

STORING ELECTRICITY:

At Gaystakt, near Hamburg, a great artificial lake and hydro-electric dam are being built - and it's a power plant with a difference - for though it's to feed the grid, water from the river Elbe below will be pumped up huge pipes into the lake by power from the grid! That may sound like hauling yourself up by your bootlaces, but actually it's the engineers' answer to the fact that you can't store alternating current. At night, when demand is low, surplus power from the grid will be used to fill the lake. Then during the day, the water will run down again, generating current to help deal with the peak load periods.

Nearly four and a half million cubic yards of water will cover the surface which these machines are preparing. A big project which proves, once again, that even when science says something impossible, science can usually find a way to do it!