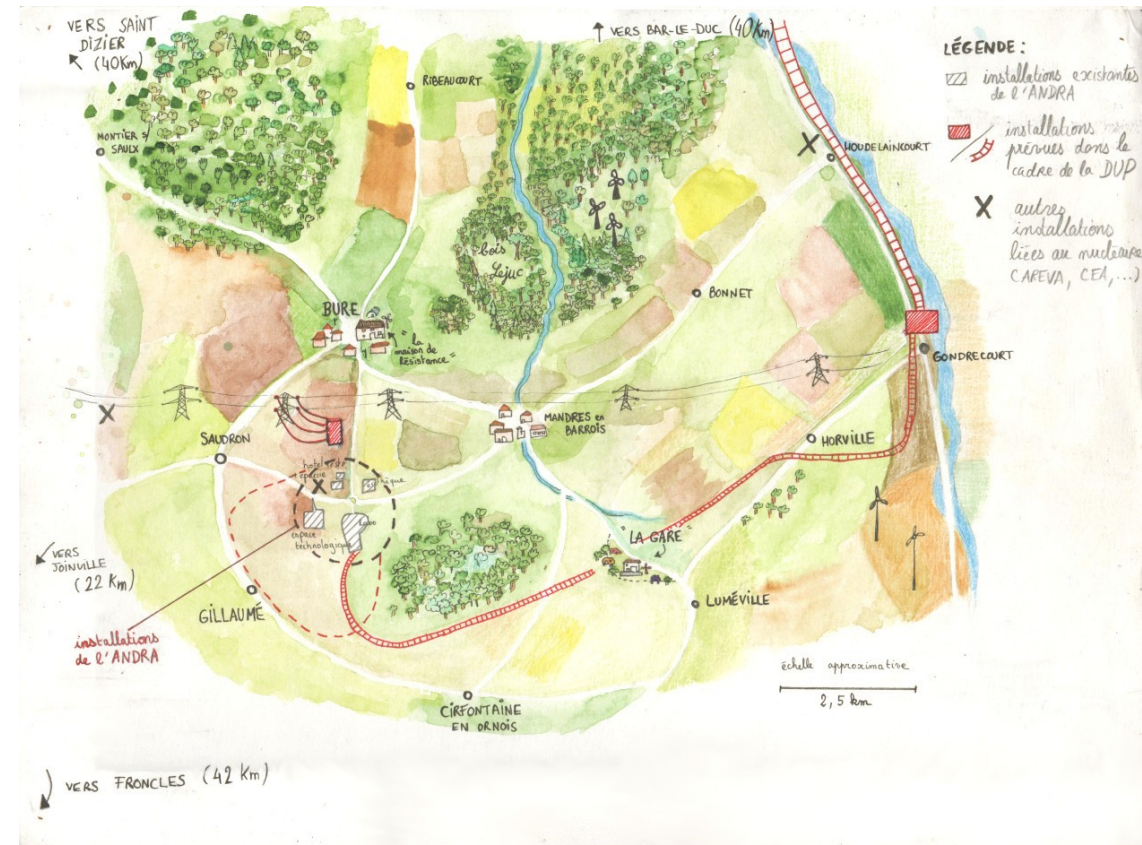


HISTORY AND CONTEXT OF THE STRUGGLE IN BURE - summer 2021



On burebure.info/category/english you can find other types of resources: texts (zines), podcasts and video (with english subtitles).

If you want to translate into english articles of the site, zines, subtitles of movies, write to traductions-burebure@riseup.net ! :)

Smash nuclear power, smash borders !

NUCLEAR WASTE - CIGEO - ANDRA'S LABORATORY - BURE (MEUSE, NORTH EAST FRANCE) - PROTESTS - MAISON DE RESISTANCE - TRAIN STATION OF LUMÉVILLE - GIP'S FUNDING - LAND GRABBING BY THE SAFER - JOINVILLE UNITECH TERRITORY NUCLEARIZATION - POMA SUBCONTRACTOR - CALL FOR DECENTRALIZED ACTIONS - SABOTAGES - OCCUPATIONS OF LEJUC WOOD - AGRICULTURAL BARRICADES - LEGAL CASES - REPRESSION - "CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY" - DUP - to be continued...

GEOGRAPHY OF A NUCLEARIZED TERRITORY

Here is a map of the territory around Bure, with indications in the following text. It is a representation of the area, in order to better understand the different places and the high points of the struggle (Andra laboratory, the former station of Luméville, Lejuc wood, the struggle against Unitech in Joinville, the archives of Houdelaincourt, the GIP,...). The map, which is more of a bird's eye view of reality, could be completed with other more precise documents, for a more refined vision of the territory. What was important to us here was the space left to the text.

