

**MONEY DICTATES NUCLEAR
WASTE POLICY IN THE
NETHERLANDS**
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PERSON

- I work on nuclear energy since 1976:
- 1976: plans for the disposal of nuclear waste in the northern Dutch salt domes.
- Since then many lectures, a number of books , more then thousand articles about nuclear energy and nuclear waste.
- I call myself an independent researcher and publicist.

SUBJECT

- Ocean dumping
- 1976: saltdomes
- Central storage
- Interim storage as “solution”
- Permanent retrievability
- Money dictates 100 years

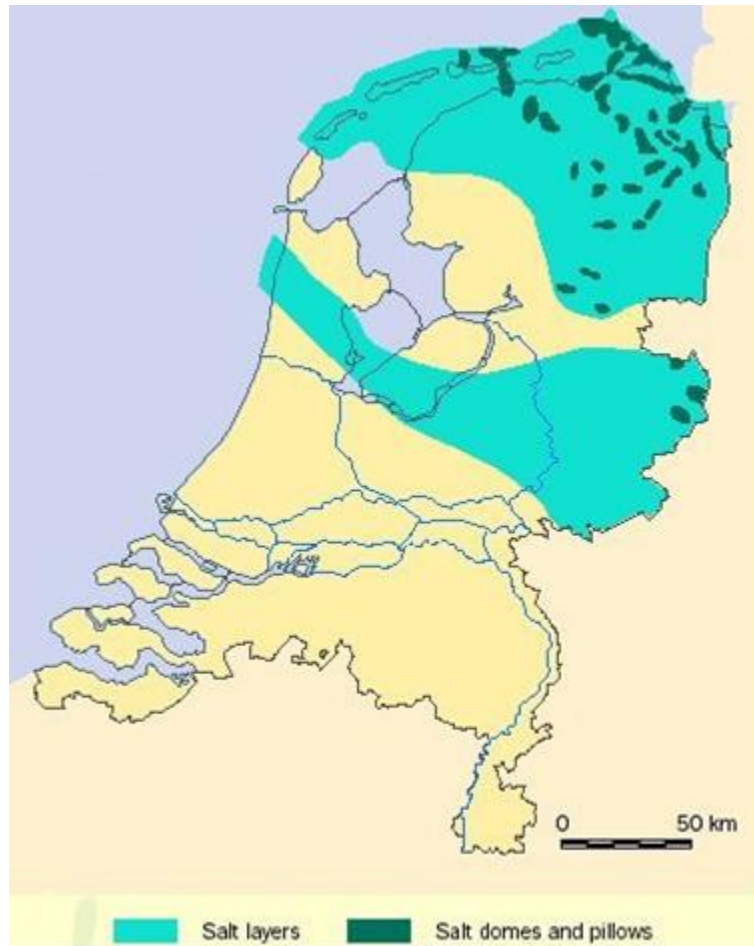
Ocean dumping

- The Netherlands used to dump low and intermediate level waste in sea from 1967 to 1982.
- Storage of nuclear waste left over after reprocessing of spent fuel elements from power plants was taken care of abroad.
- **SO: NO PROBLEM**

Five salt domes

- On 18 June 1976 the government:
- In the provinces of Groningen and Drenthe five salt domes for test drilling: Gasselte Schoonlo, Pieterburen, Onstwedde and Anloo.
- The safe disposal of nuclear waste in the German Asse salt dome as an example.
- Disposal from the year 2000.

