



“La Gare”

The former train station of Luméville en Ornois

**A place to live, organize and
And struggle against the CIGEO project**

Updated in April 2024

Forewords about La Gare

The former Luméville-en-Ornois railway station is currently a legally-owned and a militant place in opposition to the Cigéo project. This 500-meters-deep radioactive waste burial project in the villages of Bure and Saudron is located at the border of the Meuse (55) and Haute Marne (52) departments, and is managed by the french nuclear waste agency (ANDRA). The old station is less than 10 km away from the laboratory, and lies on the route of the future Installation Terminale Embranchée (ITE), the rail line that the agency in question wishes to (re)create and operate to transport future nuclear waste to the center via "CASTOR convoys". The former railway station (but here we prefer to call it "La Gare"), is therefore an important piece in the fight against this atomic mega-trash project, but also a hawthorn in the tires of the nuclear revival itself.

CHRONIQUE DE LA GARE

The station was purchased in 2007 by a group of activists who understood the strategic importance of this site. The 8-hectare site lies between the villages of Luméville and Mandres-en-Barrois. It comprises two main buildings, one of which has been renovated, a long platform and a number of cabins set in a lush limestone meadows. In almost 20 years, the station has been filled with memories both good and tragic. From the outset, it has host many festive and political gatherings, such as the Hippie Pest around 2010. Many great events would follow, such as the ten-day VMC anti-authoritarian and anti-capitalist camp in August 2015, the Spring of Peasant Struggles in 2016, the Anarchist Bure Cross anti-prison week in March 2020, the Rayonnantes camp in August 2021, the “barricades party” and nomadic meetings of revolutionary choirs in the summer of 2022, a week of anti-specist meetings in the winter of 2023, as well as a multitude of all-terrain medical training courses and incredible weeks of collective work to improve the comfort of the site.

Over the years, it has become a resource, a place to organize and to welcome collectives, activists and sometimes intrigued people, where it is now possible to live all year round.





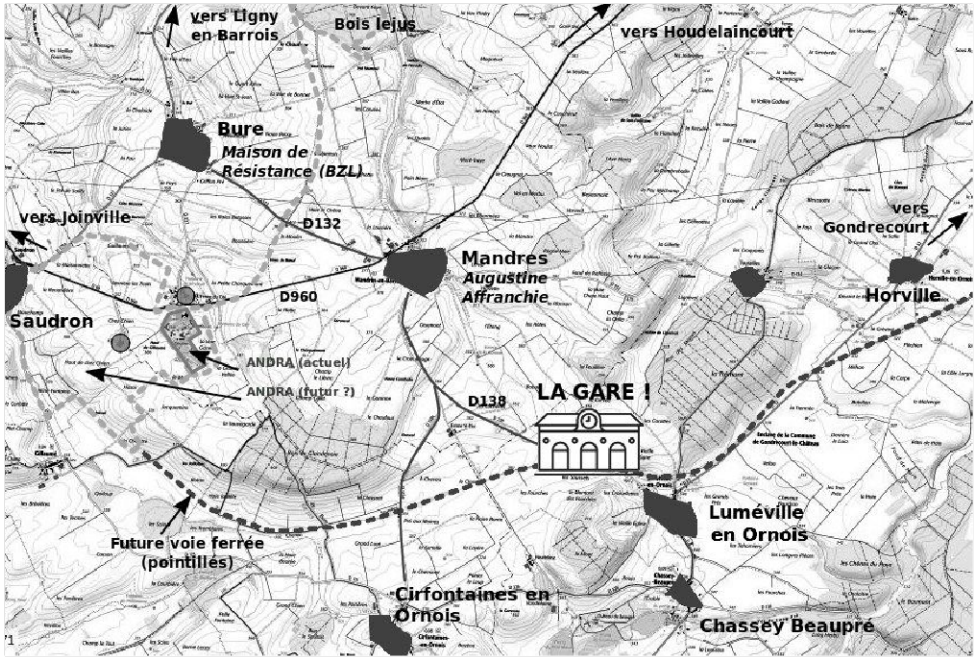
A bird's eye view of la gare during les Rayonnantes (Août 2021)

HISTORY OF THE RAILWAY

Historically, the section of track on which La Gare is located was operated from 1892, mainly for military purposes. During the 1st World War, it linked Montier en Der to Sorcy St Martin, its terminus. It was then used to transport passengers until 1938, and goods until the line closed in 1969. Since then, rails and ballast have disappeared from its route, and only memories of grain and coal transport remain. Is the return of deadly transports really what this line deserves?

THE INSTALLATION TERMINALE EMBRANCHÉE (ITE) LINE

The ITE (terminal branched installation) is one of the infrastructures associated with the CIGEO project. The ITE consists of rehabilitating the last 15 km of track between Gondrecourt-le-Château and the current ANDRA laboratory, where radioactive waste from French nuclear power plants is to be stored. These 15 km of track will be coupled with the refurbishment of the 027000 Nançois-Tronville/Gondrecourt rail line, another of the projects associated with CIGEO. The first radioactive waste caskets are not expected before 2035/2040, but before then the line will be used to transport materials for the pharaonic construction projects that will precede the opening of the center.



ANDRA'S SIGHTS SET ON THE STATION SOONER THAN EXPECTED

On July 07, 2022, the "Public Utility Enquiry" (DUP) for the CIGEO project, submitted in 2020, obtained its decree of "déclaration d'utilité publique" (declaration of public utility) and was awarded the status of "operation of national interest" (OIN) by the French government.