The struggle in Bure has been going on for almost 25 years, and in order to have a more complete vision of the past years, the second part of the zine is a chronology of the struggle against Cigéo. The two parts go together, but can also be read separately. This is why historical sequences can be redundant from time to time (Lejuc wood and 2016-2017, for example).

As with any written perception of the territory and past events, this is a subjective (although collective) vision, a kind of tool, a mean. It should not be taken for granted and is only willing to be criticized, confronted with other opinions or testimonies.

The present zine is also available in French, German and Italian.

On this beautiful pompous verbiage, we wish you a nice reading session (and more if desired) against Cigéo!

bureburebure.info/category/english



- *Bure summer 2016-fall 2017* (montage video, 2017, 24 minutes) [subtitled in english]

Radio broadcasts and podcasts :

- Audio listening of *Radio Parleur* - presentation of local context (nov. 2019, 24 min) radioparleur.net/2019/11/13/histoire-bure-nucleaire/ [in french]
- Monthly broadcast of *RadioRadiieuses* on Fréquence Paris Plurielle radiatorieuses.noblogs.org/ [in french]

Comic and book :

- The comic book *100 000 ans*, Ed. Marabulle, 2020 [in french]
- *Le nucléaire c'est fini*, La parisienne libérée, 2019 [in french]

Summary

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

Websites :

- bureburebure.info
- and friends websites... bureburebure.info/sites-amis-antinucleaire-anticigeo/
- archives of the struggle 2015-2018 : vmc.bureburebure.info (ex-vmc.camp)
- archives of the struggle 2014-2015 : nocigeo.noblogs.org

Zines :

- *Cigéo's DUP : Stakes of a Fool's Game* : a text against Cigéo that popularizes and gives the stakes of Andra's Request for Public Utility (June 2021) [in en.]
- *BrochBure* (january 2020) presents the context and traces the background of the struggle in Bure and of the various organizations implied [in french]
- *Nuclear wastes : but you, what do you suggest ?* (april 2016) [in english]
- *Les 12 points contre le nucléaire du collectif RadiAction*, sur radiation.org [in french]
- *La terre est à nous – Testimonies of farmers in struggle in Bure* (2016) [in french]
- *État des lieux de l'appropriation foncière de l'ANDRA à Bure* State of play of the land (2016) [in french]
- *Des convois radioactifs à nos portes ?* Small information guide on the impact of nuclear waste burial in Bure/Saudron (2021) [in french]
- *Trainstopping : blockade & sabotage of rail traffic in the context of the anti-nuclear movement* (2019) [in english]

Movies :

