

Turów coal power plant Poland

Sectors: Coal Electric Power Generation

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By: BankTrack

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Sectors

Coal Electric Power Generation

Location

About Turów coal power plant

Turów power plant is the third largest heating power plant in Poland, and is located in Bogatynia in the Lower Silesia region, bordering Germany and the Czech Republic. Its generating capacity is 1,694.8 MW. The plant currently consists of seven lignite-fired generation units. From 2014, six units will remain operational. According to a [WWF report](#) from 2007, Turów power plant is the biggest greenhouse gas producer in Poland, and 8th in Europe. In March 2014, the [tender](#) to built Turow was won by Hitachi Power Europe and MHPS Europe, acting as the consortium leader with a 55.38% stake, and Budimex and Tecnicas Reunidas each holding 22.31% stakes.

Latest developments

Environmental Permit decision been taken to the WSA

Jun 24 2014

PGE power picks PLN

Mar 19 2014

What must happen

Private banks must not finance this dodgy deal in any way.

Impacts

Social and human rights impacts

One of the main problems encountered by those living in the area of the plant is the bad air quality of lower Silesia region. On 21st November 2011, the European Commission sued Poland in the European Court of Justice for lack of progress in its implementation of the Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC), which should have been implemented in Poland by the 11th of June 2010. The directive requires in particular that the PM10 (larger dust particles) level does not exceed 50 miligrams/m³ more than 35 times a year. However this PM10 level is breached with much higher frequency in many Polish metropolitan areas. Protests over poor air quality have already led to changes in regional legislation in the Malopolskie Voivoship (province) and its capital, Krakow.

The local health impacts from coal mining, transportation and combustion are also a significant concern, and communities living in proximity to these activities are experiencing adverse social impacts, such as loss of amenities, displacement, and loss of social capital as well as facing increased risks of respiratory disease, heart disease, and lung cancer.

In addition, burning coal causes health related problems related to coal ash and air pollution. The plant also contributes to the region becoming 'locked in' to coal-based energy production for the next 40-50 years, making the shift to a renewable energy based society all the more difficult.

Both the Polish constitution and European Union legislation guarantee the right to live in a clean environment, and the quality of the air that citizens breathe every day is part of that right. The local health impacts from coal mining, transportation and combustion are also a significant concern, and communities living in proximity to these activities experience adverse social impacts including displacement and loss of social capital, as well as facing increased risks of respiratory disease, heart disease, and lung cancer.

Environmental and climate impacts

Burning coal is one of the most polluting methods of energy production. It causes significant changes to air quality through emissions of toxic substances such as SO₂, NO_x, small and large dust particles (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and heavy metals such as mercury and cadmium. Coal burning is also the largest single contributor to GHG emissions worldwide and thus has an impact on the climate of the region and the planet. Coal mining and coal combustion also cause serious water shortages and pollution both by modifying ground and subterranean water flows and sewage discharges that affect river and sea flora and fauna. One of the most serious secondary effects of pollution from coal combustion is ocean acidification and acid rains.

Governance

Updates

Environmental Permit decision been taken to the WSA

Jun 24 2014

The Environmental Permit decision has been taken to the WSA (voivodship level administrative court - second instance) and the outcome of the challenge by the Frank Bold Foundation is expected to be known on June 25th. Recently an IPPC procedure has also been opened there.

PGE power picks PLN

Mar 19 2014

PGE power picks PLN 3.25 bln bid by consortium with [Budimex](#) in Turow tender.

Second tender

Mar 18 2014

The first tender was cancelled, but the procedure for the second tender for the investment is still ongoing, since PGE has not announced the outcome yet. The best price offer was made by chinese Shanghai Electric Group that valued investment to 3,08 billion PLN, while PGE planned to spend utmost 2,83 billion PLN.

Frank Bold Foundation sues

Feb 20 2014

In February 2014, the Frank Bold Foundation sued the decision of Self-Governmental Appeals board that maintained the environmental permit in force.

Premature deaths caused by Turow

Jun 4 2013

The Greenpeace study [Silent Killers](#) estimates that 5,900 life years have been lost due to the pollution caused by Turow.

Related companies

Polska Grupa Energetyczna (PGE) Poland [show profile](#)

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- The plant is owned by Polska Grupa Energetyczna (PGE). The PGE Group operates two large lignite mines and more than 40 power stations. Power stations are fueled mainly by hard coal and lignite. The lignite mine from which Turow power plant sources its fuel in Bogatynia will likely be depleted within 30 years. In 2012 PGE Group stated that it might consider building lignite mines and power plants in the Lubuskie region, Western Poland, in a long term perspective, as the deposits of its current mine in Bogatynia will likely be depleted within 30 years. PGE holds permits to explore lignite deposits in the region. The cost of building two mining-energy complexes could amount to PLN 70-75 billion (EUR 16,66-17,85 billion).