May 8, 2013 № 03-13/16

Ms Vesna Kolar Planinšić, Chair of the Implementation Committee of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

Re: Ref. EIA/IC/INFO/9

Dear Ms Planinšić,

In response to your letter dated March 25, 2013 we would like to provide you with the following information.

1. Belarusian Public Association “Ecological Initiative” is a registered non-governmental organization (NGO) officially registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus (see the statue of the organization in English attached). Our NGO was established in 2003 and since then has been successfully working on some of the major national and international environmental challenges. In August 2012 BPA “Ecological Initiative” created a Public Information Center on Safety Issues at Construction of Nuclear Power Stations in Belarus. The main goal of this Center is to inform people about the potential risks and threats of the nuclear power stations for population and environment and ways of their mitigation.

2. Our NGO learnt the information about the planned activity of Lithuania to construct the Visaginas nuclear power station close to the border with Belarus a couple years ago from mass-media. As far as we know, the new Visaginas project is planned to locate on the same site where the former Ignalina nuclear power plant is situated.

3. We didn’t participate in the public hearing with respect to the planned activity because we were not informed when and where the above public hearing is held.

4. Belarusian Public Association “Ecological Initiative” hasn’t been informed about the final decision of Lithuania regarding the planned activity to construct Visaginas nuclear power station.
5. The exact location of the future Visaginas nuclear power station with respect to the border with Belarus and Drivyaty lake is indicated in the map attached to the current letter.

Sincerely Yours,

Yuri Solovjev
Chairman of the Council
of the BPA “Ecological initiative”