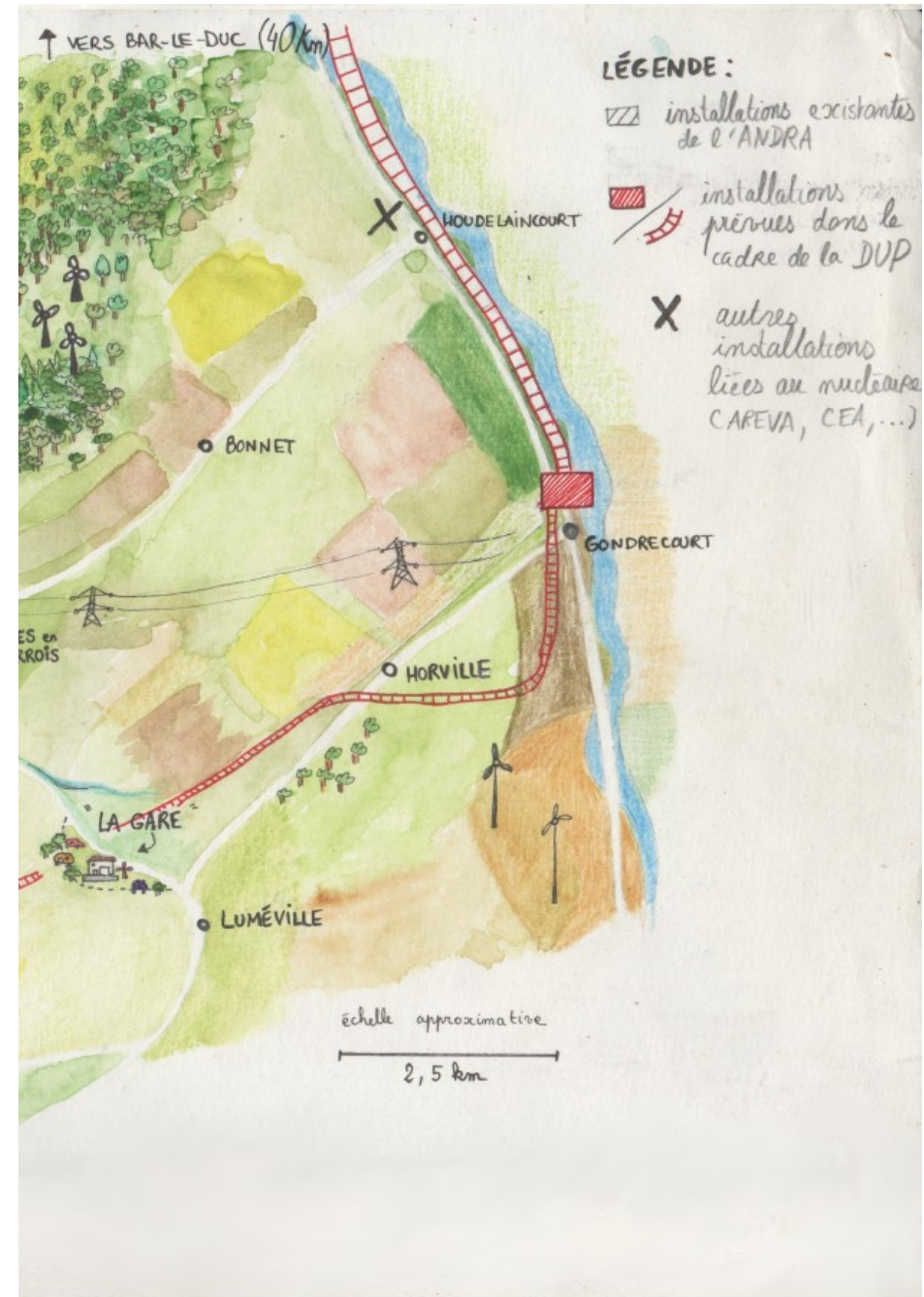
- *Not everyone said yes* (2013, Alain Riès, 25 min) [subtitled in english]
- *Trash life* (2015, automedia, 57 min) [subtitled in english]
- *Bure or the toxic ruins of modernity* (2016, 23 minutes) [subtitled in english]

20 km away; the incessant traffic of numerous heavy goods vehicles and construction equipment, etc.

Far from fatalism and resignation, let us not forget that Cigéo is not yet launched. It has already suffered many delays and the files presented to us are still flawed. Let us not forget that the history of this project is based on strong opposition from the outset and that Andra has been chased out of many departments (Ain, Aisne, Maine-et-Loire, Deux-Sèvres...). Let us not forget the deaths of two Andra workers in 2002 and 2016 following the digging of galleries at the Bure/Saudron laboratory. The causes of the 2016 deaths have still not been clarified. Let us not forget the opinion of the Environmental Authority in January 2021, which is highly critical of the waste storage project.

Who will be the next to be sacrificed?

The Cigéo project is destructive and deadly. Whether the DUP is validated or not, we continue to be determined to oppose this project. It is important to fight against this DUP, as well as against the expropriations and deforestations that will follow²⁷.



²⁷ Information taken from the zine *Cigéo's DUP : Stakes of a Fool's Game* [in english]

LEGEND :

THE ANDRA'S LABORATORY



In 1998, Haute-Marne and Meuse departments were selected for the construction of an “underground geological research laboratory” managed by Andra (Agence Nationale pour la Gestion des Déchets Radioactifs¹). Other departments had been approached but too much opposition prevented the project to take place. The construction of the laboratory began in Bure in 2000. Petitions and demonstrations do not weaken². In 2006, the State validated the underground storage in Bure and charged Andra with the design and implementation of the Cigéo project for 2025. The project is already several years behind schedule. Today, Andra’s laboratory is like a real small town in the Meuse/Haut-Marne countryside that has been guarded since the summer of 2017 by a squadron of cops permanently posted inside the laboratory. The laboratory contains a well with 2 km of test galleries at a depth of 500m. This small town is also composed of a technology center, a hotel-restaurant, a grocery store, a gas station of the eco-library, the archives of EDF³.

