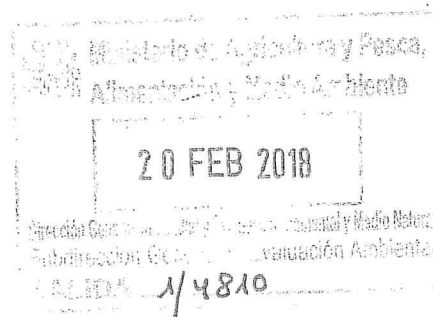




Mr. Romas Svedas
Chair of the Implementation Committee
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Ref. EIC/IC/INFO/21 Almaraz nuclear power plant



Madrid, February 2018

Dear Mr Chair,

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter requesting some clarifications from the Spanish authorities concerning the construction of the temporary spent fuel storage facility at the Almaraz nuclear power plant in Spain (the planned activity), including its locations, technical parameter and the current status; and the process and the outcomes of the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure carried out by Spain in relation to that planned activity.

First of all let me inform you that an email from the representative of Spain in the working group of the Espoo Convention was sent to the attention of the secretariat by 13 November 2017, providing the clarifications you ask for.

Nonetheless, as a focal point of the Espoo Convention I kindly inform you that:

The formal notification as affected party under Espoo Convention and following article 3 of the Convention I refer to the letter sent on 11 November 2016 by the Government of Spain to the Government of Portugal, submitting the corresponding decision (Declaration of environmental impact assessment DIA) with all documentation.

In that letter the Government of Spain justifies the reasons for not having consulted Portugal, considering that the project individualized temporary warehouse (ATI) for spent fuel in the nuclear power station of Almaraz (Cáceres) had not likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact in Portugal.

It is important to notice that a friendly agreement, sponsored by President of European Commission Mr. Junkers, between the Governments of Portugal and Spain, was reached and as a consequence the disagreement raised by Portugal over the Almaraz ATI was elucidated.

As a result, subsequent information related to this project has been provided to Portuguese authorities in different occasions and we will continue to collaborate in order to fulfill all the obligations under the Espoo Convention and particularly those proposed at the bilateral agreement reached.

As you may know the aim of the Interin storage facility project of Almaraz nuclear power plan is to get a dry storage system in containers for further transportation to a final location.

The ATI of Almaraz NPP site is located in the municipality of Almaraz, in the province of Caceres. The location chosen for the ATI is located within the NPP plot, in the north of the plant. It is 800 metres from Almaraz city centre. The distance to the Portuguese border is, approximately, about 100 km. The project is under construction.

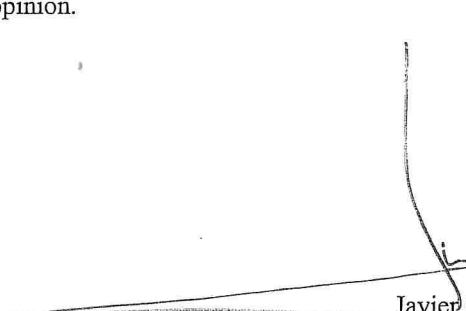
Regarding transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures, on the 2nd march 2017 the Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda sent the Portuguese authorities the documents that have been requested, as well as others produced during the environmental impact assessment process.



As a result, the Portuguese authorities sent the “Relatório do grupo de Trabalho”, on the 12th April 2017 with a list of suggestions that the Spanish Government agreed on.

These suggestions and recommendations include, among others, the follow-up by the Portuguese authorities of: the assessment to be carried out by the Nuclear National Security CSN and other Spanish authorities during the authorization and operation of the ATI and the implementation of specific improvement measures in relation to extreme events arising from ITC post-Fukushima identified in the Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) opinion.

Yours sincerely,


Javier Cachón de Mesa
General Director of Quality,
Environmental Assessment and
Natural Environment

