

Berlin, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## Acceleration proposals for hydrogen storage

**INES presents a collection of precise proposals for seven laws and regulations to accelerate hydrogen storage projects. They serve to shorten the long and complex project development times and thus make a contribution to the acceleration pact of the federal and state governments.**

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Initiative Energien Speichern e.V. (INES) published a collection of proposals to accelerate the development of hydrogen storage systems in Germany. Specific proposals are set out for seven laws and regulations that will help to shorten the development times for hydrogen storage systems.

Successful implementation of the energy transition requires not only the conversion of existing gas storage facilities to hydrogen, but also extensive new construction of hydrogen storage capacities. Development times for conversion are currently estimated at six and a half to nine and a half years. The development times for new construction could be even longer. In order to be able to meet hydrogen storage demand in the near future, probably from 2030, it is therefore no longer sufficient to create investment security for private investors. Current and new projects also need to be accelerated in order to successfully implement the energy transition.

For the first time, the INES collection of proposals provides policymakers with a comprehensive set of concrete measures to accelerate hydrogen storage projects. INES thus makes a concrete contribution to concretizing the pact "for planning, approval and implementation acceleration" between the federal and state governments of 6 November 2023. As part of the Minister Presidents' Conference, the federal and state governments decided to initiate fundamental changes so that projects in areas such as energy infrastructure can be implemented more quickly and with less bureaucracy. The first results of the implementation work should be available in the first quarter of 2024.

Sebastian Heinermann, INES Managing Director, comments on the publication as follows: *"There is no single measure, the Silver Bullet, that radically shortens the complex processes involved in developing a hydrogen storage system. When it comes to accelerating hydrogen storage projects, a bundle of many smaller measures will get us there."*

## **ABOUT US**

INES is the association of gas and hydrogen storage system operators in Germany. INES' members represent over 90 per cent of German gas storage capacities and account for about 25 per cent of gas storage capacities in the European Union. INES' member companies also push the development of underground hydrogen storage in numerous projects and thereby form pioneers in this important technology field for the energy transition.

The members of INES are astora GmbH, bayernugs GmbH, Enovos Storage GmbH, Erdgasspeicher Peissen GmbH, Etzel-Kavernenbetriebsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG, EWE Gasspeicher GmbH, HanseWerk AG, OMV Gas Storage Germany GmbH, RWE Gas Storage West, NAFTA Speicher GmbH & Co. KG, STORAG Etzel GmbH, Storengy Deutschland GmbH, Trianel Gasspeicher Epe GmbH & Co. KG, Uniper Energy Storage GmbH, USG Blexen GmbH and VNG Gasspeicher GmbH.

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