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The German Energy transition and necessary grid expansion - Challenges for the national approval authorities

The rapid phase out of nuclear energy and the political decision to base the future electricity generation mainly on renewable energy sources lead to the need for an accelerated development and expansion of the German electricity grid. With the Grid Expansion Acceleration Act of 2011 (NABEG) new tools and provisions were implemented providing for a substantial acceleration potential with regard to the permit granting process which should be exploited. The steady exchange and collaboration of parties, i. e. the permit granting authorities and project promoters, with authorities and associations as well as with the general public has shown to be extremely useful in order to address not only technical matters, but for achieving public acceptance of grid expansion.

Since 2013	Head of Section, Section Federal Sectoral Planning and Planning Approval, Grid Expansion Department, Federal Network Agency, Bonn; Lecturer, Technische Universität Berlin, MBA Energy Management program (since 2016)
2007 – 2013	Head of Section, Section Incentive Regulation, Benchmarking, Federal Network Agency, Bonn
2003 – 2007	Director of the Brussels VKU office and the VKU unit for European affairs in Cologne /Head of Unit "Basic questions of the energy industry" (Asso ciation of municipal companies)
1999 – 2003	Managing Director of the Institute for Energy Law at the University of Cologne
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