1 France agency for nuclear waste

2 See the documentary movie : *Tous n'ont pas dit oui [not everyone said yes]*, by Alain Riès (2013) on bureburebure.info/videos [subtitled in english]

3 *Electricité de France*, main french energy company

between opponents, spending time at the Maison de Resistance and other collective spaces. And soon, the Rayonnantes²⁵!

7) Today's issues : 2021 and the risk of acceleration for Cigéo's project



While Andra has neither yet obtained its Declaration for Public Utility (DUP) nor the Application for Authorisation to Create (DAC), the Application Cigéo project is making small steps forward and preparing the ground through a number of works: such as the cleaning and clearing of the land that will host the future railway²⁶; the acquisition of land through the SAFER to convert the site into a freight terminal for Cigéo; or finally the underground measurements through the work of surveyors or through green drilling boxes (which have by the way, as mentioned

earlier, been the object of several sabotages in recent years. ..)

Again, in 2020, the Declaration of Public Utility (DUP) of the Cigéo project initiates an upcoming acceleration of the work. However, this procedure does not authorise the construction of the storage centre itself: this will be the subject of the application for authorisation to creation (DAC) of the nuclear facility, which should be submitted by 2022 (a date to be taken with a grain of salt, as this deadline is regularly postponed by Andra, which has great difficulty in demonstrating the safety of its project). Thanks to the DUP, Andra will be able to start the first works on Cigéo, known as “pre-planned developments”, i.e. the expropriation of land and housing coveted by Andra; the deforestation, exposure and artificialisation of agricultural and forest land such as Lejuc wood; the construction of an electricity transformer; the restoration of dozens of kilometres of railway tracks to transport radioactive waste; the diversion of departmental roads; the consumption of a very large quantity of water for the work, requiring the pumping of water from springs

25 See the site : rayonnantes.org [in english]

26 See the zine : *Des convois radioactifs à nos portes ?* [in french]

6) 2019-nowadays



After the experienced difficulties (repression, trauma,...) in 2018-2019 and while controls and repression were dwindling (still despite regular patrols of gendarmes in the various villages in the vicinity – but without systematic control), new events and demonstrations in and around Bure continued to swarm energies and links. For 2019, these include the second Bure’lesques festival²¹ (whose 3rd edition in august 2021 has been postponed to 2022), the Vent de Bure discussions and demonstration in Nancy, the Bombes Atomiques²², the week of construction at the Maison de Résistance; for 2020, the anti-nuclear and feminist week and the Bombes Atomiques demonstration, the anti-prison week at La Gare, the anti-nuclear week in the autumn and the “We’re all criminals”²³ Despite all the constraints of the situation, the various lockdowns²⁴ have also strengthened the knowledge and bonds

²¹ Site of the festival : burefestival.org/ [in french]

²² Site of the Bombes Atomiques : bombesatomiques.noblogs.org/ [in french]

²³ See the site : noussoimmestousdesmalfaiteurs.noblogs.org/ [in french]

²⁴ See the zine : *Fragments d’un confinement à Bure...* (nov.-déc. 2020) on bureburebure.info/brochures/ [in french]

Testimony of Jean-Pierre, farmer fighting against Cigéo (April 2017)⁴:

“It was still unclear: they didn’t say what they wanted to do.... So they had this brilliant idea of a laboratory: they said ‘we are looking but we are not storing’. From that moment on, the two departments, the general councils, and even the municipal authorities, they all welcomed them with open arms, because there was the financial support with it. Then they acquired 100 ha of land, where the current lab is located.”

LA MAISON DE RÉSISTANCE À LA POUBELLE NUCLÉAIRE



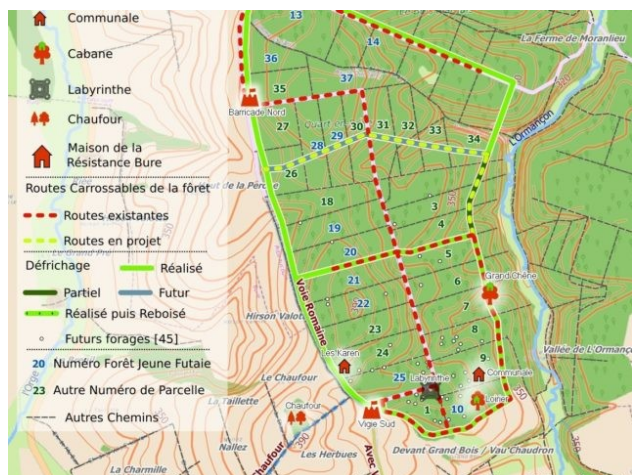
In 2004, anti-nuclear activists from France and Germany created the association *Bure Zone Libre* (BZL). The following year, together with the non-profit

⁴ All the zines are published on bureburebure.info/brochures [in french] and on bureburebure.info/texts-and-videos/ [in english]

organization *Sortir Du Nucléaire*, they bought an old farm house to be renovated in the heart of Bure. This will become the “House of resistance to nuclear waste”. The house is a place for counter-information on Cigéo and for organising the struggle. Today, the house is inhabited all year round and is open to all.

