



Needs and problems for the safety of tailings, as well as the implementation of the Framework Agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the EBRD on conducting operations on the Environmental Rehabilitation Account for Central Asia in the Republic of Uzbekistan

The delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Introduction

At the end of the 40s of the XX century, in the east of the republic began the first exploration work, uranium production began in 1952.

One of the first deposits of industrial uranium ores - Chauli, in the Tashkent region.

In subsequent years, a large number of large uranium deposits were discovered in the central part of Uzbekistan in the Kyzylkum desert, located between the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers.



Former uranium production facilities



Uchkuduk
1.4 million cubic meters
m RW



Zaravshan
1 million tons of RW



Zafarabad 60
million tons of
RW



Krasnogorsk 770
thousand cubic meters
m RW



Chatkalo-Kuraminsky
region
2.6 million cubic
meters m RW



Off-balance ore dumps in Uchkuduk

In the process of uranium mining at the industrial site of the Uchkuduk deposit, 23 dumps of off-balance ores were formed with a total volume of 1,400 thousand m³ or 2.25 million tons with an average uranium content of 0.015%.

Dumps of off-balance ores of the Uchkuduk deposit on the outskirts of Navoi region



Central dump of off-balance ores of the Chauhi deposit on the outskirts of Krasnogorsk



Uranium Legacy Sites fencing



Removal of contaminated soil and backfilling with clean soil



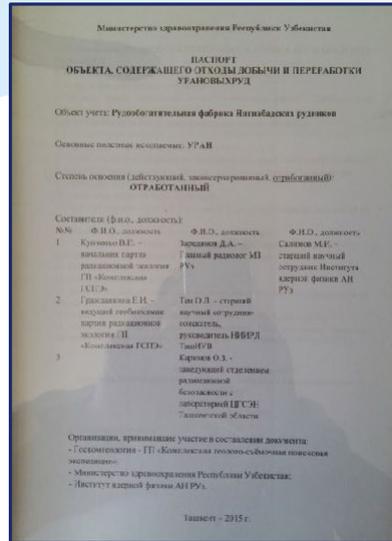
The mudflow channels, water protection structures, absorbing wells were built, shore protection works made



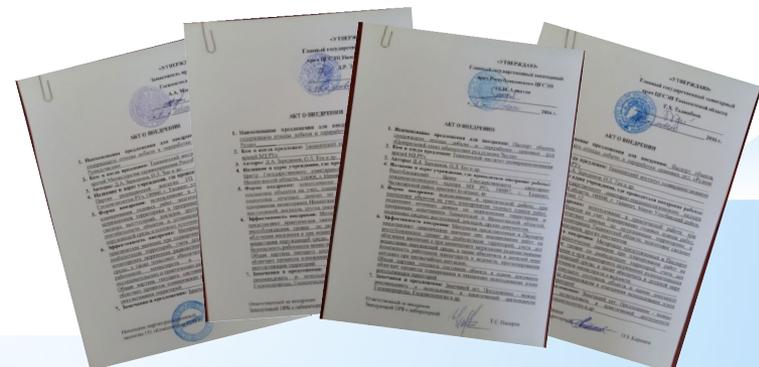
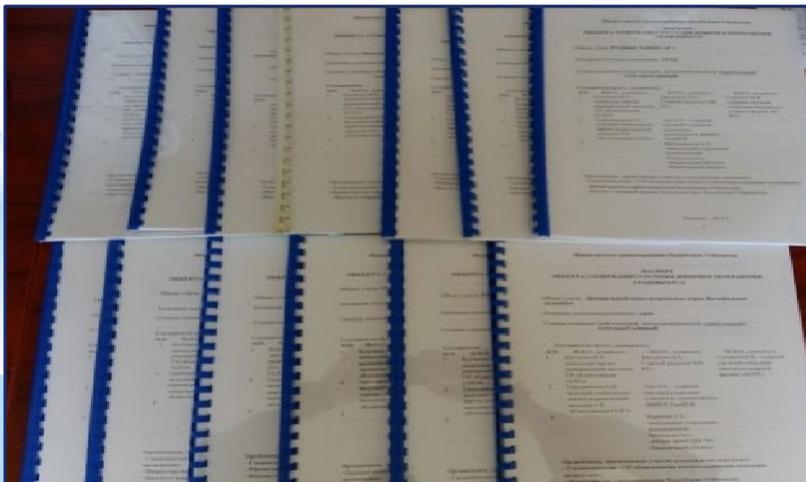
Objects in Chatkalo-Kuraminsky region



Passports of Uranium Legacy Sites



- Chauli Mine
- The central dump off-balance ore of Chauli Mine
- Charkesar-1 Mine
- Charkesar-2 Mine
- Alatanga Mine
- "Razveduchastok" Mine
- Kattasay Mine
- Jekindek Mine
- Ore enrichment plant of Yangiabad mines
- Central dump of off-balance uranium ores of Yangiabad mines
- Central dump of overburden rocks of Yangiabad mines
- Separate dump at the ore yard Rezak Mine



European Commission project

“Conducting a comprehensive environmental impact assessment and the possibility of restoring a damaged ecosystem in the areas of the former uranium ores Charkesar and Yangiabad”

Project period: 2013-2015 Budget: 1.380 million euros; Duration: 24 months

At the end of the project, a final feasibility study is presented with all the necessary technical and economic information on remediation measures and plans, including a preliminary schedule, in an appropriate format and with content. Full detailed technical specifications have been prepared (including materials to be used; quality of materials with norms and standards; work methods and drawings for them, estimates of construction work with an estimated breakdown of the estimated budget) for remediation work in Charkesar and Yangiabad.

