



Kyiv, 15 October 2021

EU supports the long-term safe management of radioactive wastes in Ukraine

Financed by the European Union 'Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation' (EU INCS) with EUR 2.4 million, over the last three years, experts from the EU and Ukraine have worked closely with Ukrainian Authorities in ensuring the long-term safe management of various forms of the country's radioactive waste. In the frame of projects entitled "Specification of waste forms to allow safe treatment, storage and disposal of problematic radioactive wastes held at Ukrainian nuclear energy facilities" and "Comprehensive safety assessment of RAW management sites operated by State Corporation "Ukrainian State Association Radon"¹ and design of remediation for specific problematic facilities", experts specified problematic waste forms stored at Ukraine's Nuclear Power Plants and established methodologies for their safe and effective management. In parallel, comprehensive safety assessments for each of the SSE Association Radon facilities, located in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Odesa and Lviv, were established. The project team also established conceptual design solutions for the remediation of storages at each of the Radon sites, re-assessed the safety of several legacy waste storage facilities, and developed solutions for the rehabilitation of those that are most problematic.

On 12 and 13 October 2021, workshops on project results were held in Kyiv, with participation of the European Commission, State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone Management, NNEGC Energoatom, SNRIU, Chornobyl NPP, and Central Radwaste Management Enterprise.

Christina Thormählen, EC Project Manager, commented: *"Improvement of radiation safety, including the safe management of radioactive waste, is one of the main goals of EU INCS funded projects in Ukraine. We are pleased to have supported Ukraine in defining these specific safety improvement measures and to have witnessed this project being implemented successfully".*

Andriy Pliatsko, First Deputy Head of State Agency for Exclusion Zone Management, emphasised: *"We appreciate the support of the EU in radiation safety improvement, which includes transfer of knowledge and capabilities in the performance of safety assessments by Radon personnel".*

Valentin Kostenko, Department Director of NNEGC Energoatom, emphasised: *"We appreciate the support provided by the EU in the implementation of this project, the results of which will be implemented to ensure safe disposal of problematic radioactive waste from Ukraine's NPPs".*

The work was implemented by experts from PLEJADES GmbH, Brenk Systemplanung GmbH, NUKEM Technologies Engineering Services GmbH, DMT GmbH & Co KG from Germany, together with Ukratominstruments Corporation Ltd and LLC "Analytical Research Bureau for NPP Safety" from Ukraine. The experts worked in close cooperation with colleagues from NNEGC Energoatom and SSE Association Radon.

Nuclear power is of critical importance for Ukraine's energy sector, as it meets more than half of the country's electricity demand. Alongside its benefits, however, the utilisation of nuclear energy produces radioactive waste, as do various industrial activities in Ukraine, and certain medical treatments. This waste requires safe management, prior to final disposal, to protect the public and the environment from radiation.

Background information: Since 1991, the European Union has provided more than EUR 1.05 billion to support Ukraine's nuclear safety improvement programme, contributing toward improved safe operation of Ukraine's NPPs, an appropriate radioactive waste management infrastructure. It further provided institutional support to Ukraine's nuclear regulator, and made significant contributions to the large-scale projects within the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone.

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¹ Currently SSE Association Radon