



**МІНІСТЭРСТВА  
ПРЫРОДНЫХ РЭСУРСАЎ І АХОВЫ  
НАВАКОЛЬНАГА АСЯРОДДЗЯ  
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ**

вул. Калектарная, 10, 220004, г. Мінск  
тэл. (37517) 200 66 91; факс (37517) 200 55 83  
E-mail: minproos@mail.belpak.by  
р/р № 3604900000111 ААТ "ААБ Беларусбанк".  
г. Мінск, код 795, УНП 100519825; АКПА 00012782

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО  
ПРИРОДНЫХ РЕСУРСОВ И ОХРАНЫ  
ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ**

ул. Коллекторная, 10, 220004, г. Минск  
тел. (37517) 200 66 91; факс (37517) 200 55 83  
E-mail: minproos@mail.belpak.by  
р/с № 3604900000111 ОАО "АСБ Беларусбанк".  
г. Минск, код 795, УНП 100519825; ОКПО 00012782

16.02.2017 № 3-10/378  
На № \_\_\_\_\_ ад \_\_\_\_\_

Председателю Комитета по  
осуществлению Конвенции об  
оценке воздействия на  
окружающую среду в  
трансграничном контексте  
(Конвенция Эспо)  
Феликсу Захария

Уважаемый г-н Феликс Захария,

Министерство природных ресурсов и охраны окружающей среды Республики Беларусь свидетельствует свое уважение Комитету по осуществлению Конвенции об оценке воздействия на окружающую среду в трансграничном контексте (Конвенция Эспо) и ссылаясь на Ваш запрос, поступивший посредством электронной переписки, имеет честь предоставить приложенную информацию о модулях SEED-миссии.

Приложения: 1. Информация о SEED-миссии МАГАТЭ на 3 л. в 1 экз.;  
2. Информация по стресс-тестам Белорусской АЭС на 1 л.  
в 1 экз.

С уважением,

Первый заместитель Министра,  
Национальный координатор Республики  
Беларусь по Конвенции Эспо

И.В.Малкина

*Unofficial translation*

Chairman of the Implementation  
Committee of the Convention on  
Environmental Impact Assessment in  
a Transboundary Context (Espoo  
Convention)  
Mr. Felix Zaharia

Dear Mr. Felix Zaharia,

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus presents its compliments to the Implementation Committee of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and referring to your request received via e-mail, has the honor to submit the attached information on modules of SEED-mission.

Attachments: 1. Information on IAEA SEED-mission on 3 pages in 1 copy;  
2. Information on stress-tests of Belarusian NPP on 1 page in 1 copy.

Sincerely,

First deputy Minister,  
Focal point on the Espoo Convention

Iya Malkina

## IAEA SEED review mission to Belarus

IAEA SEED (Site and External Events Design) review mission is a bundled service designed to assist Member States at different stages in the development of a nuclear power programme.

The service bundle includes the following modules:

- **site selection process review** provides Member States with an independent review of the adherence to the IAEA guidance on the subject and the appropriateness of the selection of exclusion and screening criteria, and their use in the ranking of the sites;

- **integrated site evaluation review** addresses all of the requirements that a site has to meet for the construction of a nuclear installation; provides Member States with an independent review of the adherence to the IAEA safety requirements and the level of detail in site investigation to establish the site's capacities to support the installation's design needs;

- **site hazard evaluation review** provides Member States with an independent review of the adherence to the IAEA safety requirements and the level of detail in site investigation to establish the appropriate estimate of a specific hazard at the site during the lifetime of the installation;

- **safety review of structures, systems and components (SSCs) against external and internal hazards** provides Member States with an independent review of the adherence to the IAEA safety requirements in the design of SSCs to meet the demands of the site specific hazard;

- **site environmental assessment review** provides Member States with an independent review of the adherence to the IAEA environmental assessment requirement;

- **design safety margin assessment** provides Member States with an independent review of their safety margin assessment against external hazards for both single and multi-unit sites.

Scope of the SEED mission to Belarus was elaborated in consultations with the IAEA Secretariat in the course of the preparatory mission (Minsk, 25-27 July 2016) on the basis of the decision of the Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention (VI/2, para. 64): "*Encourages Belarus to further develop confidence-building measures, including to invite the IAEA for a SEED mission with a view to evaluating the site selection criteria and studies for the nuclear power plant, as well as its development and operation, to fully ensure its safety*" and with a view of benefits from the mission at the current stage of the NPP construction.

