



Contribution from Schachdorf Ströbeck



WATER: past, present, future

Abstract from the Lecture

Water Management in Germany

- **Water supply is sufficient (182 billions m³)**
- **Water supply and sewage disposal are a municipal business**
- **Carried out mostly by separate companies**
- **Strongly subdivided structure**
 - About 6700 water supply companies
 - About 8000 sewage disposal companies
- **High connection rate**
 - Water supply: about 98.6%
 - Sewage: about 96.4%
- **High technical standards**
 - 9% water loss on average
 - Considerable improvement of water quality (lakes,rivers) in the past decades
- **Decreasing water consumption (about 125 l/p/d)**

Organizational forms of water supply and sewage disposal

- **Municipal department**
Municipally operated within the framework of local government processes
- **Municipal utility**
Municipally operated as special assets on a separate account
- **Municipal company**
Municipally owned company, but with a private legal form
- **Joint company**
Municipal company in a partnership with a private firm

- **Private-operated (BOO, BOOT, BOT, ...)**
Assignment of plant operations to a private company, but the municipality remains responsible for task fulfilment
- **Management and service contract**
Allocation of operations to a private company

Eastern German specificities

GDR

- 16 state-owned water supply and sewage disposal works
- Low connection rate at central utilities (instead: decentral house wells and sewage treatment tanks)
- High water consumption in industry and households
- High water losses due to outdated mains technology
- Water pollution due to insufficient sewage treatment
- Prices were not cost-covering

Today

- 550 water supply companies, 1050 sewage disposal companies
- Connection rates >90% (compulsory connection and usage)
- Large drop in water consumption (about 90 l/p/d)
- Repair and extension of existing mains and plants
- ↳ Noticeable improvement in water quality (lakes, rivers)
- ↳ Steep price increase

Water supply in Schachdorf Ströbeck

- **"Wasser- und Abwasserzweckverband Huy-Fallstein"**
(Association for the purpose of water and sewage management)
 - About 30 member municipalities
 - Share in decisions: Franchise in the assembly meeting
- **High investments in the past 10 years**
- **Strong decline in the use of house wells for independent supply**
- Increase in connection rate from 40% to 100%
- **Water is bought from Halberstadt city utilities**
(50% dam water, 50% ground water)
- **Good water quality**
- **Water price: 1,56 €/m³ (incl. V A T)**
- **Municipality stabilizes water price by paying 20,45€/inhabitant/year**
- **Collection of contributions:**
One-off connection fee of about 2000€ per house

Sewage disposal in Schachdorf Ströbeck

- **"Wasser- und Abwasserzweckverband Huy-Fallstein"**
(Association for the purpose of water and sewage management)
- **High investments in the past 10 years**
- **Strong decline in the use of private sewage treatment tanks**
- **Waste water goes on to Halberstadt treatment plant**
 - High technical standards after having been modernized
 - Mechanical and biological clarification
 - Third purification stage (phosphate elimination)
- **Sewage treatment price: 3,50 €/m³**
- **Collection of contributions: about 4€ per m² of property area**

Bodies of water in Schachdorf Ströbeck

- **Brook "Ströbecker Fließ"**
 - Small brook (110 m³/h)
 - Was strongly contaminated by sewage dumping
 - Water quality improved after most residents had been connected to central sewage
 - No flood protection
 - Inside the village, the brook runs through a concrete canal
 - Low recreational value; biotope partially outside the village
 - Maintenance is done by a maintenance association (the municipalities are members, each member pays 7,50 € per hectare per year)
- **Village pond**
 - Was a combined pond and swimming pool
 - Pool facilities knocked down in 1998 (not up to quality requirements)
 - Nature-oriented redesign
 - Increase in recreational value
 - Fishing, ice-skating, walks...