



CREATION
July 2018

SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK

The social-ecological framework of this OHM stems from the construction in 1970-1977 of the Fessenheim nuclear power plant (fully operational in 1978) along with its intertwined ecological, economic and social consequences that have deeply marked this territory (see below).

DISRUPTING EVENT

Beyond the related numerous political debates, the actual disrupting event was the decision to shut down the plan (EDF's Board of Directors meeting of April 6, 2017).

The first step of this process was the shut down of reactor 1 and reactor 2 February 22, and June 29, 2020, respectively.

KEY TOPICS

Topics concern the ecological, economic and social consequences of the announcement of the plant's closure. Particular attention will be paid to the consequences on the energy and ecological transitions, and their consequences on society and its socio-environmental organization. A specific focus will target urban developments and the consequences of the nuclear plant closure on their dynamics. Research will particularly focus on the time 0, i.e. socio-ecological state of the focal object 'Fessenheim' at the time of the decision to close the power plant).

TERRITORY

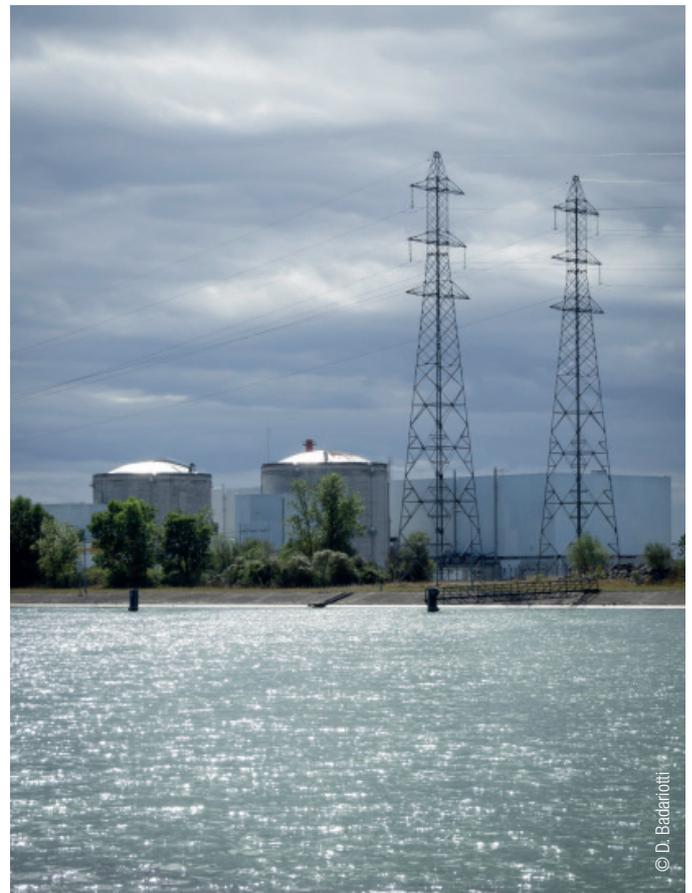
It includes areas that have been ecologically, economically and socially impacted by the nuclear plant from its construction to its shutdown. These areas will be spatially contrasted depending on the research question. First studies will focus on a 19 mi radius around the power plant, which consists in the on-call duties area of its employees.

SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL ISSUES

By its location, i.e. in a highly industrialized region on the banks of the Rhine at the borders of France, Germany and Switzerland, this socio-ecosystem represents a unique object to study.

The shut-down of the Fessenheim power plant creates a major tipping point, mixing old ecological, societal and infrastructural legacies with modern economic constraints, including the announcement of strong energy transition policies. This decision induces major changes in the socioeconomic structure of the riparians communities, which must be studied in the Upper Rhine region.

The OHM's research will mainly concern the characterization of the socio-environmental dynamics that have marked and that will mark the territory following the disrupting event. Specific focus will be put on the pollutants which can potentially result from the activities, the shutdown and the dismantling of the power plant, as well as their consequences on the landscape, on the recomposition of socio-economic and ecological dynamics and in terms of public health. Particular attention will be paid to the integration of the alternative energy strategies and their consequences.



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