Framework agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the EBRD “On conducting operations on the Environmental Rehabilitation Account for Central Asia in the Republic of Uzbekistan”

On March 16, 2017 in Tashkent, during a visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan by the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) S. Chakrabarti, a Framework Agreement was signed between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the EBRD on conducting operations on the Environmental Rehabilitation Account for Central Asia in the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter - Framework Agreement), which was approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 21, 2017 No. PP-3078 “On approval of the international treaty”.

The document is aimed at providing the EBRD with funds of gratuitous assistance for financing (co-financing) of projects implemented for the rehabilitation of former uranium mining facilities in the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as measures to increase the republic’s potential in eliminating the consequences of uranium ore mining.

In accordance with this decree, the State Industrial Safety Committee is determined by the competent authority responsible for the implementation of this framework agreement.

Framework agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the EBRD “On conducting operations on the Environmental Rehabilitation Account for Central Asia in the Republic of Uzbekistan”

- * С 21 мая по 1 июня 2018 года, делегация Узбекистана представила Национальный доклад Республики Узбекистан в очередном заседании МАГАТЭ по обсуждению национальных докладов стран участниц.
- * From May 21 to June 1, 2018, the delegation of Uzbekistan presented the National Report of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the next IAEA meeting to discuss national reports of the participating countries.
- * We have sent a request to the IAEA to conduct a peer review of the relevant regulatory infrastructure in the Republic of Uzbekistan by the IAEA Regulatory Expertise Service (IRRS mission) and a peer review of the effectiveness of environmental rehabilitation programs through a comprehensive review by the IAEA (ARTEMIS mission), which are scheduled for 2020 year.
- * The Academy of Sciences has developed a draft government decision on organizing the activities of the Project Management Group (PMU), which provides for the approval of the regulations on the PMU, its composition and sources of funding, and is preparing to be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers.



Участие в работата на ИАЕА «Координационна група за ураниев наследствени места (CGULS)» (CGULS)»

In the period from June 18 to June 22, 2018 in Tashkent, the annual meeting of the **Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites CGULS** was held.

The event was attended by employees of the IAEA, the European Commission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the OSCE, UNDP, the International Science and Technology Center, specialists from Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Norway, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine, France, as well as employees Ministry of Emergencies, Ministry of Health, Goskomekologiya, Goskomgeologiya, State Committee for Industrial Safety and the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan (total 40 people).

Also, a tour to the former uranium mines in Yangiabad was organized during the event.



Meeting "Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites (CGULS)"

*The meeting was very useful for all participants. Information was received regarding the current state of former uranium production facilities in Central Asian countries, as well as experience in implementing projects to implement reclamation at former uranium production facilities in developed European countries, such as Germany and France.

*The EBRD staff provided updated information on the activities of the Environmental Recovery Account (ERA), including the status of the fund in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The focus is on stakeholder engagement in the implementation of remediation projects.

*The course of cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the EBRD and the Environmental Recovery Account, as well as the implementation of work on safe sustainable restoration of uranium heritage sites in Uzbekistan, were discussed.

Framework Agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the EBRD

“On operations on the Environmental Rehabilitation Account for Central Asia in the Republic of Uzbekistan”.

- *To implement the Framework Agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on operations on the Environmental Rehabilitation Account for Central Asia in the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter - the Framework Agreement), the IAEA Working Group of the Coordination Group for Uranium Legacy Sites (CGULS) has prepared a Strategic Master Recovery Plan environment at uranium heritage sites in Central Asia.**
- *This plan will provide confidence between the affected republics and potential donors that the risks and problems associated with the uranium heritage sites in Central Asia will be timely, coordinated, cost-effective and sustainably addressed.**
- *The strategic master plan includes two main elements: a strategy that must be approved and implemented during the reclamation of uranium heritage sites in Central Asia, and a master plan for its implementation.**

Стратегический мастер план восстановления окружающей среды на площадках уранового наследия в Центральной Азии

* On September 18, 2017, during the IAEA General Conference, the signing ceremony of the Strategic Master Plan for Environmental Restoration at Uranium Heritage Sites in Central Asia (hereinafter referred to as the Master Plan) took place. From the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Master Plan was signed by the acting Chairman of the State Committee for Industrial Safety.

* In September 2019, the Uzbek delegation participated in high-level events within the framework of the UN General Assembly (New York), which discussed the progress made, the problematic issues of financing remediation activities at former uranium production facilities in Central Asian countries, as well as the adoption of a new resolution UNGA on this issue.

* This year, at the annual meeting of the Coordination Group for the former uranium facilities CGULS in Bishkek, the update of the Master Plan was discussed, regarding the implementation of remediation activities. It was decided to send a questionnaire to all the members to update the Master Plan.

Future plans

1. Development of the draft Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the management of radioactive waste”.
2. The development of a national strategy for the environmental rehabilitation of former uranium production facilities, which includes the allocation of national functions and responsibilities, the establishment, assessment and prioritization of former uranium production facilities, outlines specific ways to address urgent security problems, identifies environmental remediation measures that need to be taken to ensure safety and sustainability in the long run, setting deadlines logical rehabilitation and financing of the necessary funds.
3. A peer review of relevant regulatory infrastructure by the IAEA's Regulatory Integrated Regulatory Services (IRRS Mission)
4. A peer review of the effectiveness of environmental rehabilitation programs through a comprehensive review by the IAEA (Mission ARTEMIS).
5. Implementation of projects for the rehabilitation of former uranium production facilities located in the Tashkent and Namangan regions with financial support from the EBRD's Environmental Remediation Fund.
6. Continued cooperation with the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority on the development of regulatory documents in the field of safe radioactive waste management.



Спасибо за внимание

Thank you for attention