



Kyiv, November 21, 2018

New EUR 1 mln EU initiative to ensure safe and modern management of radioactive waste in Ukraine

The EUR 950,000 project "Specification of waste forms to allow safe treatment, storage and disposal of problematic radioactive wastes held at Ukrainian nuclear energy facilities" is one of the three new initiatives, launched by the EU this autumn in the framework of the EU-funded Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. The two others are "Development of a National Plan for RAW Geological Disposal in Ukraine and its implementation schedule" and "Comprehensive safety assessment of RAW management sites operated by State Corporation "Ukrainian State Association "Radon" and design of remediation for specific problematic facilities")

The main purpose of the 3-year project is to transfer to Ukrainian counterparts the know-how and capabilities to effectively adopt modern technologies and to design relevant facilities for the safe and cost-effective treatment and further disposal of radioactive waste which is currently being accumulated and stored at Zaporizhia, Rivne, South-Ukraine, Khmelnytskyi and Chornobyl nuclear power plants.

The kick-off meeting for the project, which was held in Kyiv on November 21, 2018, was attended by representatives of the European Union, the State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone Management (SAUEZM), the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU), the National Nuclear Energy Generating Company Energoatom (NNEGC Energoatom), Ukrainian NPPs, the Central Radioactive Waste Management Enterprise (CRWME) and other stakeholders.

"This is already the third project launched by the European Union during the autumn of 2018 to improve various aspects of radwaste management in Ukraine. These projects are elements of a systematic support the EU provides to implementation of the Ukrainian State Programme for Radwaste Management, with the ultimate objective to ensure safety and radiological protection to the population of Ukraine and the environment", Ulf Rosengard, EU project manager said at the meeting.

"Ukraine's nuclear power plants have been accumulating radioactive waste for decades of their operation. Currently the NPPs are establishing solid radioactive waste processing facilities which produce materials acceptable for disposal. However, the NPPs in the course of their operation also generate liquid radioactive waste which is only pre-processed. This waste is stored in NPP storage facilities, and it is an important task to select an effective and economically justified technology for its treatment prior to shipment to SAUEZM special enterprises for disposal. A successful implementation of this project is a next step towards safe and efficient management and disposal of NPP waste", Luydmyla Blyznyukova, a Department Director of NNEGC Energoatom, said.

The Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine represented by the NNEGC Energoatom, and the SAUEZM are the beneficiaries of this project. Zaporizhia, Rivne, South-Ukraine, Khmelnytskyi and Chornobyl NPPs, as well as the CRWME, are the end users.

The contract for the project was awarded to the Consortium led by PLEJADES GmbH – Independent Experts (Germany), NUKEM Technologies Engineering Services GmbH (Germany), Brenk Systemplanung GmbH (Germany) and the nominated subcontractor LLC "Analytical Research Bureau for NPP Safety", Ukraine.

Background information: The NNEGC Energoatom operates four nuclear power plants with 15 power units. Three units of the Chornobyl NPP are at the stage of decommissioning.

Following the Chornobyl accident, the EU launched a nuclear safety programme, initially in the frame of the Financial Instrument for Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS), which was superseded in 2007 by the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. Through these two instruments, the European Union's contribution toward nuclear safety in Ukraine has exceeded EUR 950 mln.

Direct support delivered to Ukraine's Nuclear Operator SE NNEGC Energoatom and State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine through the 2+2 Programme is close to EUR 300 mln. Contributions toward the long-term safe management of radioactive waste resulting from the Chornobyl Accident, the Chornobyl decommissioning programme and the long-term storage and disposal of radioactive waste from operating units in Ukraine exceed EUR 600 mln.

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