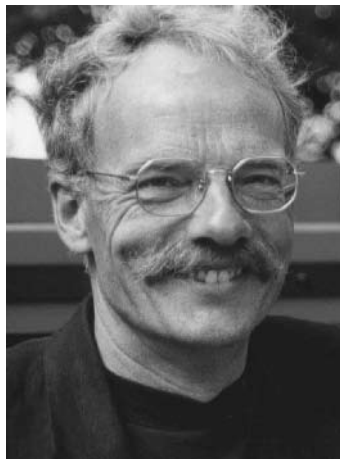


About the authors



Jan Willem Storm van Leeuwen (MSc, physical chemistry, Technical University Eindhoven) is senior scientist at Ceedata Consultants. Moreover he works for the Open University at Heerlen, developing courses for chemistry teachers. Storm van Leeuwen is secretary of the Dutch Association of the Club of Rome.

The main fields of Storm van Leeuwen's expertise are technology assessment and life cycle analyses of energy systems, focussed on sustainability aspects. The profile of his consulting work is making complex systems transparent and to make relevant data accessible to executives and policy makers.

His work on nuclear power started in the 1960s. During the US exhibition 'Atoms at Work' in Utrecht in 1966, he was reactor assistant, as a young student, with great interest in nuclear sciences.

Storm prepared, in collaboration with other experts, two reports on nuclear energy on invitation of the Dutch government, published in 1982 and 1987 respectively. During that period Storm was a senior consultant at the Centre for Energy Conservation and Sustainable

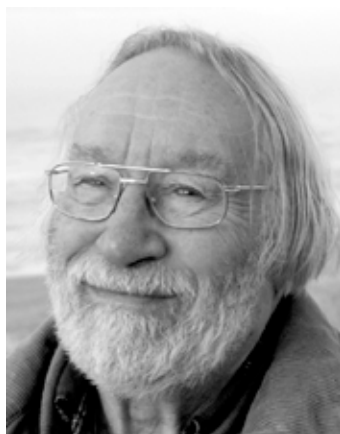
Technology (CE) at Delft, and member of a team working on the development of an innovative social-economic scenario. In collaboration with Prof. Philip Smith he assessed all aspects of large scale implementation of nuclear power, including the forgotten ones. The CE scenario had a significant effect on the Dutch energy policy during the 1980s and 1990s.

During the 1990s the discussion on nuclear power faded into the background. In 2000 the Greens of the European Parliament asked Storm, then independent consultant, to update his report from 1987, and to prepare a background document for the UN Climate Conference COP6 (The Hague, 13-24 November 2000).

From 2000 on, again with Philip Smith, Storm van Leeuwen continued the broad and in-depth reassessment of nuclear power. The results were published on the web, to facilitate interaction with the target group: scientists, policy makers and interested individuals. From then on the authors keep in close contact with many scientists all over the world.

Storm van Leeuwen is one of the international group of expert reviewers of the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the IPCC.

He published numerous reports and articles on various topics related to energy and environment.



Philip Bartlett Smith lived in New York City for most of his youth. He attended high school at the Fieldston Ethical Culture School. After graduation he studied physics at the California Institute of Technology, where he received his B.S. in 1944.

When the war ended he resumed his studies in physics, as a graduate student at the University of Illinois. His dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) concerned the measurement of nuclear recoils following neutrino emission in the decay of ^7Be .

After receiving his doctor's title in 1950, he worked in nuclear physics at the University of São Paulo, Brazil until 1957. He then moved to the Netherlands where he occupied the position of lecturer at the University of Utrecht. In 1963 he was appointed professor in Experimental Physics at the University of Groningen where he continued with research in low-energy nuclear physics until his retirement in 1988.

As most nuclear physicists (and the public-at-large) he was for many years convinced that nuclear fission would provide mankind with an essentially unlimited and benign source of energy. As time passed he saw that many of the initial expectations were not being realized and were probably un-realizable. It was then becoming clear that the safe, permanent,

disposal of the radioactive waste products might turn out to be an insoluble problem, and that the "sibling" relationship between nuclear energy and nuclear weapons was creating a world unsafe for mankind, perhaps even for any life. More recently it has become clear that the danger of serious radioactive contamination from nuclear reactor accidents is far from imaginary.

It was only though, in 1982, when he took a three-month's leave of absence to work at the CE in Delft with Jan Willem Storm van Leeuwen that he became aware that nuclear energy fell far short of early expectations, even as a source of electrical energy. This website is the fruit of further collaboration with Storm van Leeuwen.