Saltformations



Saltdomes

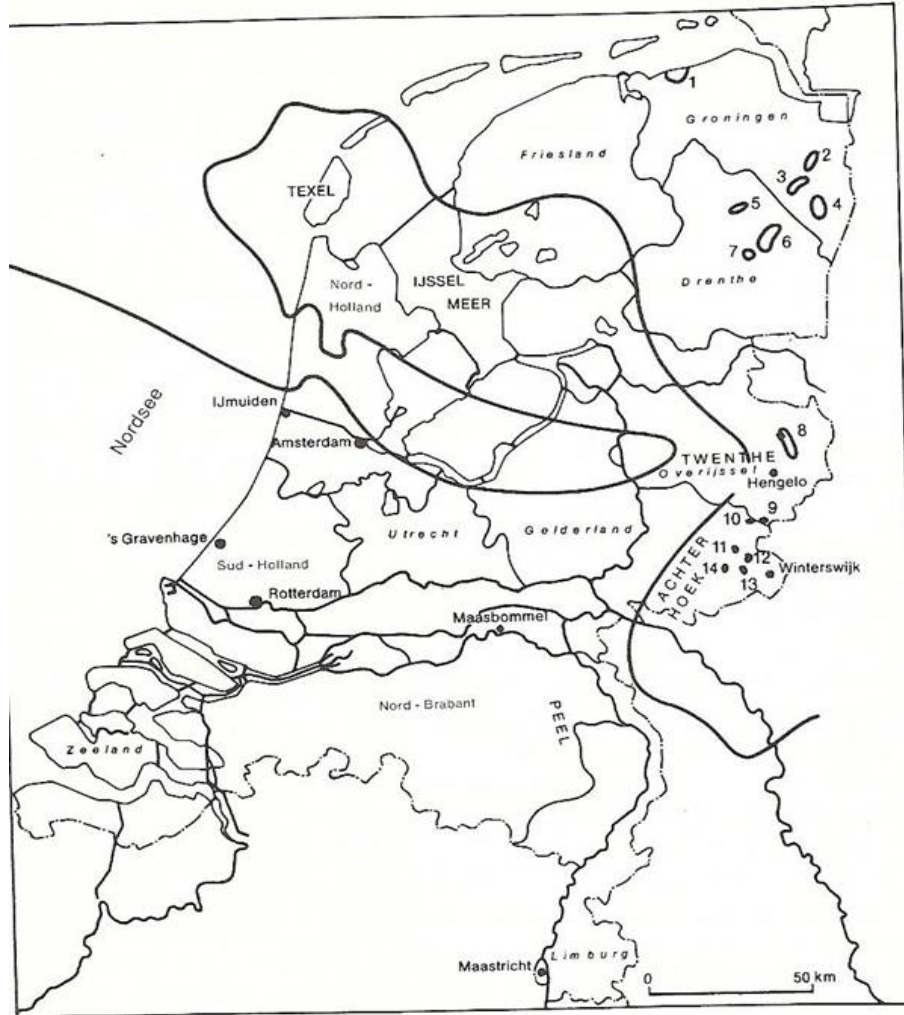


Abb. 43. Salzstrukturen in Holland. — = Grenze der Salzverbreitung. Salzstöcke und Salzkissen: 1 Pieterburen, 2 Winschoten, 3 Zuidwending, 4 Onstwedde, 5 Anlo, 6 Gassette-Drouwen, 7 Schoonlo, 8 Weerselo, 9 Haaksbergen, 10 Eibergen, 11 Groenlo, 12 Gelria, 13 Corle, 14 Lichtenvoorde. (Aus Harsveldt 1980: 48)

Acceptance?

- National Geological Agency 1976:
- "Feasibility study and general hazard analysis with the aim to obtain public and governmental acceptance".
- Action groups: not about collecting objective data.
- Resistance: demonstration in Gasselte June 2, 1979 with 25,000 people.
- No drillings until now.

Interim “solution”

- Either stop NP or something else.
- Dutch government in 1984: geological disposal after interim storage of 100 year.
- Central Organisation for Radioactive Waste (COVRA).
- After a lot of discussions and protest a location was found near NP Borssele.
- The storage started in 1992.
- “Problem solved” for NP.

Permanent retrievability

- 1993 the then Environment Minister Alders: underground storage is allowed, when 'permanent retrievability' is assured.
- But is this possible? How has this to be organized? How to be financed?
- To study this in 1995 the Commission Radioactive Waste Disposal (CORA).
- Report 2001, with no actions from the government.

OPERA

- In 2011 Research Program Final Disposal Radioactive Waste (in Dutch OPERA).
- Disposal facility for Dutch radioactive waste is a process that starts in about 100 years.
- Choice of a location and construction of the facility is expected to take 20 years.
- Final disposal not in operation before 2130.

Money dictates 100 years

- The government:
- Now not economically feasible to construct a deep geologic disposal facility.
- The waste volume collected in a period of 100 years was judged as large enough to make a disposal facility in the future viable.
- There is a period of 100 years available to allow the money in the capital growth fund to grow to the desired level.

New policy

- The new government's policy:
- No immediate urgency to select a specific disposal site.
- Transparency of nuclear activities and communication to the public.
- Dialogue among stakeholders.

No dialogue

- The current government recently gave the nuclear power station Borssele permission to run for 20 more years, until 2033.
- In my view this means that the government is of the opinion that it is acceptable to continue the production of nuclear waste without having found a final solution for the waste.

Proposal true dialogue

- From the beginning it should be clear that ethical and societal factors play a full role in the discussion.
- Those who are critical of storage should be given funds to develop their arguments.
- Among the different parties, there should be no financial inequality.
- Dutch government didn't even listen to this proposal.

Conclusion

- The Netherlands on nuclear waste:
- no participation,
- no dialogue,
- no real public debate,
- no lessons were learnt by the government.