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EU helps Ukraine to build 3 nuclear waste disposal facilities

The European Union in partnership with the State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone Management (SAUEZM) has completed two projects worth EUR 1.75 million to support the commissioning and licensing of three radioactive waste disposal facilities and to develop a design for the construction of a new technical building for processing short-lived low-level and intermediate-level wastes at Vektor Complex in Chornobyl Exclusion Zone. It is expected that commissioning of the radioactive waste disposal facilities and beginning of construction of the technical building will take place in 2019.

“With the new facilities licensed and put in operation, significant step ahead will be taken toward the safe decommissioning of the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant,” **Christina Thormaehlen, Project Head from the European Commission**, said.

“With the completion of this project, we are one more important step closer to establishing a safe radioactive waste management infrastructure for Ukraine,” **Vitali Petruk, Head of SAUEZM**, said.

Supported by western and Ukrainian experts, the State Specialized Enterprise “Central Enterprise for the Management of Radioactive Waste” has worked to improve safety and effectiveness in the management of all types of short-lived low and intermediate level radioactive waste in Ukraine.

These facilities are fully aligned with the modern international practices of management and disposal of radioactive waste.

Safe and reliable infrastructure for management of radioactive waste will allow minimising the negative effect on the environment and human health of the waste which is being generated by nuclear power plants and many other industries using radioactive materials: medicine, agriculture, research, minerals exploration, etc. Such infrastructure will also permit safe treatment and disposal of the waste still remaining after the 1986 Chornobyl catastrophe.

The project was implemented by Empresarios Agrupados International (Spain) in consortium with Ukrainian Company Kyiv Research and Design Institute ‘Energoproject’. The project lasted 36 months (2 December 2015 – 1 December 2018).

Background information:

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frame of the Financial Instrument for Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS), which was superseded in 2007 by the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC). Through these two instruments, the European Union contribution toward nuclear safety in Ukraine has exceeded EUR 950 million.

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 million. In addition, contributions toward the long-term Safe Management of radioactive wastes resulting from the Chornobyl Accident, Chornobyl decommissioning programme and the long-term storage and disposal of radioactive wastes from operating units in Ukraine exceeds EUR 600 million.

For additional information, please contact

Christina Thormaehlen, EC Project Manager; Christina.THORMAEHLEN@ec.europa.eu

Lenar Sagidulin, Joint Support Office at Kyiv; office@jso.kiev.ua



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Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

Address:
101 Volodymyrska Street,
01033 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel: +38 044 33 99 201
Fax: +38 044 33 99 204

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