To show that the territory is far from being empty, contrary to what Andra would like us to believe and in order to put obstacles in its way, about ten other collective places, some private, others more collective and private space are bought or rented all around Bure. One of them, *l’Affranchie* (a place off the grid without public water or electricity). A legal procedure of Andra via the SAFER⁵, which aim was to try to take back the building recently ended. The judgement was in favor of the two opposing owners. The sale was not cancelled and the *Affranchie* will not be seized (at least not for the moment)⁶.

THE LEJUC WOOD



Lejuc wood has an important place in the Cigéo project: after clearing, it is to be used to house the wells that will “ventilate” the underground galleries filled with radioactive waste. In July 2015, the municipal council of Mandres-en-Barrois voted

⁵ *Société d’Aménagement du Foncier et d’Établissement Rural* (see part SAFER p.14)

⁶ Further information [in french] : bureburebure.info/laffranchie-menacee/ ; bureburebure.info/victoire-des-opposant-e-s-pour-laffranchie/

July, a national investigation unit was set up to investigate criminal acts committed by opponents of the Cigéo project: the Bure Unit.

A new stage in terms of repression was then reached during the demonstration of the 15th of August 2017. The message was clear: immediate and uncompromising repression. This day of mobilisation ended with many people injured, one of whom nearly lost his foot in the explosion of a GLI-F4 grenade. Then came the 20th of September 2017 and its five simultaneous raids. From that time on, many people all over Europe expressed their solidarity with the opponents in Bure and created support committees. On the 22nd February 2018 at 6am, one month after the announcement of the abandonment of the Notre-Dame des Landes airport and following the famous speech “There will be no more ZADs in France”, nearly 500 cops proceeded with the eviction of the inhabitants of Lejuc wood and the destruction of all the huts.

They also brutally broke into the Maison de Résistance, arresting all the occupants one by one¹⁹. As a result of these police operations, three people were detained and sentenced to several months in prison. Between February and June 2018, road and pedestrian checks in the area became incessant, often leading to identity checks, police custody, and sometimes trials. On the 20th of June, shortly after the demonstration of the 16th of June 2018 in Bar-le-Duc, Bure woke up with nearly 200 cops deployed, the arrest of 8 people, as well as the search of 11 places where people lived and organised the struggle²⁰. These arrests led to the first interrogations of the defendants for “criminal conspiracy”, whose trial took place in Bar-le-Duc on the 1st, the 2nd and the 3rd June 2021 (the verdict will be delivered on the 21st of September). The repressive climate on the ground with the permanent presence of the cops, the controls and the trials, as well as the “criminal conspiracy” were intended to kill the fight against Cigéo. In spite of this, many people continued to live in the area and the organisation of local events was maintained. Various sabotages, in particular of the drilling for Cigéo, followed one another and Lejuc wood was reoccupied a third time for a few days (July 2019).

¹⁹ See the vidéo *Expulsions du 22 février 2018* on bureburebure.info/videos

²⁰ Information from the zine *Etat des lieux de la répression à Bure*, september 2019 [in french]

prevent access to Lejuc wood, Andra erects a concrete enclosure wall, still without any authorizations. After Andra was condemned for these illegal works, a demonstration started on the 15th of August 2016 with the aim of tearing down this wall. In the weeks that followed, the forest was occupied again until February 2018.

Various agricultural initiatives were undertaken during those years, in particular via the Terres de Bure collective: such as potato seedlings planted in fields left fallow by Andra in 2015; the hectare of cereals planted under the laboratory's windows in November 2015; or the 500 m² of potatoes planted in April 2016 on land belonging to Andra; and so many other projects to this day..

5) 2017-2019 : repression on opponents intensifies



While individual comrades were indeed under surveillance, put on file, fined, banned, etc., there was no massive police operation at the scale of the movement. In June 2017, the week of action was marked by a lightning ransacking of Andra's hotel-restaurant and provided an opportunity to disguise the nuclear resistance as a "criminal association" intent on committing "arson", if not murder. The militarisation of the territory intensified in the weeks that followed. On the 4th of

in favour of the exchange agreement of the Lejuc wood communal forest with the *Caisse* wood, owned by Andra. This was made despite local protest. Following a complaint of conflict of interest and an undeclared secret ballot, this vote was repeated in May 2017.

