

The Dam

A Warmer



Work with another student:

- How many ways of generating electricity can you think of?
- Rate them from 0 (none at all) to 5 (very damaging) for how much effect each method has on the environment.



How is the electricity generated in this country?

B Introduction

60% of Germany's electricity is generated by fossil fuel power stations and another 30% from nuclear power stations. The German government would now like to reduce reliance on these forms of electricity generation and move towards renewable methods such as solar, wind and hydro-electric (dams).

To this end, the *National Electricity Network of Germany* is planning to build a new dam on the Rhine River. Electricity consumption is projected to outpace generation within ten years so the dam project is seen as vital to the country's energy policy.

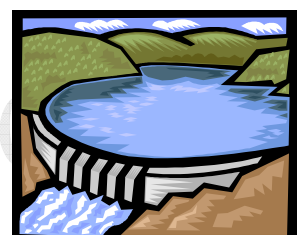
Without the dam, Germany will have a shortfall of some 6% of its energy requirements within ten years. Coal production is falling and nuclear power has become unpopular with the public in the last 15 years.

The Netherlands is not satisfied at the prospect of a dam so near its own borders considering the heavy impact it is likely to have on the local Rhine environment.

C Options

Only two options exist.

- i. The Rhine Dam is built over the next three years and the electricity generated goes a long way towards fulfilling Germany's growing energy requirements over the coming decades.



C Options

- ii. Opposition both in Germany and Holland succeeds in getting the dam project cancelled and the *National Electricity Network of Germany* will have to try and increase coal and nuclear energy production.

D Map



E The Meeting

The German government has called a meeting to decide on whether to go ahead with the dam project or look for other sources of power.

Attending the meeting will be:

- ❑ 2 representatives of *National Electricity Network of Germany*.
- ❑ The Dutch Minister for the Environment.
- ❑ The German Energy Minister.
- ❑ A member of German anti-nuclear group *No To Nuclear*.
- ❑ The head of *Tourism Board Of Southern Holland*.
- ❑ A member of German environmental group *Green Energy*.
- ❑ 2 residents of Duisberg, a city near the proposed dam site.
- ❑ A representative of local fishermen.



E The Meeting

Each representative will have one vote at the end of the meeting and members of the public will be able to vote too.

A chairperson will be selected before the beginning of the meeting and will keep order in the meeting.

Try and consider the positive aspects of other people's opinions too. Argue your case but also think about what other people are saying.

Read the instructions on the piece of paper your teacher will give you very carefully and plan your arguments either alone or with the other students in your group.

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