It was agreed that the SEED mission to Belarus (Minsk, 16-20 January 2017) would focus on:

- hazards evaluation and screening;

- deriving site-specific parameters and their consideration in the NPP design (including availability of an ultimate heat sink, availability of sufficient cooling water, presence of emergency routes, etc.);
- monitoring of the site-specific parameters and conditions for the entire life-cycle of the NPP;
- specific considerations and challenges related to accident prevention and mitigation against external hazards based on lessons from the Fukushima accident.

Scope of the SEED review included:

- site hazards screening;
- site characterization results;
- site related design parameters;
- site monitoring;
- specific concerns related to Fukushima accident external events.

The SEED team reviewed the design parameters of the Belarusian NPP against external hazards specific to the Ostrovets site. The team also reviewed characterization of site hazards and the process for screening them.

In its preliminary findings, the SEED team said that the NPP's design parameters accounted for site-specific external hazards as well as human-induced events. The team noted that hazard monitoring programmes, which will be implemented throughout the life cycle of the plant, were adequate and properly documented. Additionally, measures have been taken to address challenges related to external events in light of lessons learnt from the Fukushima Daiichi accident.

Mr. Greg Rzentkowski, Director of the IAEA's Division of Nuclear Installation Safety, said "*this mission demonstrated that appropriate steps have been taken to establish the design parameters of the nuclear power plant to protect it against the worst credible external event.*"<sup>1</sup>

The SEED team was designated by the IAEA Secretariat and agreed by Belarus. Belarus did not object to the selection of experts by the Agency. The SEED team comprised experts from France and Hungary. Belarus is not aware of whether Lithuania or any other interested state reached the IAEA Secretariat with the intention to participate in the SEED mission to Belarus.

According to the information available to Belarus so-called "full-scope" SEED mission does not exist in practice and has never been conducted. The IAEA intentionally made this mission consisting of a number of modules with a view to address different issues at different stages of the nuclear power plant construction project.

---

<sup>1</sup> IAEA press-release available at <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-concludes-site-and-external-events-design-seed-review-in-belarus>

Moreover, outcomes of the survey in the framework of the preparation of Good practice recommendations on the application of the Espoo Convention to nuclear energy-related activities (question 28 (h) of the respective questionnaire) revealed that the SEED review service is not widely explored by the UNECE Member States. Apart from Belarus only France and Poland hosted the SEED mission (in 2016). Another embarking country, UAE, did not invite the SEED mission.

In this context, it is worth mentioning that the Sixth Review Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety “suggested” Belarus to consider inviting SEED mission “as appropriate”<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> Country Group Rapporteur Report available at Convention on Nuclear Safety website

### Stress-tests

In June 2011 Belarus, among other EU neighbouring countries:

confirmed its willingness to undertake on a voluntary basis stress-tests (comprehensive risk and safety assessments) taking into account the specifications agreed by the European Commission and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG);

agreed to commit nuclear operators to self-assessments of their nuclear power plants, as well as to invite national regulatory bodies to present national reports, and to make use of a transparent peer-review system enhancing credibility and accountability of the stress-tests;

agreed to engage on a multilateral level and with the IAEA a discussion for a strong and common safety standards as well as international peer-reviews<sup>1</sup>.

No deadline was set for the non-EU countries' stress-tests exercise. Moreover, a decision about construction of the Belarusian NPP has been taken late in 2013.

No obligation of the non-EU countries' to submit respective national reports to the European Commission (for example, for peer-review) was established.

Currently, the operating organization is performing self-assessment taking into account the above mentioned specification. It is planned that the self-assessment report will be submitted to the regulatory body in the first quarter of this year.

The regulatory body is expected to prepare the national report on stress-tests tentatively by July this year.

The modalities of the transparent peer-review process to be followed after the finalization of the national report are under discussion at the moment.

---

<sup>1</sup> Joint Declaration available at [https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/20110623\\_stress\\_test\\_joint\\_declaration\\_eu\\_neighbouring\\_countries.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/20110623_stress_test_joint_declaration_eu_neighbouring_countries.pdf)