



МІНІСТЭРСТВА  
ПРЫРОДНЫХ РЭСУРСАЎ І АХОВЫ  
НАВАКОЛЬНАГА АСЯРОДДЗЯ  
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МИНИСТЕРСТВО  
ПРИРОДНЫХ РЕСУРСОВ И ОХРАНЫ  
ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ

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Implementation Committee,  
Convention on Environmental  
Impact Assessment in a  
Transboundary Context

Referring to the item 15 of the Annotated provisional agenda of the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Implementation Committee under the Espoo Convention (Geneva, 10-12 December 2013) and to the Rule 11 of the Operating rules of the Implementation Committee, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter – the Ministry) has the honor to inform the Implementation Committee on the measures taken by Belarus for implementation of its recommendations further to the submission by Lithuania (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2013/2, annex).

Pursuant to the recommendation **74c)**

The Edict of the President of the Republic of Belarus of November 2, 2013 № 499 «On construction of the Belarusian nuclear power plant», which is the final decision on the proposed activity, was made in full compliance with Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Espoo Convention (Annex 1).

Pursuant to the recommendation **74d)**

In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 2 of the Espoo Convention Lithuania and other Affected Parties were informed about the final decision as well as about the reasons and considerations on which it was based by the letter of the Ministry dated 21 November 2013 (Annex 2). The copy of the Edict and Conclusion of the Ministry in Russian and English were sent in hard copy and electronic format.

Pursuant to the recommendation **74e)**

Belarus has being continued the EIA procedure on the basis of the final EIA documentation.

Taking into consideration draft findings and recommendations of the

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Implementation Committee, Belarus in November-December 2012 sent to Lithuania materials containing the reasons of site selection for NPP construction and the forecasted transboundary radiological impact of the NPP.

At the meeting during the IX International Belarusian and Lithuanian Economic Forum (Klaipeda, Lithuania, 18-19 April 2013) Prime-Ministers of the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Lithuania agreed to hold before 20 May 2013 consultations on the basis of the final EIA report that was submitted to Lithuania in February 2011.

As a follow-up of the bilateral meeting at the prime-minister level Belarus by the letter dated 30 April 2013 (Annex 3):

- submitted to Lithuania answers to the questions on the EIA report for the Belarusian NPP;

- reaffirmed the agreement achieved during the IX International Belarusian and Lithuanian Economic Forum to hold before 20 May 2013 bilateral consultations with the participation of public and authorities of Lithuania while requesting Lithuania to provide particular date and venue of such consultations.

Lithuania disavowed the agreement achieved by Prime-Ministers.

Taking into consideration the Lithuania's request made in letter dated 2 May 2013 (Annex 4) regarding the submission of the final EIA report, including answers to all the questions raised by Lithuania since 2009, Belarus by the letter dated 11 June 2013 (Annex 5):

- submitted to Lithuania the final EIA report in Lithuanian as well as the materials of the bilateral consultations for 2009-2013;

- proposed to hold consultations with the public and concerned authorities of Lithuania before 15 August 2013.

Lithuania did not react on the proposals of Belarus.

In response to the letter of Lithuania dated 10 September 2013 (Annex 6) Belarus by the letter of 1 October 2013 (Annex 7):

- submitted to Lithuania answers to the key questions of Lithuania of 10 September 2013;

- provided the Lithuanian public with complementary opportunity to submit comments on the final EIA report by 18 October 2013, through the Competent authority of Lithuania;

- once again invited representatives of Lithuania to hold expert consultations in accordance with Article 5 of the Espoo Convention in the period from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2013.

Lithuania did not react on the proposals of Belarus.

Pursuant to the recommendation **74f)**

Belarus by the letter dated 11 June 2013 (Annex 5) submitted to Lithuania the final EIA report in Lithuanian and requested to convey it to the concerned authorities and the public of Lithuania. Besides, the final EIA report in



Lithuanian was made available in Internet at <http://www.dsae.by>.

An announcement about the public discussions and public hearings in Lithuanian was disseminated through the Lithuanian mass-media and posted on the website of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of Lithuania.

Free visas were issued to the participants of the public hearings, as well as free insurance and transportation from Lithuania to Ostrovets and back were provided.

Consecutive interpretation into Lithuanian was provided for the hearings with the Lithuanian public which took place on 17 August 2013 in Ostrovets, Belarus. There were no complaints on the quality of interpretation.

Lithuania did not react on the proposals to cooperate in organizing the hearings on the final EIA report for the Belarusian NPP for the Lithuanian public.

Pursuant to the recommendation **74g)**

Belarus by the letter dated 30 April 2013 (Annex 3) requested Lithuania to inform the Lithuanian public of the final EIA report and provide the latter with opportunity to comment on the report.

Belarus by the letter dated 11 June 2013 (Annex 5) requested Lithuania to disseminate the final EIA report in Lithuanian among the concerned authorities and public of Lithuania.