The "Demande d'Autorisation de Création" (DAC) has yet to be acquired before "initial construction" can begin: its appraisal began in January 2023 and will continue until 2027. However, the DUP already authorizes ANDRA to launch certain development works and to initiate expropriation procedures. To date, around 100 hectares of farmland, roads and paths, as well as a former railway station, are missing from the 665 hectares required.

Here we see the absurdity of the State's "salami slicing" of major projects to facilitate their implementation. While the CIGEO project has not yet received its authorization, the French government is already planning to build a railroad line that is of no interest except for CIGEO...

At the end of 2023, Andra announced that it was initiating several operations as part of its "land control" program to obtain 100% of the coveted land, while expropriation procedures began in January 2024. She also announced that these procedures, whether amicable or not, would be investigated over the next 20 months. ANDRA's intimidation

maneuvers have been going on for years to acquire the land. Now the military-nuclear complex is imposing its agenda and working with "impartial" justice to dispossess the land, checkbook in one hand and tonfa in the other.

The first funeral march of radioactive waste is not expected for another 15 years or so, but the rail road in the making is one of the priorities in controlling the construction schedule.

We already knew that the DUP decree would authorize the refurbishment of this infrastructure. Now we can estimate how long we have to wait before ANDRA becomes our landlord. On March 04, 2024, we received the dossier for the land survey, one of the legal stages in the expropriation procedure, and ANDRA wants to take over the entire 8 hectares of the station, even though their track is only supposed to be 9 meters wide...



THE FUTURE OF LA GARE

Let's face it, we know what the future holds and we've been preparing for it for the past 17 years. La Gare's destiny has always been to be a strategic point in this struggle and, ultimately, the site of a political confrontation.

Gradually, over the years, activists from all backgrounds and countries have invested their strength, their time and their imaginations, turning their ideas and desires into reality to make this place what it is today. Its importance is material, cultural, artistic, social and, above all, political. This island of resistance against the nuclear industry, and CIGEO in particular, is the reflection of a succession of people and groups with different practices, who have given this place its charisma and its strength: a diverse and multiple "we", a multiform whole that will not let itself be expelled by force so easily.

A legal defense will erect our first barricades...

With that said, we don't want to wait until the legal means of resisting expropriation have been exhausted before becoming active players.

La Gare's current legal status still allows us to develop it physically, welcome new people and strengthen it politically so that, when the time comes, we can turn it into a "place of permanent occupation".

The first edition of the "Barricade Party" in July 2022 was already part of this dynamic. Hundreds of activists from here and elsewhere gathered to build, inform, organize, exchange and discuss around the defense of the station, but also about all places of resistance that fight against the development projects of unbridled capitalism.

Our concern is no longer to find out when the eviction will take place, but to prepare for it so that it is as difficult as possible to be carried out.

To this end, we are already calling on all collectives, associations and affinity groups sensitive to this struggle and politically in tune with our strategy of resistance to get in touch with us to reflect on or participate in building this inevitable moment by bringing your creativity to this terrain and thus strengthening or creating your attachment to this place.

Whether you're interested in workshops, themed meetings or workcamps, this 8-hectare site is waiting to welcome you.

ORIENTATIONS OF LA GARE

La Gare aims to be a place of collective living, equity, mutual aid, collectivization of resources, interdependence, collective work and respect, to nurture anti-authoritarian and anti-fascist thinking for a stable, healthy environment, for genuine social justice based on consensus, for decentralization, for individual and collective liberation.

La Gare is currently managed by a legal association, and in parallel, self-organized by a collective of residents. Decisions are taken by an assembly of people with varying geographical proximity, but all determined to ensure its future existence as a tool in the fight against social exclusion, and as a lively, emancipating place in the south of Meuse.



COMMENT SOUTENIR LA GARE ?

- Come and visit us

Whether for a construction site, another barricade festival, one of the many events taking place in the area, or if you're just passing through. If you'd like to organize a construction site, a cultural or social event with a group of friends or an association, contact us or drop by to discuss it.

- Come and settle in.

The main building has limited capacity, but the terrain is vast. There's still plenty of room for more caravans, cabins, gardens and other individual or collective living spaces.

The existing collective is a nucleus of individuals who don't necessarily live on site all year round, and it remains open to anyone wishing to get involved. The place is not connected to the water network and runs on solar panels for electricity, but the extensive work carried out has made it a space that is more heatable and brighter than many other dwellings in this region. .

- Come and occupy it, to slow down its eviction.

In this process of expropriation leading to physical eviction, the timeframe is difficult to determine. In one or two years' time, La Gare and its land will change ownership. Once ANDRA is the owner, it will be able to decide when to expel people from the land, and this may take more or less time. A letter will be received and we will have one month before entering into an illegal occupation.

We will communicate regularly on the progress of this process.

- Support the station from afar.

You can start setting up support committees in your localities, organizing discussions to publicize this struggle, information tours in your regions, organizing donations of materials, distributing this brochure. Financial support will not be refused, but what we need most of all are materials; you can circulate the list, organize collections and occasionally take them along... A list of our needs is online at bureburebure.info/en/donationlagare. Please note that during our public events, prefectural decrees are in place, prohibiting the transport of material on this list ^^



CONTACTS :

Ancienne gare de Luméville en Ornois RD139

55130 Gondrecourt le château

garealarevanche@riseup.net



More info at burebure.info