

## The visit of Bort-les-Orgues dam

On Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2014, we went to Bort-les-Orgues in Corrèze, to visit a dam on the river Dordogne.

It is an “arch-gravity” dam: it combines the characteristics of an arch to distribute the thrust of water on the slid rock walls of the valley, with a very considerable volume of concrete (660 000 m<sup>3</sup>).

This dam has got the fourth largest reservoir in France. The construction lasted 10 years, from 1942 to 1952. 2000 people worked in this construction but 40 people died.

When the lake is full, the Bort spillways are used. It is composed of gates able to handle 1200 m<sup>3</sup> of water per second.

The width of the dam at the bottom is 120 meters while at the top it is 8 meters.

It has two principal groups of production, producing 250 MVA with 250 m<sup>3</sup>/s of water.



We saw an alternator being renovated for the first time in 60 years.

There are many rooms with computers. On each computer there are animations:

- production of electricity, advantages, drawbacks, problems on time,
- energy in the Third-World,
- environment of biodiversity,
- visit by the President ...

We would like to go back soon.



Killian SANCHEZ

Anthony BASTIT