Given the fact, that Lithuania neglected the above requests of Belarus and the respective recommendation of the Implementation Committee, Belarus took steps on its own to inform the Lithuanian public on the EIA report and to collect its comments.

An announcement in Lithuanian containing the information on opportunity for the public of Lithuania to familiarize with the final EIA report was made available in Internet and disseminated through the Lithuanian mass-media. The Lithuanian public was provided with opportunity to submit its written comments or questions on the report (by post or email), as well as to voice them at the hearings on 17 August 2013 in Ostrovets, Belarus.

Belarus by the letter dated 1 October 2013 (Annex 7) informed the Competent authority of Lithuania about complementary opportunity for the Lithuanian public to submit comments on the final EIA report by 18 October 2013.

Pursuant to the recommendation **74h)**

Given the agreements achieved at the IX International Belarusian and Lithuanian Economic Forum Belarus by the letter dated 30 April 2013 (Annex 3) proposed to Lithuania to hold before 20 May 2013 bilateral consultations on the basis of the final EIA report.

Lithuania renounced to hold consultations.



After providing Lithuania with the final EIA report for the Belarusian NPP and materials of bilateral consultations for the period of 2009-2013 Belarus proposed (Annex 5) to hold consultations with the public and concerned authorities of Lithuania before 15 August 2013.

Belarus by the letter dated 19 July 2013 (Annex 8) once again proposed to Lithuania to hold consultations in accordance with Article 5 of the Espoo Convention on 20 August 2013 in Minsk.

Belarus by the letter dated 16 August 2013 (Annex 9) reaffirmed its proposal regarding the consultations in accordance with Article 5 of the Espoo Convention.

Lithuania did not respond to these proposals.

Belarus by the letter dated 9 August 2013 (Annex 10) invited Lithuania's officials (members of the Government and the Parliament) to attend the public hearings in Ostrovets, Belarus, on 17 August 2013.

The Lithuanian official persons did not attend the hearings.

Belarus by the letter of 1 October 2013 (Annex 7) once again invited representatives of Lithuania to hold expert consultations in accordance with Article 5 of the Espoo Convention in the period from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2013.

Lithuania did not react on the proposals of Belarus.

Pursuant to the recommendation **74i)**

Belarus stands ready to cooperate with Lithuania within the framework of post-project analysis under Article 7 of the Espoo Convention. In the letter of 21 November 2013 (Annex 2) Belarus reaffirmed its intention to carry out a post-project analysis. In its Conclusion the Ministry pointed out the necessity of approving of the post-project analysis program, taking into account the discussions with the Affected Parties (Annex 1).

Until now, Lithuania has not expressed its intention to participate in the post-project analysis.

Pursuant to the recommendation **74j)**

Belarus by the letter dated 11 June 2013 (Annex 5) invited Lithuania to hold consultations regarding the draft bilateral agreement on implementation of the Espoo Convention in July 2013.

Lithuania did not respond to this proposal.

Further we would like to bring to notice of the Implementation Committee the IAEA Mission report on the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (Annex 11) along with the background note about Belarus' cooperation with the IAEA while planning to construct a NPP on its territory (Annex 12).

We would like to draw attention of the Implementation Committee to the fact that the Mission report does not contain comments and suggestions on «Site and Supporting Facilities» and « Environmental Protection» chapters. It is



evidence that the IAEA acknowledged Belarus' work with regard to site selection and compliance with the environmental requirements prior to NPP construction.

We hope that the above information will be useful to the Implementation Committee while preparing the respective draft decision of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention regarding Belarus and that the final recommendations of the Committee further to the submission by Lithuania will be of non-adversarial nature.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus avails itself of this opportunity to assure the Implementation Committee in absolute adherence of the Republic of Belarus to the Espoo Convention and to renew assurances of its highest consideration.

- Enclosure: 1. copy of the Edict of the President of the Republic of Belarus of November 2, 2013 № 499 «On construction of the Belarusian nuclear power plant» and of the Conclusion of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus on 20 pages in Russian and on 18 pages in English;
2. letter of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus of November, 21, 2013;
  3. letter of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus of April, 30, 2013;
  4. letter of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania of May, 2, 2013;
  5. letter of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus of June, 11, 2013;
  6. letter of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania of September, 10, 2013;
  7. letter of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus of October, 1, 2013;
  8. letter of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus of July, 19, 2013;
  9. letter of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus of August, 16, 2013;
  10. letter of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Belarus of August, 9, 2013;
  11. IAEA Mission Report on the Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review, 18-19 June 2012;

12. background note of the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Belarus about Belarus' cooperation with the IAEA.

First Deputy Minister of  
Natural Resources and Environmental  
Protection of the Republic of Belarus  
Focal Point to the Espoo Convention



Vital Kulik