



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Secretariat**

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Conference Services

**Fifteenth OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum - Part 1:
“Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the
OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management”
Vienna, 22 - 23 January 2007**

**Session II
Environmental governance, in particular as it affects land degradation and soil
contamination**

Please find attached the presentation by the keynote speaker, Dr. Friedrich von Bismarck,
CEO for the Governmental Program for the Rehabilitation of East-German Lignite Mines:
Mining - a Challenge for Environmental Security - Lessons learned in East Germany.

Mining - a Challenge for Environmental Security Lessons learned in East Germany



15th OSCE Forum
22-23 January 2007

Dr. Friedrich von Bismarek
Governmental Mine Rehabilitation Program
for East Germany

StuBA



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Tar-Lake in Zerze

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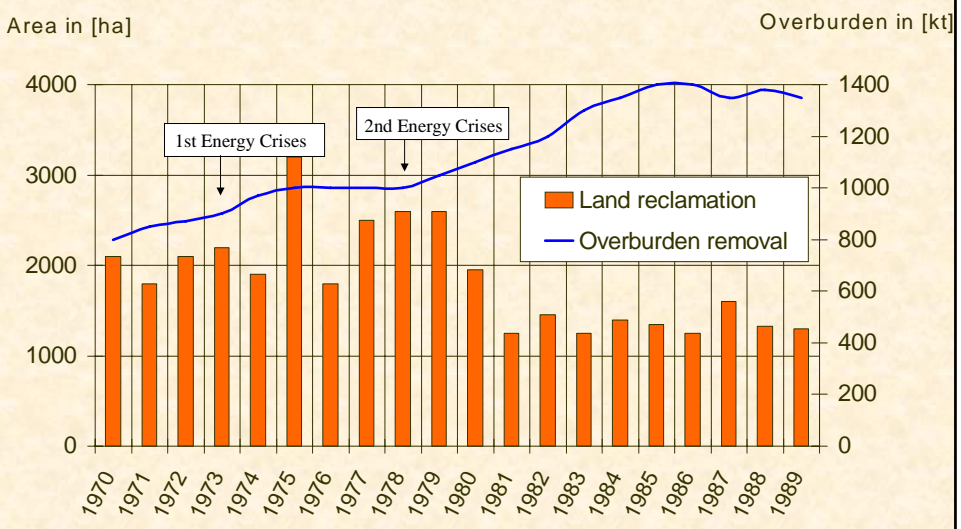
Development of Coal Industry in East Germany

Year	1989	2006
Coal Production (million t)	301	78
Open Pit Mines	39	6
Briquetting Plants	49	2
Industrial Power Plants	45	4
Employees	138,800	10,523

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Reclamation Deficit in the East-German Coal-Industry



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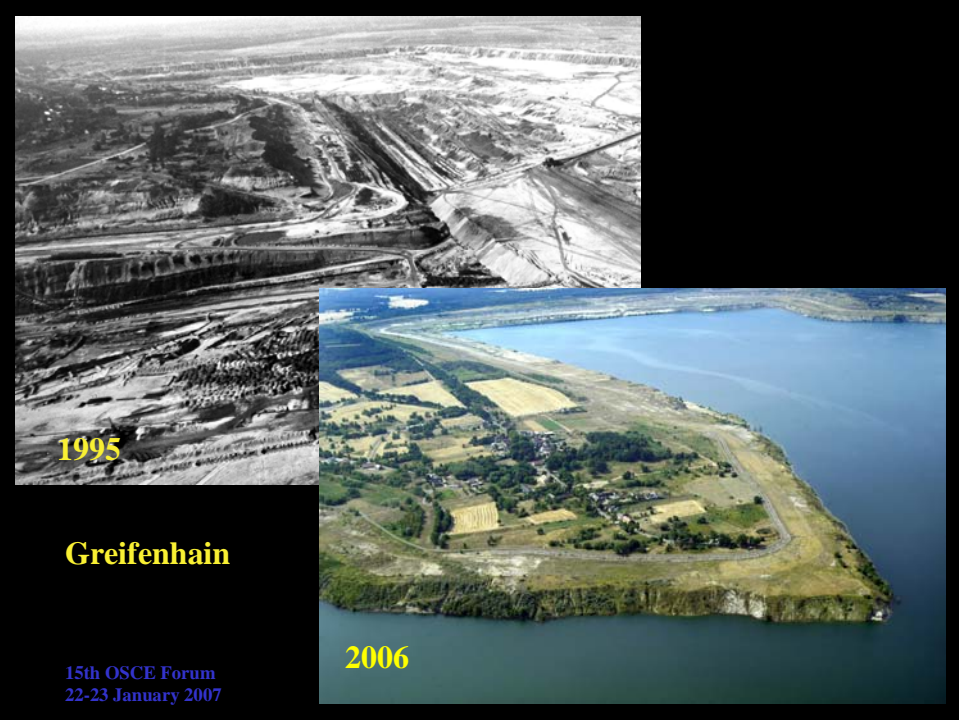
**Innovative
Technology**

