



Kyiv, September 26th 2019

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

The European Union has allocated a further €150 000, 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), is a follow-up to an ongoing INSC project that was launched in 2018. It is motivated by the importance of the longer-term safe management of very large amounts of Intermediate Level Waste that results from the Chernobyl Catastrophe. The follow-up project will enable the development of the integrated National Plan for the establishment of Geological Disposal of Ukrainian Radioactive Waste for both High Level Waste and Intermediate Level Waste. The Kick-off meeting for the follow-up project was held in Kyiv on September 26th, 2019.

This EU project builds on the previous support in establishing concepts for disposal of Radioactive Waste in Ukraine, making a total EU contribution towards the safe disposal of radioactive waste in Ukraine of €2.88M. The project, which will be implemented over a period of one year, will support the government of Ukraine in establishing its National Plan, relevant cost assessment and implementation schedule for safe geological disposal of Radioactive Waste, in alignment with Ukrainian legislation, guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency and best international practice. The project will also deliver the training of Ukrainian experts, Quality Programme and materials for future public consultations.

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 (SAUEMZ), and End-user, State Specialized Enterprise "Central Enterprise for Radioactive Waste Management" (SSE CERWM), as well as with other key stakeholders.

Speaking on behalf of the European Commission, Ms Christina Thormählen stated:

"The European Union recognises the importance of the integrated management of High Level and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste, by fostering improved safety and effectiveness of the Ukrainian waste disposal strategy. This project is a good example of our continuous cooperation with Ukraine in the area of radioactive waste management in line with best international practice".

On behalf of the Beneficiary, Head of SAUEZM Radwaste Management Department, Ms Lyubov Zinkevych emphasized:

"Ukraine recognises that the establishment of deep geological disposal for High Level and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste is a very challenging programme, which will take decades to be properly planned, prepared and implemented. This project makes an important step towards this ambitious goal. SAUEZM is very thankful to the European Union for the continuous support in the implementation of this programme.

In cooperation with the SSE CERWM, 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 the Radioenvironmental Centre of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Background information:

Since 1991, the European Union has contributed more than €1.05 Billion 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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