



Kyiv, October 10, 2018

EU continues its support in establishing safe Geological Disposal for Ukraine's Radioactive Waste

The European Union has allocated a further €870k, to support Ukraine in its development of a national plan for geological disposal of its radioactive waste. The project, which is funded through the European Union's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC), foresees the delivery of a national plan and implementation schedule for Geological Disposal of Ukrainian Radioactive Waste, was launched on the 10th October 2018 by way of a project Kick-Off Meeting in Kyiv.

This EU project builds on the provision of previous support in establishing concepts for disposal of radioactive waste in Ukraine, making a total EU contribution toward the safe disposal of radioactive waste in Ukraine of €2.73M. The project, which has a duration is 24 months will support the government of Ukraine establishing its National Plan for safe geological disposal of Radioactive Waste materials, in alignment with Ukrainian legislation, guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency and best international practice.

During the Kick-Off meeting, the project implementation plan was presented and agreed with the project Beneficiary; State Agency of Ukraine for the Management of the Exclusion Zone (SAUMEZ), and End-user, the State Specialized Enterprise "Central Enterprise for Radioactive Waste management", as well as other key stakeholders.

Speaking on behalf of the European Commission, Mr Ulf Rosengard stated that;

"Using the results of previous EU funded projects, this project will deliver the next step towards harmonisation of Ukrainian and western practices related to the safe and sustainable management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel"

On behalf of the Beneficiary, First Deputy Head of SAUMEZ emphasized that;

"This project is very important for Ukraine as it will establish a sound basis for the safe and cost-effective disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel".

In cooperation with the State Specialized Enterprise "Central Enterprise for Radioactive Waste management", the project will be implemented by a consortium of companies led by BGE TECHNOLOGY GmbH (Germany) in partnership with ANDRA (France) and SKB International AB (Sweden). The consortium will be supported by 'Posiva Solutions Oy' (Finland), as well as the Radioenvironmental Centre of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Background information:

Since 1991, the European Union has contributed more than €940M to supporting improvements in the safety of Ukraine's nuclear industry. Projects include the provision of support to improved safety in the operation and maintenance of Ukraine's four nuclear power plants, support in the establishment of an appropriate national radioactive waste management infrastructure, institutional support to Ukraine Nuclear Regulator, financial contributions to the establishment of a new safe confinement over the damaged Chernobyl reactor, as well as a number of social projects to support the communities living with the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl accident.

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