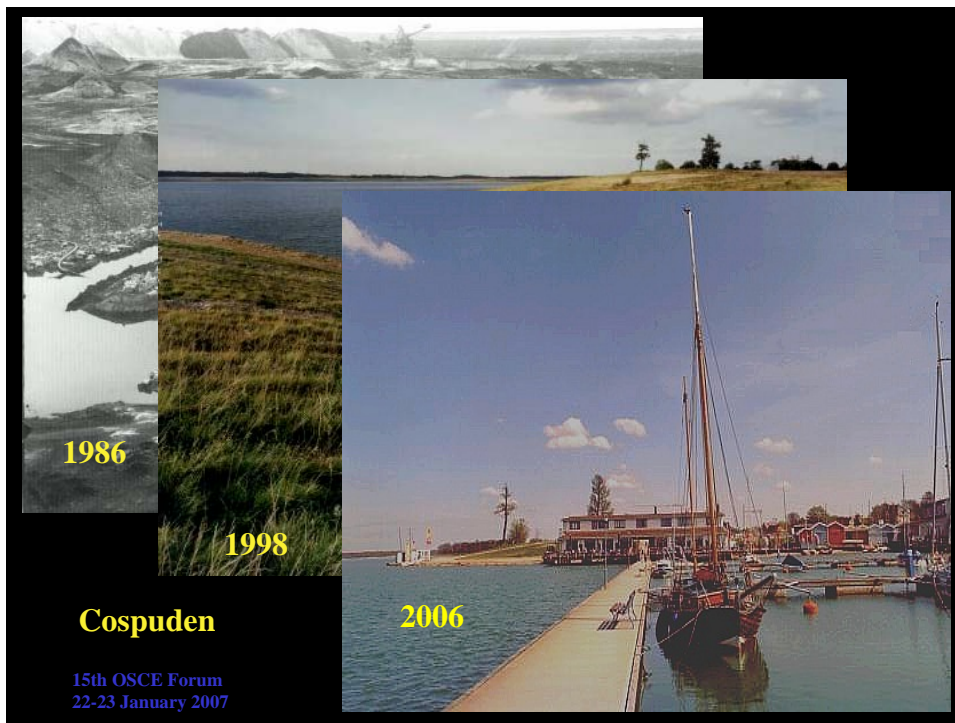
**Vibro-
compaction**

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LESSONS LEARNED IN EAST-GERMANY (I)

1. Mining operations have a large potential to seriously impact the environment and there is a corresponding need for **appropriate forms of control**.
2. If **governance is not successful** in integrating remediation and reclamation into the mining process, the technical and financial effort required subsequently will **increase rapidly** over time.
3. Devastated un-reclaimed mining areas tend to be **used as dumping ground for other (also toxic) waste**, which of course exacerbates the problem.
4. The mining industry's image and reputation is greatly enhanced when it adopts **best practices of environmental governance**.

LESSONS LEARNED IN EAST-GERMANY (II)

5. As a reclamation strategy "simply green" is not enough.

Reclamation must be seen as an opportunity to promote structural change that will help the reclaimed area achieve sustainable development.

6. As a result of this huge rehabilitation programme, we have a new industry in Germany that has become a world-wide benchmark for best remediation practices. This remediation industry is keen to cooperate with OSCE partners.

7. Mining impacts on the environment may also have transboundary effects. This may cause serious tensions and even security problems in the affected regions. The economic and environmental aspect of mining operations can therefore be regarded as an important aspect of OSCE's comprehensive approach to security.