SITE SELECTION FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN OSTROVETS

Ministry of Environment of Republic of Lithuania
Transboundary EIA procedure

• On 15 of July 2008 Belarus has informed Lithuania, that Belarus is going to construct NPP.

• On 24 September of 2008 Lithuania informed Belarus about intention to participate in EIA procedure for the construction of the NPP

• On 7 January 2009 Lithuania reminded Belarus about requirement to have Transboundary EIA procedure according Espoo Convention (referring to Belarusian media, which reported that the Republic of Belarus had already chosen to build the new nuclear power plant in Ostrovets region)

• On 19 March 2009 Belarus informed that on **20 December 2008** special state commission made decision that Ostrovets site was chosen as priority against other two; EIA documentation was under preparation

   <...>

• On **24 of August 2009** Belarus has notified in accordance with Espoo Convention Lithuania about the proposed activity – nuclear power plant

Site selection – **2008**
Notification and start of EIA procedure – **2009**
Site selected

Site Selection made in 2008 – before any procedures started

Ostrovets site for the construction of the Belarus NPP was chosen:
- *de facto* – in 2008 or even earlier*;
- *in practice* – January 2009;
- *de jure* – in 2011 (Final Decision No. 1, September 2011).

*Source:

Original (Russian)
20 декабря 2008 года государственная комиссия по выбору места размещения земельного участка для строительства АЭС в Беларуси приняла решение о строительстве атомной электростанции на Островецкой площадке в Гродненской области.


Translation
On 20 December 2008 State Commission for the selection of the location for the construction of the NPP in Belarus, adopted a decision to construct an NPP on the Ostrovets site in Grodno district.
Construction started

Construction works on Ostrovets site - started on May 2009

Ostrovets
Construction of nuclear power plant
Beginning of construction – May 2009

NOTIFICATION ON TRANSBOUNDARY EIA PROCEDURE – 24 AUGUST 2009
FINAL DECISION ON SITE SELECTION – IN SEPTEMBER 2011
FINAL DECISION No 2 ON CONSTRUCTION OF NPP – IN NOVEMBER 2013
Final Decision No. 1 – Decree of 2011

On 15 September 2011 Belarus adopted Presidential Decree No. 418 On the location and project development of the nuclear power plant in the Republic of Belarus – determined the Ostrovets site for the location of the NPP and required to carry out the design of the NPP taking into account its location.

Lithuania has not received neither the Decision itself, nor the reasons and considerations on which it was based.

On 7 June 2011 Lithuania made a submission to the Espoo Convention regarding transboundary EIA for the Belarus NPP project. Three months later Belarus adopted a Final Decision.
Licence to build nuclear facility for Unit 1

On 13 September 2013 Belarus issued a license No. 02300/239-4 for building the first NPP Unit in Ostrovets site.
Construction continued

The reinforcement of the foundation slab. October, 2013

Source: Broshure of Republican Unitary Enterprise „Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant“

FINAL DECISION ON SITE SELECTION – IN SEPTEMBER 2011
FINAL DECISION No 2 ON CONSTRUCTION OF NPP – IN NOVEMBER 2013
Final Decision No. 2 – Decree of 2013


**Question:** what’s the meaning of this Decision, if everything is done **BEFORE:**

1. Final Decision No. 1 already taken in 2011;
2. Construction license issued in **September 2013**;
3. Construction works on site started in **May 2009**.
Construction continued

FINAL DECISION ON SITE SELECTION – IN SEPTEMBER 2011
FINAL DECISION No 2 ON CONSTRUCTION OF NPP – IN NOVEMBER 2013
Chronology of the project

January 2009
Start of preparation for construction on Ostrovets site

24.08.2009
Belarus notified Lithuania about the planned activity (NPP)

2010-2011
Belarus attempts to perform transboundary EIA for Belarus NPP project

07.06.2011
Lithuanian submission to the Espoo regarding Belarus NPP project

15.09.2011
Final Decision No 1

12-14.03.2013
Findings of the IC: non-compliance

2013
Belarus resends the same EIA report of 2010

02.11.2013
Final Decision No 2

2.04.2014
MOP6 decision: Belarus was found in non-compliance
Article 4
PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

1. The environmental impact assessment documentation to be submitted to the competent authority of the Party of origin shall contain, as a minimum, the information described in appendix II.

APPENDIX II
CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

(b) A description, where appropriate, of reasonable alternatives (for example, locational or technological) to the proposed activity and also the no-action alternative;

(c) A description of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed activity and its alternatives;

(d) A description of the potential environmental impact of the proposed activity and its alternatives and an estimation of its significance;
Article 5
CONSULTATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

The Party of origin shall, after completion of the environmental impact assessment documentation, without undue delay enter into consultations with the affected Party concerning, *inter alia*, the potential transboundary impact of the proposed activity and measures to reduce or eliminate its impact. Consultations may relate to:

(a) **Possible alternatives to the proposed activity, including the no-action alternative** and possible measures to mitigate significant adverse transboundary impact and to monitor the effects of such measures at the expense of the Party of origin;

Article 6
FINAL DECISION

1. The Parties shall ensure that, in the **final decision on the proposed activity, due account is taken of the outcome of the environmental impact assessment**, including the environmental impact assessment documentation, as well as the comments thereon received pursuant to article 3, paragraph 8, and article 4, paragraph 2, and the outcome of the consultations as referred to in article 5.

2. The Party of origin shall provide to the affected Party the final decision on the proposed activity along with the reasons and considerations on which it was based.
LEGAL WAY

PREPARATION OF EIA DOCUMENTATION | EIA PROCEDURE | FINAL DECISION (INCLUDING ON ALTERNATIVE SELECTION) | START OF CONSTRUCTION

BELARUS WAY

SITE SELECTION | START OF CONSTRUCTION | EIA PROCEDURE | FINAL DECISION No 1 | EIA PROCEDURE | FINAL DECISION No 2
Thank you for your attention!