

From: Martínez Paton, Santiago

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 11:03 AM

To: ECE-EIA-CONV

Subject: RV: GENTLE REMINDER: Letter from the Chair of the Implementation Committee:
ECE/IC/INFO/22 Construction of a temporary spent fuel storage facility at the Almaraz nuclear power plant

Dear Mr. Chair,

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter requesting some clarifications from the Spanish Government concerning the temporary spent fuel storage facility at the Almaraz nuclear power plant in Spain.

First of all, I would like to point out that most of the clarifications raised have been already answered by this General Directorate, by e-mails sent to the Implementation Committee, dated 13 November 2017 and 20 February 2018.

Nonetheless, as a focal point of the Espoo Convention, it is a pleasure to inform you that:

- a) The storage is already operational.
 - b) The letter sent on 11 November 2016 by the Government of Spain to the Government of Portugal, was according to the provisions of article 2th and 3rd of the Convention. It was submitted in response of Portugal requesting to participate in the environmental impact assessment procedure, by letter dated 3rd October 2016. This submission was received when the environmental impact procedure was in the final drafting phase. Public information had been made in October 2015. Nevertheless, the Government of Spain has sent to Portugal all available documentation, including the declaration of environmental impact assessment. This decision, dated 7 November, concluded, in the environmental analysis chapter, that the project has only environmental impacts in the local area, within the nuclear power plant plot.
- Please, find enclosed the letter dated 11 November 2016, and an unofficial courtesy translation.
- c) The joint statement between Portugal and Spain, sponsored by the European Commission, strengthened the spirit of mutual cooperation. Spain committed to share with Portugal all relevant environmental and safety nuclear information, to ensure that the project would not have any environmental impacts on Portugal territory.
 - d) Spain has fulfilled its obligations established in the aforementioned joint statement, following the principles and provisions under the Espoo Convention. Thereby, Spain included in the project all the suggestions that Portuguese Authorities made on 12 April 2017. Likewise, Portugal representatives attend to the Information Committee Meetings of the NPP. The purpose of these meetings is to inform the public about the NPP operation. Spain will continue to collaborate closely with Portugal during the follow up and surveillance of this project to fully comply its obligations under Espoo Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Eugenio J. Domínguez Collado
Deputy General Director of Environmental Assessment