

Collection Summary

ID Number: CS 250

Title: Gorleben/Free Republic of Wendland

Extent: 1 Folder(s)

Span Dates: 1980

Language: English, German

Geographic Location: Germany

Abstract: This collection consists of a community description.

Historical Notes: Gorleben is a small municipality (Gemeinde) in the Gartow region of the Lüchow-Dannenberg district in the far north-east of Lower Saxony, Germany, a region also known as the Wendland. Gorleben is known as the site of a controversial radioactive waste disposal facility, currently used as an intermediate storage facility but planned to serve with the salt dome Gorleben as a future deep final repository for waste from nuclear reactors. It has attracted frequent protests from environmentalists since the 1970's. Even while the interim storage unit and the first exploratory mine were being set up - the latter was once referred to by Jürgen Trittin (Green party) as illegal mining, there were protests by opponents of nuclear technology locally and nationwide. On May 23, 1980 a micronation, the "Free Republic of Wendland" was founded symbolically by building a village of huts at the site of the exploratory mine. Gerhard Schröder, then the leader of the SPD youth organization Jusos (later to become Chancellor of Germany), spoke out in support of the occupiers. On June 4, 1980 the police moved in and cleared out the encampment. **Sources:** [Gorleben](#)

Selected Search Terms

Subjects: Antinuclear movement; Nonviolence; Passive resistance; Communal living; Collective settlements

Administrative Information

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Contents	Date	Container	Folder	Location
Kockel, Ullrich. "Gorleben or: The Dream of Something." Liverpool: University of Liverpool	1980	Filing Cabinet	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 13-B
