



Roosevelt
Institute for
American
Studies

Pursuing the Rooseveltian Century

RIAS 2021 Policy Workshop [ONLINE](#)

**Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning:
Lessons and Challenges in Transatlantic Perspective**

1 October 2021

Program

On 1 October 2021, the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies will host an online policy workshop on the decommissioning of nuclear power plants. The safe dismantlement of nuclear reactors is a topic of global relevance and a matter of local concern in Zeeland, which is home to the last active nuclear power plant in the country. The Borssele nuclear power plant, located downstream the Western Scheldt and managed by EPZ, represents the most important energy provider in the region. Its decommissioning is currently scheduled for 1 January 2034.

Decommissioning is a challenging and complex procedure and does not necessarily spell the end of a nuclear plant's life cycle. It involves the safe disposal of nuclear waste and the decontamination of equipment and facilities. In this regard, the United States is the country with the greatest deal of experience. Since 2013, some thirty nuclear facilities have been decommissioned or have been put in the process of being shut down in the US, and an additional eight reactors are supposed to be decommissioned by 2025. An important element to be noted is that US civil society and local authorities have been constantly involved in the different decommissioning processes through a series of public hearings organized by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

This workshop is meant to provide an opportunity for debate on how the process of nuclear decommissioning will be planned and carried out in Zeeland, on which lessons must be learned from past experiences, and on which best practices it is possible to share across the Atlantic. The free, public online event will be open to local and national authorities, US and Dutch experts, and representatives of the civil society.

To attend the lecture, please follow the RIAS MS Teams link: <https://bit.ly/2Xa8cov>

Friday, 1 October 2021

Via MS Team: <https://bit.ly/2Xa8cov>

(All times are CET – Amsterdam time zone)

- 14:00** **Welcoming Address**
Damian Pargas, Executive Director Roosevelt Institute for American Studies
- 14:15** **Opening Address & Roosevelt Lecture in Environmental Studies**
Melissa Haller, University of California Los Angeles
- 14:45** **Q&A**
- 15:30** **Panel I – Regulating Decommissioning**
- Tom Keij, EPZ, Borssele
- Brenda L. Hawks, US Department of Energy
- Marieke Schopman – van Gemert, NRG, The Netherlands
- 16:30** **Panel II – Engaging the Public**
- Jan Haverkamp, WISE Nederland (World Information Service on Energy), Amsterdam
- Dirk Bannink, LAKA Foundation (Documentation and Research Centre on Nuclear Energy), Amsterdam
- 17:30** **Round-up & Closing**
Dario Fazzi, Roosevelt Institute for American Studies

Melissa Haller, Roosevelt Lecture in Environmental Studies

Melissa Haller is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is an economic geographer interested in innovation, employment, and economic resilience in US cities, with a particular interest in the impacts of plant closures and economic shocks on regional development.

Between 2014 and 2017 she studied the impacts of nuclear decommissioning on US nuclear host communities with a team of researchers from Colgate University. Her research examined the effects of decommissioning from multiple perspectives, utilizing both statistical analysis and qualitative case studies to better understand how decommissioning impacts both economic and community life. Currently, her dissertation, "Economic Crises, Job Displacement, and the Knowledge Economy," broadly examines the employment transitions of workers in high tech industries in response to the closure or bankruptcy of major firms.

This conference is sponsored by