In the summer of 2016, Andra was about to start clearing the Lejuc wood illegally, as it had no prior permit. The "endless picnic" of 19 June 2016 marks the beginning of the first occupation. Andra's fences were knocked down on this occasion. After 3 weeks of occupation, the forest was evicted at 6am on 7 July 2016. To prevent access to the Lejuc wood, Andra erected a concrete enclosure wall, still without a building permit. It will be condemned for these illegal works. On 15 August 2016, a demonstration started and, realising that the forest was empty of cops, decided to tear down the wall. In the following weeks, the forest is squatted again. To give this occupation a firmer footing, a legal procedure is underway to challenge Andra's legal ownership of Lejuc wood. On 22 February 2018 at 6am, the Lejuc wood was evicted again. On the same day the house of the Resistance is attacked by the cops. In July 2019, a 3-day reoccupation was quickly evicted. Since then, the access to the wood is forbidden and monitored by cameras and cops patrols.

THE FORMER STATION OF LUMÉVILLE-EN-ORNOIS



The former station of Luméville (known as La Gare) is a collective site bought in 2004 by opponents to Cigéo. This site is located on the route of the railway line that Andra plans to renovate in order to transport the nuclear waste to the underground galleries. There are many municipalities that would be directly affected by the passage of rail and road convoys in the vicinity of Cigéo: Nançois-sur-Ornain, Velaines, Ligny-en-Barrois, Givrauval, Longeaux, Menaucourt, Nantois, Naix-aux-Forges, Saint-Amand-sur-Ornain, Tréveray, Laneuville, Saint-Joire, Demange-aux-Eaux, Baudignecourt, Houdelaincourt, Abainville, Gondrecourt-le-Château, Horville-en-Ornois, Luméville-en-Ornois, Chassey-Beaupré, Cirfontaines-en-Ornois, Guillaumé, Saudron.

If the Declaration of Public Utility (DUP) is validated, Andra will be able to move from bribery and negotiation to a more brutal method in order to get the land it wants. La Gare, as well as other properties, will then be threatened with expropriation first to relieve the roads and allow the transport of machines and materials for the Cigéo works, and finally, to allow two CASTOR trains⁷ to pass through every week for 100 years...

Many events have been organised on this space of struggle : the anti-authoritarian and anti-capitalist VMC camp in 2015, many music festivals, anti-prison meetings (the last one in March 2020), queer events, participative workcamps, screenings... On La Gare there is also a permanent exhibition called *Trainstopping*⁸ on the practices of blocking and sabotaging rail transport in the context of the anti-nuclear movement.

⁷ Cask for storage and transport of radioactive material

⁸ Presentation of the exhibition *Trainstopping* on : bureburebure.info/exhibition-trainstopping/ ; Zine *Trainstopping* on bureburebure.info/texts-and-videos/ [both links in english]

In July 2015, the municipal council of Mandres-en-Barrois voted in favour of the exchange of the communal forest (Lejuc wood) with the Caisse wood, owned by Andra, despite a previous consultation of the inhabitants showing a majority of negative opinions. A third of the villagers signed a petition against this deliberation, an appeal was lodged (following a complaint for conflict of interest and undeclared secret ballot, the exchange of Lejuc wood was voted in favour again in May 2017). This decision allows the project to move from the laboratory stage to the acquisition of favourable land, even though Cigéo is not yet declared by the DAC (application for authorisation to create). This triggers an intensification of the struggle on the ground. The following month, an international anti-authoritarian and anti-capitalist camp (VMC) gathered 1,500 people at La Gare of Luméville.¹⁸

4) 2016-2017 : occupation of the Lejuc wood and agricultural resistance



In the summer of 2016, Andra is about to undertake clearing work in the Lejuc wood without any prior permit. The “endless picnic” of 19 June 2016 marks the beginning of the first occupation. On this occasion, Andra’s fences were knocked down. After 3 weeks of occupation, the forest is evicted on 7 July 2016 at 6am. To

¹⁸ Archives of the struggle on that time : nocigeo.noblogs.org ; vmc.bureburebure.info

implementation of the Cigéo project for 2025 (the project is already several years behind schedule). Finally, as the participation of opponents in the 2005 Public Debate was thus scorned and snidely ignored by Andra, the new 2013 consultation will be boycotted by Cigéo opponents.

