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The Working Group on Mining Consequences of the DGGV e. V.

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About us

Germany is a country with an important geoscientific tradition and at the same time also an area with centuries of mining. The evaluation and management of raw material mining and its consequences require at present and also in the future a permanent, scientifically high-level and interdisciplinary engagement with the respective mining areas. In the DGGV (German Geologische Gesellschaft - Geologische Vereinigung e. V.), the working group "Geoscientific Aspects in Mining Areas" deals with such practical mining science objectives.

Impressions of our meetings



The working group was founded in January 1995 on an initiative of Prof. em. Dr. Hermann Brause in the predecessor society "Gesellschaft für Geowissenschaften (GGW)" as "Arbeitskreis Bergbaufolgelandschaften". Its task was to bring together geoscientists and representatives from geology-related administrative and economic institutions, universities and research institutes for an interdisciplinary exchange of ideas in historical or current mining regions in Germany.

As a "by-product ", the know-how and regional experience of the older generation of geologists was also to be passed on to the next generation shortly after the political turnaround and the associated restructuring of the mining industry in the then "New Federal States". In autumn of the same year, with the support of the Lausitzer Braunkohle AG (LAUBAG, today LE-B), in particular the head of the recultivation department Mr. Horst Rauhut, the first event of the newly founded working group took place in Bad Muskau on the topic "Geoscientific Problems of the Post-Mining Landscapes in the Weißwasser Area (Upper Lusatia)".

In its early years, the working group focused in particular on the post-mining landscapes of Saxony and Central Germany. The main emphasis was on the centuries-old ore mining in the Erzgebirge and in the Harz mountains, the former hard coal mining around Zwickau-Oelsnitz and Freital, the uranium ore mining of WISMUT, the large-scale lignite mining in the Leipzig-Halle-Bitterfeld and Lusatian coalfields, the Central German salt mining and the extensive mining of industrial rocks and minerals. This was later followed by numerous events throughout Germany (see map and timeline of the previous meetings). These meetings addressed both economic geology and raw material evaluation as well as the problems and tasks associated with mining, including

- recultivation and renaturation,
- hydrogeology and water management
- changing geochemical conditions,
- ➢ new material cycles,
- natural radioactive radiation,
- > the geophysical detectability of mining-related phenomena,
- > a sensible coordination with nature, landscape and geotope protection, as well as
- > a socially acceptable and raw material-political or legally compliant mining management.

Due to the connection between scientific aspects and practical experiences as well as the current developments in the regional mining companies, extensive conference proceedings with excursion guides and last but not least the moderate conference fees, the meetings of the working group are considered to be highly applied and interdisciplinary attractive. So far, almost 4,000 experts from active and rehabilitating mining, from companies and engineering offices, from geoscientific and environmental authorities as well as from universities and research institutes have participated in meetings of the working group. But also numerous experts who have already retired from their careers regularly take part in the events, thus enriching the diversity of experience and opinions on various aspects. The proportion of colleagues from geoscientific practice, including geological surveys, averaged 75 %.

Meetings are usually two days long and include field trips to historic and still-operating mining facilities. Wherever possible, emphasis is placed on designing and documenting the excursions in such a way that they are also suitable for individual usages outside of the



Timeline of the meetings

Bad MuskauStaßfurtOelsnitzCottbusSchlemaSchlemaZwickauMagdeburgDessauFreital-BurgkKönigswarthaSondershausenForstStedtenHammer- unterwiesenthalMagdeburgBitterfeldRottlebenRonneburgMorslebenNochtenLangenstein	Geoscientific Problems of the Post-Mining Landscapes in the Weißwasser Area (Upper Lusatia) Post-Mining Landscapes and Mining Damages of Potash Mining Post-Mining Effects of Hard Coal Mining in the Zwickau-Oelsnitz area Post-Mining Effects of the Lusatian Lignite Mining Industry in Brandenburg Rehabilitation of Uranium Ore Mining Dumps Post-Mining Consequences, Structural Damage and Rehabilitation Problems at the Cathedral "St. Marien" in Zwickau Potash, Salt and Copper Shale in Central Germany (Part I) Post-Mining Landscapes of Lignite Mines in the context of EXPO 2000 450 Years of Hard Coal and Uranium Ore Mining in the Freital area and its Effects today Post-Mining Issues in Kaolin Mining in Caminau Aspects of Long-Term Safety in Potash and Salt Mining Geopark Muskauer Faltenbogen The Tertiary of Röblingen Marble in the Erzgebirge: Geology, Exploitation, Post-Mining Landscapes Potash, Salt and Copper Shale in Central Germany (Part II) 1. Bitterfeld Amber Colloquium: "Bitterfeld amber: Deposit, Raw Material, Post-Mining Use" Karst and Ancient Mining at Kyffhäuser – Salt, Copper, Gypsum, Alabaster Uranium Ore Mining in the Ronneburg area (Thuringia) – Rehabilitation and Post-Mining Use From Mine to Repository – Post-Mining Utilization of the Morsleben Salt Mine and the Konrad Iron Ore Mine, Salzgitter Lignite and Park Landscapes in the Guskauer Heath Mining of Raw Materials in the Geopark Harz - Braunschweiger Land - Ostfalen) 196 198 198 201 203 204 204 205 207 205 207 205 207 205 207 205 210 211 215 216 216 216 216 216 216 216 216 216 216
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respective conference. The lectures and excursion guides of the meetings have almost all been published in the series Excursion Guides and Publications (EDGG) of DGGV e.V. and predecessor associations (see last column of the timeline).

The meetings are planned and organized by a small volunteer team in cooperation with active mining companies and mining experts from the respective region. This group currently consists of the chairwoman Katrin Kleeberg (Oberschöna), Sybille Busch (Spremberg), Dr. Henny Gerschel (Freiberg), Dr. Jochen Rascher (Dresden) and Stephanie Wittwer (Freiberg). In earlier times, Prof. em. Dr. Hermann Brause (†), Roland Hille (†) and Dr. Matthias Thomae (Wörlitz) were also active.

