

# Problems getting the permission for biogas plants and future needs



# Touched laws and guidelines

## Biogas a complicated subject

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- EU guideline 1999/92
- State laws
  - Power law
  - Water law
  - Protection for employees from explosive areas
- District laws
  - Gas safety enactment
  - Power law
  - Permission for the ground where the plant should be situated
  - Nature safety law
  - building law
  - Building technique enactment
- And so on

# Problems of new techniques

- Biogas is an old technology with not many plants installed - so for many expert authorities it is a black box
- At first there are no regulations how to permit a biogas plant
- Country Lawyer and expert authorities doesn't know how to permit the plant
- The usual solution of this problem is to look for nearly situated topics
  - Natural gas, power plants
  - Sewage works
  - ➔ mixture of regulations which often not belong to the biogas topic
  - ➔ Permission by the wrong law

## Problems of new techniques

- So at first only the designer who wants the permission knows what this “thing” really is and how it works
- But some designer and later operator negate that there could be some safety problems
- So expert authorities try to find more and more laws who maybe could be touched

# Usual Problems designing a biogas plant

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- Biogas needs technical engineers (building, power, gas ...) and biological designers
- Usually designing offices has qualification in technique or biological designing but not in both topics
- Because of many laws which belongs to the topic  
**Designers**
  - often asks the expert authorities which laws and how the safety facilities has to be installed
  - don't know all the laws and guidelines which touches the biogas topic
  - So we get always more laws, regulations and norms which we have to consider



# Usual Problems designing a biogas plant

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- Expert authorities are often not sure if they have considered all the topics
  - ➔ They always ask colleagues if there could be also other problems
  - ➔ Nearly no expert authorities will negate if he is asked if the topic also belongs to his subject
  - ➔ The second reason why we always have to consider more and more laws / regulations and norms

# Usual Problems designing a biogas plant

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- If the designer doesn't have a hole plan
  - including the safety rules and equipment he opens a discussion we wont have
  - During the permission process expert authorities says which regulations and norms maybe always has to be considered and write them into the permission
- ➔ Right way: They are the real experts who
- ➔ brings completely project
  - ➔ Including safety guidelines and equipment
  - ➔ Including the instruction to start / running / and maintenance the plant
- ➔ So planning a biogas plant can't be a one man show

# Future needs

- **Safety and environment guidelines for biogas plants (norm)**
  - Includes safety rules and facilities
  - Is open for further development
  - Describes the maximum allowed outcomes
    - Noise
    - Air pollution
    - Water pollution
  - No differences between different countries or different regions
- **Concentrated procedure to get the permission**
  - Otherwise designer has to run from one expert authorities to another – and comes back to the first one



# Future needs

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- Detailed education for
  - Designers
  - Workmen
  - Operators
- Maybe with permissions
- During the developing time many things changes
- Defects and accidents brings new science and safety guidelines
- ➔ Committee who discusses each year further developments and safety needs