3) 2014-2015 : Bure is not just a Meuse and Haute-Marne problem!



In August 2013, the Petit festival contre la grande poubelle nucléaire (Little festival against the big nuclear waste bin) as well as a Grand Est Assembly were formed. The objective of the latter is to strengthen the local mobilization but also to widen it in France and in neighbouring countries because Bure is not a Meuse or Haute-Marne problem: it concerns us all in the four corners of the country, in Europe and beyond! A call for decentralised actions is launched in 2014: “Bure 365: 1 year of actions against Cigéo, nuclear power and its world”.

The struggle also travels out of Bure to do an infotour everywhere, notably in Montabot and Notre-Dame-des-Landes. After several festivals next to Bure, the anti-nuclear people invited themselves to Nancy on 5 and 6 September 2014 to say *Nukoff!* to Cigéo in the framework of a participatory and self-managed gathering¹⁷.

¹⁷ *Nukoff!* 2014 (automedias, 10 min) on bureburebure.info/videos [in french]

IN FRONCLES : POMA, SUBCONTRACTOR OF CIGEO (42 km to the lab)



In Froncles, the company POMA is already working for CIGEO. In order to transport the radioactive waste packages from the surface to the underground storage facility 500 meters below ground, ANDRA plans to dig a 12 km long cable car. In 2014, the Isère-based group POMA won the contract and signed a 68 million euro contract with Andra to build a funicular. In 2019, POMA moved to Froncles in Haute-Marne and began construction of a full-scale model of the funicular. Testing has already begun, following the inauguration of the project in February 2021. As a result, a call to actions against POMA⁹ is launched. This call is connected to the call to actions against Cigéo’s Monsters¹⁰, the subcontracting companies of the Cigéo project.

⁹ Further information on enfouissons-poma.info/

¹⁰ Further information on lesmonstresdecigeo.noblogs.org/ [in english]

IN JOINVILLE : UNITECH, ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF TERRITORY'S NUCLEARIZATION (22 km to the lab)



The Cigéo project is made up of a multitude of side projects to the laboratory, all of them are facing strong opposition. Recently, the project for a low-level radioactive waste reprocessing plant in Gudmont-Villiers by Derichebourg was cancelled thanks to the opposition from its residents. For almost 4 years, Unitech, a project for a nuclear clothes laundry in Joinville triggered major demonstrations. On the other hand, EDF was able to discreetly install a platform for storing nuclear power plant parts in Velaines. Orano and EDF have also set up archive centres in Bure and

“underground geological research laboratory” managed by Andra. The construction of the laboratory in Bure began in 1999-2000.

2) 2000-2014 : Early years in Bure



In 2000-2001, 2,000 people gathered in Bure in a camp opposite the laboratory site. The Maison de Résistance in Bure was collectively purchased by opponents in 2004. Petitions and demonstrations continued unabated in those years¹⁵. In November 2004, Sébastien, a 22-year-old anti-nuclear activist, died in Avricourt, Lorraine when he was run over by the locomotive of a nuclear waste convoy going to Germany¹⁶. However, by the law of 28 June 2006, the State validated the underground storage in Bure and entrusted Andra with the design and

¹⁵ As shown in the documentary movie : *Tous n'ont pas dit oui [not everyone said yes]* by Alain Riès (2013) [subtitled in english]

¹⁶ *Sébastien Briat assassiné par la société nucléaire, le 7 novembre 2004* on <https://rebellyon.info/Sebastien-Briat-assassine-par-la-societe#forum> [in french]

CHRONOLOGY OF THE STRUGGLES :

1) 1987-2000 : Where will be the storage site that nobody wants ?



In 1987, four sites for the burial of radioactive waste were arbitrarily chosen by the government: in Ain, Aisne, Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres. In the following years, the constitution of a national coordination against the burial and confrontations with the cops caused the four projects to fail. Following these difficulties, a law was passed in 1991 on the initiative of Christian Bataille (labor party deputy), which set the framework for financial compensation, which today covers the Meuse and Haute-Marne departments (GIP), and introduced the idea of an “underground laboratory” (this being more acceptable than a underground landfill, although the ultimate aim is to make it a underground landfill). At this stage, 4 projects have been selected: in Meuse, Haute-Marne, Vienne and in the Gard. Moreover, at that time, Bure was not among the new sites selected. It is therefore possible to think that this place was not chosen for geological reasons but for a strategic reason : a few people, means a little resistance. Some years later, In 1998, Haute-Marne and Meuse were selected for the construction of an

Houdelaincourt. The CEA¹¹ also has a new building in Saudron, which was originally dedicated to Syndièse, a biofuel plant project. Since the project was cancelled in 2016, the building is currently unused.

