



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

*Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia*

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**Regarding the notification of the proposed activity “*Dismantling and decontamination of equipment of Units A-2 and V-2 of Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant*”**

Environment State Bureau (hereinafter – the Bureau), acting as a competent authority on environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – EIA) in Latvia, confirms receipt of the notification that was sent regarding the proposed activity “*Dismantling and decontamination of equipment of Units A-2 and V-2 of Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant*” near the border of the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – The Project). The Project is one of the activities within the large State Enterprise “*Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant*” (hereinafter - INPP) decommissioning project. The Project is planned in Visaginas Municipality, Lithuania, approximately 8 km from the border of the Republic of Latvia.

According to the information on the website: <https://www.iae.lt/en/activity/environmental-impact-assessment/154> different assessments have been carried out connected to the whole INPP decommissioning project. Familiarizing with the information on the website we conclude that Latvia was not informed about all the proposed actions.

Taking into account vicinity of the proposed potential development site to the Latvian border (around 8 km from the INPP and 2km from the lake Druksiai which is used for cooling purposes)

and the second largest Latvian city - Daugavpils (which is located near the INPP and lake Druksiai) as well as taking into account the direction of the prevailing winds and the general direction of water flow towards the Daugava river which is used as drinking water source for Riga city, it is very important and crucial for Latvia to get a clear picture of any possible impacts, especially regarding safety issues and risks in the territory of the Republic of Latvia.

Since the Project is planned at the border of the Republic of Latvia, we believe it is absolutely necessary to provide an opportunity for the Latvian public to participate in an open and transparent EIA and decision-making process. During the consultation phase of the Project we received comments and opinions regarding the possible impacts on the environment from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, The State Environmental Service of the Republic of Latvia, Daugavpils Municipality Council (the bordering municipality). All these involved parties agree that EIA is essential for this Project. Most concerns were expressed regarding the safety issues and risks in the territory of the Republic of Latvia. The main concerning questions were - what waste recycling plants will be involved in the storage and further recycling of deactivated waste, who and how will perform cross-border transfer control of this waste and/or projected impacts on groundwater and surface waters in the territory of Latvia, how the monitoring of this potential contamination will be organized (for information: public water abstraction deep bumbles in the municipality of Daugavpils area are located approximately 5 and 8 km from Visagina; linking the Daugavpils-Demene-Skirna lake line to lake Druksiai).

Taking this into account, Latvia strongly believes that the proposed activity will cause significant impact on the environment and would like to participate in the transboundary EIA.

Considering the scope of the INPP project and the fact that there had been already carried out a number of assessments for smaller scale actions of the decommissioning of the INPP project, the Republic of Latvia as a potential affected country considers that it is essential to carry out one joint environmental assessment procedure for all the actions involved.

We are looking forward to our successful bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental assessment in the transboundary context.

Sincerely yours,



Indra Kramzaka

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