

- OPEN LETTER -

Greenpeace e.V., Große Elbstraße 39, 22767 Hamburg

Vattenfall AB
Øystein Løseth
CEO
169 92 Stockholm
Sweden

Request to stop the lawsuit against climate activists

Hamburg, 22. September 2014

Dear Mr. Løseth,

We are approaching you today in order to kindly ask you to stop your damage claim against climate activists. As you are aware Vattenfall Europe and Mining in Germany have filed a court case against nine environmental activists. On September, 16th 2013 these activists protested against Vattenfall's plans to open up the new lignite mine at Welzow-Süd II in Germany. We call on you as Chief Executive Officer of Vattenfall AB to intervene and to stop Vattenfall Europe from charging selfless people who just acted out of their wish to protect the future of our one and only planet earth.

Greenpeace is very concerned about the plans of your company to open up five new lignite mines in the Eastern German region of Lusatia. Lignite is the most CO₂-intense fuel and therefore the energy source which is most harmful for the climate. Existing lignite mines already contain up to one billion tons of lignite. Burning this huge amount of lignite would result in emissions of one billion tons of CO₂ to the atmosphere which is wholly unacceptable.

Scientific studies, such as that of the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)¹ demonstrate that there is no need for new lignite mines to maintain Germany's energy security. The German Energiewende is set to create a sustainable energy system. Its objective is not only to phase-out nuclear power by 2022, but also to establish an electricity system with a share of at least 80% renewable energies by 2050, able to reduce CO₂-emissions by 80-95%. Since there is no demand for inflexible and CO₂-intensive lignite

¹ Clemens Gerbaulet, Jonas Egerer, Pao-Yu Oei und Christian von Hirschhausen: „Abnehmende Bedeutung der Braunkohleverstromung: Weder neue Kraftwerke noch Tagebaue benötigt“, DIW-Wochenbericht Nr. 48.2012 http://www.diw.de/documents/publikationen/73/diw_01.c.412244.de/12-48.pdf

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power plants in Germany's future energy system, there is absolutely no need for new lignite mines such as Welzow-Süd II. To the contrary: a phase-out of lignite (by 2030) and coal (by 2040) power plants is both essential and inevitable.

We know that it is not only 87% of German citizens who want to phase-out lignite no later than 2030. According to the latest opinion polls in Sweden, also a substantive majority of Swedish citizens are very concerned about the lignite business of their state-owned company. 77% percent of the Swedish population want to stop Vattenfall's plans for new lignite mines. And even in your own press release of September 5th, you described Greenpeace's criticism on lignite as "legitimate". You did add that Greenpeace should not protest in Sweden but in Germany². But this is exactly what the nine environmental activists did on September, 16th 2013. By taking anti-lignite protestors to court in Germany, you are now contradicting your own position.

We as Greenpeace don't see any crime in what the brave activists did when they protested against the newly planned mine Welzow-Süd II. To the contrary, we see that every opening of a new lignite mine is a crime against the climate and the planet which needs to be stopped. It is the good right of everybody to raise attention to a crime – something the activists attempted to do on September, 16th.

On the eve of the United Nations Climate Summit in New York we ask you to please stop the charge against the nine environmental activists and to abandon your plans for new lignite mines.

Yours sincerely,



Brigitte Behrens
Executive Director

² German daily newspaper „die tageszeitung“, 06.07.2014: „Vattenfall gibt Greenpeace Recht“
<http://www.taz.de/!141871/>