

Objektyp: **TableOfContent**

Zeitschrift: **Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad**

Band (Jahr): **36 (2009)**

Heft 2

PDF erstellt am: **22.07.2024**

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern. Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

### **Haftungsausschluss**

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

Ein Dienst der *ETH-Bibliothek*  
ETH Zürich, Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zürich, Schweiz, [www.library.ethz.ch](http://www.library.ethz.ch)

<http://www.e-periodica.ch>

## Does Switzerland need nuclear power stations and, if so, how many?

**T**HERE ARE CURRENTLY FIVE NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS in operation in Switzerland: Beznau I and Beznau II in the Canton of Aargau, Mühleberg in the Canton of Berne and two larger plants at Gösgen in the Canton of Solothurn and Leibstadt in the Canton of Aargau. These nuclear power stations will have to be decommissioned between 2020 and 2045 in line with legislation. Plans for new nuclear power stations are therefore in full swing. Three planning applications have been submitted, and the heated debate between the advocates and opponents of nuclear power has begun in earnest.

Let us not forget the Swiss people set the course for energy policy years ago in two highly controversial referenda. On 23 September 1990, the people and the cantons rejected the popular initiative “for the withdrawal from nuclear power” by a narrow margin with a No vote of 52.9%. At the same time, the referendum on the moratorium “stop the construction of nuclear power stations” was approved with 54.4% of the people and cantons voting in favour. On the same day, 71.1% of the people and cantons endorsed the incorporation of the new energy article into the Federal Constitution.

On 18 May 2003, two energy policy proposals were soundly rejected by the people and the cantons: 58.4% voted against the popular initiative “Moratorium Plus – for an extension to the halt on construction of nuclear power stations and the limitation of nuclear risk”, and 66.3% said No to the popular initiative “electricity without nuclear energy – for a change in energy policy and gradual decommissioning of nuclear power stations”. The Swiss people kept open the option of nuclear power through these decisions.

For the Federal Council and the energy industry the case is clear: they consider the construction of new nuclear power stations absolutely necessary. However, environmental politicians are of the opposite opinion and have branded the Federal Council’s proposals for energy efficiency and renewable sources as “feeble”. They are pinning all their hopes of a green future on state-subsidised renewable sources and the carbon dioxide tax on fossil fuels.



Heinz Eckert

The potential of alternative energy is clearly far from being exhausted and there is still plenty of scope for saving electricity. Whether future electricity requirements can and should be met without nuclear power stations is a subjective issue. While the supporters of nuclear power champion the “cleanest energy” and regard the issue of permanent storage for nuclear waste as resolved, opponents quite simply see highly radioactive waste as a huge problem for mankind.

The question of whether Switzerland needs nuclear power stations and how many will emotionally preoccupy and divide the people as long as it remains relevant to energy supply. It is clear that electricity must be saved and alternative energy promoted intensively in all areas. If energy consumption is excessive, politicians will have little choice but to approve new nuclear power stations. Unfortunately, in the time since the moratorium too little has been done in Switzerland to promote alternatives to nuclear energy on a wide scale.

HEINZ ECKERT, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Press Photos of the Year 2008: Marcel Ospel’s final UBS AGM

5

Mailbag

5

Books: Strike in Bellinzona

6

Images: Swiss Press Photo 2008

7

Energy: Are the lights set to go out in Switzerland?

10

Economic crisis: Interview with Basel economist Silvio Borner

12/13

Politics

### Regional news

14

Notes from Parliament

16

Switzerland’s first metro system in Lausanne

18

Experiencing Switzerland

20

OSA news

23

Echo

Cover photo: The Cavagnoli dam holds back Lago dei Cavagnöo near Fusio in the Canton of Ticino. Behind is the Lago di Robieie dam (photo: Keystone)

**IMPRINT:** “Swiss Review”, the magazine for the Swiss abroad, is in its 36th year of publication and is published in German, French, Italian, English and Spanish in 14 regional editions. It has a total circulation of 408 000. Regional news appears four times a year.

■ **EDITORS:** Heinz Eckert (EC), Editor-in-Chief; Rolf Ribi (RR); René Lenzin (RL); Alain Wey (AW); Rahel Schweizer (RS), responsible for “Notes from Parliament”, Service for the Swiss Abroad, DFA, CH-3003 Berne Translation: CLS Communication AG ■ **POSTAL ADDRESS:** Publisher, editorial office, advertising: Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Berne, Tel.: +41 31 356 61 10, Fax: +41 31 356 61 01, Postal account (Swiss National Giro): 30-6768-9. Internet: www.revue.ch ■ **E-MAIL:** revue@aso.ch ■ **PRINT:** Zollikofer AG, CH-9001 St.Gallen. ■ **CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please advise your local embassy or consulate. Do not write to Berne. ■ All Swiss abroad who are registered with a Swiss representation receive the magazine free of charge. Anyone else can subscribe to the magazine for an annual fee (Switzerland: CHF 25 / abroad: CHF 40). Subscribers are sent the magazine direct from Berne.

Copy deadline for this edition: 9.2.2009