



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

Rūpniecības iela 23, Rīga, LV-1045, Latvia, phone +371 67321173, e-mail pasts@vpvb.gov.lv, www.vpvb.gov.lv

Rīga

04.09.2023 No. 5-05/1063/2023

Ref. to: 16.06.2023. No D8(E)-3718

The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Vitalijus Auglys
vitalijus.auglys@am.lt

Beata Silobritiene
beata.silobritiene@am.lt

**Regarding the transboundary environmental impact assessment of the planned project
“Decommissioning of the Ignalina NPP”**

The Environment State Bureau (hereinafter – the Bureau), acting as a Point of Contact regarding Notification in accordance with the Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (hereinafter – the Espoo Convention) of Latvia and the competent authority on the environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – the EIA) in Latvia, express gratitude to the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania for information concerning the planned project “*Decommissioning of the Ignalina NPP*” (hereinafter – the Project) with reference to the Article 3 of the Espoo Convention.

The Bureau hereby acknowledges receipt of the notification and the prepared documentation. Considering the nature and scope of the Project as well as distance between common national border and the second largest city by population Daugavpils and the location of the proposed economic activity, we hereby confirm that Latvia intends to take part in the proceedings on the EIA and transboundary consultations as an affected party.

Please be informed that the Bureau published received information regarding Project on the Bureau`s webpage¹ on 19th of June 2023 and send information directly to the involved authorities. The public concerned was given the opportunity to express comments from 19th of June till 18th of July. The Bureau has received opinions and comments regarding the Project and its potential transboundary impacts within the scope of competence from the Ministry of the Environment Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of

¹<https://www.vpvb.gov.lv/lv/parrobezu-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-projekti/ignalinas-atomelektrostacijas-ekspluatācijas-partrauksana-lietuvas-republikas-teritorija>.

Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the Nature Conservation Agency, the State Environmental Service, the State Centre for Defense Military Sites and Procurement of the Republic of Latvia, the Augšdaugava District Municipality.

Below mentioned authorities highlighted aspects that need to be stressed and foreseen in the transboundary EIA of the Project:

- The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia stressed out that *“Within the framework of the project the decommissioning of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant is planned, including dismantling of both reactors, which are large-scale operations and could cause public concern about potential impacts”* and *“The decommissioning process of the Ignalina nuclear power plant is divided into several decommissioning projects and the Project EIA report will provide information on the cumulative impact of all projects related to the dismantling of the Ignalina nuclear power plant planned for the entire decommissioning period of the Ignalina nuclear power plant by year”*.
- The State Environmental Service highlighted that it is mentioned in the Summary of the environmental impact assessment programme (scoping document) that *“The EIA Report will provide the cumulative environmental impact assessment of all the projects planned for the entire INPP decommissioning period by year considering the results of the already carried out environmental impact assessments for the decommissioning projects and the EIA results of future projects.”* This information is important as the project will assess cumulative impacts on all projects related to the decommissioning of the Ignalina nuclear power plant.
- The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia drew attention to the assessment of the potential transboundary impacts on groundwater resources and air quality.
- The Augšdaugava District Municipality noted that in-depth assessment of risk of accidents and their impacts shall be included in the EIA of the Project.
- The Nature Conservation Agency informed that the site of the Project is located approximately 8 km south of the *Natura 2000* territory the Specially Protected Landscape Area *“Augšzeme”* (sitecode – LV0600300, type – C) and the Nature Park *“Silene”* (sitecode – LV0300400, type – C).

In addition, to promote effectiveness of participation of the Latvian public and relevant authorities in the transboundary consultation process, we shortly give you an overview of the national requirements for the EIA procedures in the Republic of Latvia. We would like to draw your attention that Latvian legislation, in particular the Law on Environmental impact assessment, designates at least 30 days long term for the process of public consultation when elaborated EIA report is discussed. The time is being counted from the day a publication is published in a corresponding newspaper (national, regional, local) which will be ensured by the Republic of Latvia after receiving information. A public hearing meeting of the intended activity shall be held. According to the national legislation, a public hearing meeting shall be held not sooner than 7 days after publication is published and not later than 10 days before the end of the public consultation process. In this context we inform you that the public hearing meeting can be replaced with a video conference and video presentations. Afterwards the Bureau will compile the proposals submitted by the public and stakeholders and send them to the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania.

We kindly ask you to prepare the EIA summary that reflects information to the extent and scope necessary for the transboundary EIA (including graphical materials and maps in relation to the transboundary impact aspects) in Latvian.

Looking forward to a further constructive and effective bilateral cooperation in the transboundary context.

Yours sincerely,

Daiga Avdejanova (signature*) Director of Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia

**Document is sign with secure electronical signature*

Ilze Lielvalode, +371 67770813,
e-mail: ilze.lielvalode@vpvb.gov.lv