

Germany's Energy Talk

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Hydro Power Plants – Graph 6

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The installed hydro power in Germany has been at 4.7 GW and almost stagnant over the years. About 21,600 GWh of electricity were generated in 2006, and all wheeled through the public grid. The generation refers to hydro power from dams and run-of-the-river plants. Pumped storage is excluded. Electricity from hydro power plants plays a minor role in Germany and this will not change. The next addition is the commissioning of the expansion of a run-of-the-river plant by 75 MW in Rheinfelden in 2011. Compared to the Indian expansion plans this is marginal. Of interest is again the average annual plant load factor of all hydro power plants given as $21,600 / 4.7 \times 8760 = 52\%$. The observed fluctuations in electricity generation is following the rain patterns. The contribution of electricity from hydro power plants to the total consumption in Germany is about 3.5%. This is less than the contribution by wind power plants at 5% and not much more than the 3.1% contribution from biomass power plants.

