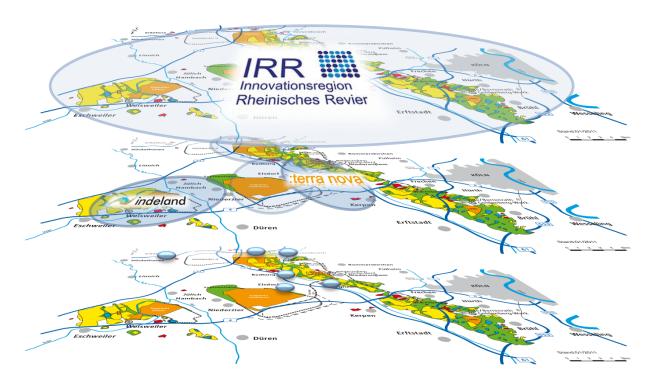






# Lignite acceptance –

### Partnership-based cooperation on several levels



Innovationsregion Rheinisches Revier (Innovation region Rhenish mining area)

Inter-municipal planning associations *Indeland* and *:terra nova*; in future: initiatives in the environs of Hambach and Garzweiler

Framework agreements at local-government level





# Examples of inter-municipal planning associations



#### :terra nova - Regionale 2010

New kinds of recultivation and promotion of structures

Forum :terra nova multi-purpose building as meeting place, information centre and viewing platform on the rim of the Hambach opencast mine



**Recultivation** Careful rehabilitation enables re-use for leisure, nature, agriculture and forestry

A former conveyor belt route has been turned into a wide path for walkers, cyclists and inline skaters



#### **Industry and SME**

Promotion of industrial and SME structures by relocation of jobs Laying of foundation stone for a logistics centre offering 750 jobs (Hammer GmbH & Co. KG)



#### Renewable energies in the Rhenish mining area

Development of wind and solar projects

Bedburg-Königshovener Höhe wind farm (21 turbines; 67.2MW of installed capacity)



# Upshot: sustainable long-term lignite mining balances energy mix and avoids supply and price risks

### Lignite's necessity for energy supply

- Lignite will be a mainstay of the energy mix of the future
- Lignite does not require any subsidies and ensures price control and security of supply

### **Complex approval procedures**

- > From state/regional planning to mining law and other specific law procedures
- Public participation takes place at several stages of the planning and approval procedure

### **Mining process**

- High technical standards: emission control
- High ecological standards: biodiversity-protection measures and recultivation
- High social standards: resettlement

### Diverse activities to ensure public acceptance

Partnership-based cooperation at several levels

