REGARDING NOTIFICATION AND INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN LITHUANIA

According to Lithuanian legislation and Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), construction of nuclear power plant is considered as an economic activity for which carrying out environmental impact assessment process in transboundary context is mandatory. Having in mind this requirement, we would like to notify you about the initiation of environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure for construction of the nuclear power plant in the vicinity of the existing Ignalina nuclear power plant (eastern part of Lithuania).

EIA procedure is being initiated by joint-stock company „Lietuvos Energija“. It has hired a consortium of Pöyry Energy Oy (Finland) and Lithuanian Energy Institute to prepare the EIA programme.

It is planned that the net electrical output of the new nuclear power plant would not exceed 3400 MW and thermal power would be in range of 8700 MW. Two alternative locations for the new plant (both in the territory of the existing Ignalina nuclear power plant) and zero option will be analyzed during the EIA. The possible technical alternatives of the new nuclear power plant namely, the boiling water, pressurised water and pressurized heavy water reactor will be also assessed.

The national EIA procedure is performed in two subsequent stages. During the first stage, the EIA program is prepared and presented to the relevant parties of EIA (the state authorities responsible for healthcare, fire prevention, protection of cultural heritage, economic development, regional and local authorities, and others depending on the type of the planned activity) and public for a review and consultation. For nuclear activities, the additional authorities are: the State Nuclear Power Safety Inspectorate and the Radiation Protection Centre. The EIA program defines scope and content of EIA report and shall be approved by the competent authority – Ministry of Environment of Lithuania.

During the second stage, the EIA report is prepared based on the approved EIA program and with due respect to the opinions and statements made by the public, the relevant parties of EIA and the affected parties (when transboundary EIA is applicable). The EIA report will be reviewed by the relevant parties of EIA, the public and the affected parties before the adoption of substantiated decision on the permissibility of the proposed economic activity in the selected location by the
Competent authority.
It is expected that the EIA procedure will be completed by the end of 2008. It is planned that the first unit of the new nuclear power plant would become operational not later than 2015.

Please advise us about your willingness to participate in the EIA procedure by the 30 of September, 2007. If yes, please provide comments on EIA program by the same date. Please address your response to this notification and comments to Mr. Vitalijus Auglys. The contact information is provided below:

Mr. Vitalijus Auglys
The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania
Telephone (+370 5) 2663651
Fax: (+370 5) 2663663
E-mail: v.auglys@am.lt

Please find enclosed:
1. The EIA program of the New Nuclear Power Plant Construction – in English to Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Poland and Sweden. In Russian to Belarus and Russian Federation.
3. The Notification letter in Polish to Poland in accordance with the Agreement between Lithuania and Poland on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

Yours faithfully,

Undersecretary of the Ministry

Inesis Kiškis

M. Masaityte, (+370 5) 266 3654, e-mail: m.masaityte@am.lt

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Send list:

Mr. Alexander Andreev
Ministry of Natural resources and Environmental Protection
Kolektornaya 10
220048 Minsk
Belarus

Mr. Harry Liiv
Ministry of Environment
Narva mnt 7 A
15172 Tallin
ESTONIA

Ms. Seija Rantakallio
Ministry of the Environment
Kasarmikatu 25 Helsinki
FINLAND

Ms. Sandija Snikere
Ministry of the Environment
Pieldu 25
LV-1494 Riga
LATVIA

Mr. Rycard Zakrzewski
Ministry of Environment
Walewska 52/54
00-922 Warsaw
POLAND

Mr. Evgeny Gorshkov
Ministry of Natural Resources
B. Gruzinskaya 4/6
123995 Moscow
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Ms. Inger Alness
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
SE- 106 48 Stockholm
SWEDEN