MINISTRY OF ENERGY, TOURISM AND DIGITAL AGENDA

Order ETU / 754/2017, of 1st August, which denies the renewal of the authorization to operate Santa María de Garoña nuclear power plant.

The Order ITC / 1785/2009, 3rd of July, established 6th of July 2013 as the date of permanent cessation of the operation of Santa María de Garoña nuclear power plant and granted Nuclenor, S.A, the owner of this nuclear power plant, the renewal of the exploitation permission until that date.

The Order IET/1302/2013, 5th of July, declared the permanent cessation of the operation of Santa María de Garoña nuclear power plant on 6th of July 2013.

Since this cessation of exploitation was not motivated by reasons of nuclear safety or radiation protection, Nuclenor, SA, submitted to the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism (today Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda), on 27th of May 2014, an application for the renewal of the exploitation permission up to 2nd of March 2031.

Taking into account the Order IET/1302/2013, 5th of July, declaring the permanent cessation of the operation of the Santa María de Garoña nuclear power plant, and the following considerations:

First:
Spain, as a Member State of the European Union, intends, within the framework of regulations currently in process in the energy sector, to prepare an energy plan for the 2030 and 2050 horizon.

Second:
Permanent cessation of Santa María de Garoña nuclear power plant was declared by Order IET / 1302/2013, 5th of July. From 16th of December 2012, as the owner did not request the renewal permission authorized by Order IET/1453/2012, 29th of June, the nuclear power plant stopped its exploitation, for reasons not related to nuclear safety or radiation protection.

Third:
Since the cessation of exploitation, it has been found that the lack of electricity production of this plant, has not had a significant impact on the electricity supply, due to its reduced electrical power (466 MW).
Considering the aforementioned planning is not yet prepared, as well as, the low electric power of this plant, compared to those plants that are currently operating, it is advisable to exclude it among the facilities that should be considered as part of the "energetic mix".

Therefore, it is estimated that the continuity of the Santa María de Garoña nuclear power plant is not necessary for the provision of electric power.

For all the above, by means of this order, the request for the renewal of the permission to operate the Santa María de Garoña nuclear power plant is denied.

This Ministry has resolved:

One:
To deny the request for renewal of the exploitation permission presented by the owner of Santa María de Garoña nuclear power plant.

Two:
To declare the permanent cessation of the operation of Santa María de Garoña nuclear power plant, in accordance with the provisions of articles 12.c) and 28 of the Regulation on nuclear and radioactive facilities (approved by Royal Decree 1836/1999).