



Kyiv, December 2nd, 2021

EU support to remediation of the former Pridniprovskiy Chemical Plant (PChP) enters its third phase

Following the completion of the EU funded project to develop a long-term strategy for the remediation of the PChP site at Kamyanske costing €1.1 million, in 2016 and in partnership with the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine the EU commenced activities to bring the site into a safe condition. Given the widespread distribution of radioactively contaminated materials around the PChP site, on which are located several state and private enterprises and around 600 workers, the Partners launched a project to improve safety at the site for both the public and environment. The project results will also ensure safe conditions for future remediation activities. That work, which will be completed in November 2021, has seen the establishment of five radiation-controlled areas within the site, the sealing of two highly contaminated buildings, and finalised a design solution for the collection and temporary storage of radioactive materials from around site, within one of the radiation-controlled areas. At a total cost of €3.5 million, the project has also supported the strengthening of Ukraine's legal and regulatory framework, for the safe management of Uranium Legacy sites.

In September this year, the European Commission signed a Contribution Agreement, committing a further €5.7 million to support several priority actions required to support initial remediation activities at the PChP site. The Project foresees the establishment of a Radioactive Materials Management Plan, which will be based on the 2016 Remediation Strategy Document and define the priority activities to be implemented. The Project also foresees the establishment of interim safe storage and final disposal for radioactive materials located at the site, together with further strengthening of the legal and regulatory framework for Uranium Legacy Sites in Ukraine.

The project, which will take 4 years to complete, will be implemented by the Science and Technology Centre of Ukraine (STCU www.stcu.int) in partnership with State Enterprise 'Barrier', the PChP Site Operator appointed by the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine.

Yuriy Vlasenko, First Deputy Minister of Energy of Ukraine, commented: *"The Ukrainian party expresses its gratitude to the European Commission and highly appreciates its support and cooperation in the implementation of international projects for remediation of the PCHP site, providing radiation monitoring during their implementation, in equipment operation and maintenance. The Government of Ukraine will adopt changes to the "State programme of priority measures for bringing the PCHP facilities and site into a safe condition for 2019-2024" shortly; this, in the continued cooperation with the European Commission, will contribute to the creation of more favourable economic and environmental conditions for effective operation of enterprises at the site of the Production Association "Pridniprovskiy Chemical Plant", reduction of negative impact of the radioactive contamination on workers and public, and will facilitate the restoration of investment prospects for the development of industrial production on the territory of the former Production Association through the use of own resource potential".*

Pascal Daures, of the European Commission DG International Partnerships commented: *"The European Commission has been committed to the remediation of uranium legacy in Ukraine since 2014 and Central Asia since 2015. Driven by the same concern; to protect neighbouring populations and the environment, the European Commission committed to Ukraine's former Pridniprovskiy uranium production site, and fully intends to continue this support to the Ukrainian people and the authorities".*

Experts from a consortium led by Swedish company Facilia, and Experts from Ukrainian companies LLC Keentegro, LLC ZVO, and the Institute of Radiological Protection, have worked with Experts of the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Health, the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate, and SE Barrier in ensuring the successful completion of the Phase 2 works.

Background information: Since 1991, the European Union has contributed more than EUR 1.05 billion toward improved safe operation of Ukraine's NPP's, the safe management of radioactive waste, provided institutional support to Ukraine's Nuclear Regulator, made significant contribution to the large-scale projects within the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, and supported the implementation of social projects in support of those affected by the 1986 accident at Chernobyl NPP.

For additional information, please contact:

EU Alain.VAN-DEN-BRANDE@ec.europa.eu
STCU anthony.nichol@stcu.int

Ministry of Energy svitlana.kulchytska@mev.gov.ua
Joint Support Office office@jso.kiev.ua



THE PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine

Address:
101 Volodymyrska Street,
01033 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel: +38 044 39 08 010
Fax: +38 044 39 08 015

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