In order to better sell the Cigéo project and to ensure that the villagers support it, the authorities and the nuclear industry must demonstrate that they are not harming the region but that they are working to “energise” it, to enrich it financially and to create jobs. With this in mind, training courses have been opened in technological diplomas for the nuclear industry, the facets of which are as varied as the projects that dot the Meuse and Haute-Marne regions. Thus, the promoters of Cigéo are making promises to local entrepreneurs and elected representatives of a whole nuclear industry cluster destined to be established in Meuse and Haute-Marne.

THE GIP'S FUNDING



In 2000, two “public interest groups” (GIP) were created: one for the Meuse and one for the Haute-Marne. The stated aim was to develop cooperation between public authorities and/or private partners to pursue objectives of common interest. Initially set at 18 million euros per year, the GIPs will be rised to 30 million euros per year in 2019 for both department. Altogether it's been more than a billion euros that was spent that way in order to buy the consciences. There's also to be added exceptional bills like the 500 million euros for the 'Project of Territory's Development', announced in 2018 right after the eviction of Lejuc Wood. Supported by the producers of nuclear waste (EDF, CEA and Areva-Orano), the GIPs are intended to boost local industry. These resources are in fact partially directed *«towards the financing of actions and equipment designed to promote the implementation of the [Cigéo] project in the local areas»*, according to the 2016

¹¹ The French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission or CEA is a french public government-funded research organisation in the areas of energy, defense and security, information technologies and health technologies.

activity report of EDF and the Andra's laboratory. The funding of companies and local communities in order to promote the social acceptance of nuclear power and Cigeo is something that was never seen before in the context of a pre-project.

For example, these GIPs have benefited the creation in 2007 of the Areva¹² general archive company in Houdelaincourt (Meuse). Economic support was also provided for the EDF platform for storing spare parts for the 19 power plants in Velaines (Meuse), as well as for the power plant tool maintenance base in Saint-Dizier (Haute-Marne). In this EDF unit, components used in the power plants are being reconditioned. This is a promising market at a time when the "major overhaul" is pushing back the age limit for power plants. We do not all have the same definition of what is or is not in the public interest...

THE SAFER OR LAND, FOREST AND BUILING GRABBING



12 Another french nuclear enterprise (today called Orano)

Through the SAFER (Institution responsible for land and rural settlement), Andra has progressively seized more than 3000 ha of land, including 1000 ha of agricultural land, harassing many farmers, increasing the price of land and disturbing agricultural installations.

In 2018, the SAFER launched a legal procedure against l'*Affranchie*, a collective house in Mandres-en-Barrois owned by opponents to Cigéo, in order to take back the building. The judgement in July 2021 was in favor of the two owners. The sale was not cancelled and the *Affranchie* will not be seized (at least for now)¹³.

The agro-industrial desert of this territory facilitates the development of the nuclear waste dump. The local farmers are alone, dependent on long market chains and are over-indebted. They have lost their autonomy and protest is becoming increasingly difficult. To facilitate negotiations, Andra favours restructuring and expansion. Since its establishment, Andra has increased the price per hectare by €5000 (information from April 2017)! In the short term, this is a godsend for farmers who can sell at a very good price and obtain in exchange precarious leases on other land to continue their activity. In 2016, more than 300 hectares were taken out of agricultural use and thus deprived of their food value.

"The notaries are obliged to inform SAFER, and from the moment it is on SAFER's desk, Andra is systematically aware of the files and gets hold of them to acquire everything that moves. Including forests, not necessarily what they need. [...] There has been no expropriation, we are still on amicable terms, but with pressure and intimidation." Interview with Jean-Pierre, farmer fighting against Cigéo (april 2017)

In spite of this, some farmers, such as Jean-Pierre, are taking action against Cigéo. The trial of the latter (courant 2017), for complicity in the first occupation of the Lejuc wood, was above all a strategy of intimidation against the villagers, and particularly the farmers who might want to block Cigéo¹⁴.

13 Further information [in french] : bureburebure.info/laffranchie-menacee/ ; bureburebure.info/victoire-des-opposant-e-s-pour-laffranchie/

14 Call about Jean-Pierre's trial : vmc.bureburebure.info/2017/09/07/le-12-septembre-tou-te-s-a-bar-le-duc-au-proces-de-jean-pierre-et-contre-la-nouvelle-loi-travail/index.html