

Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Implementation Committee
Twenty-eighth session
Geneva, 10–12 October 2013

UKRAINE EIA/IC/CI/4 (hearing on Wed 11 Sept at 10 a.m.)

Questions

Rivne- specific questions

- 1) Has the extension of the lifetime of the Rivne NPP units 1 and 2 been subject to a transboundary EIA procedure in line with the Convention?
- 2) In its response to the Committee of 15 November 2011, Ukraine referred to a report covering environmental impacts (“Report on the frequency of power units security revaluation”). Has that report been submitted to the Ukrainian public for comments? What were the contents of that report? Did it fully cover the requirements for an EIA report as set out in article 5 of the Convention and appendix II?
- 3) Has the public been consulted in the process for the renewal of the licence of the NPP for another 20 years?
- 4) Which Parties could potentially be affected? Has any of those countries requested information regarding the project in question?
- 5) When has the decision been taken by the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspection to continue operating the NPP units?

- 6) Did the EIA documentation prepared for the authorization of the original Rivne NPP address the issue of potential adverse transboundary environmental, including safety, impact, in particular in case of accident? If yes, what countries were considered to be potentially affected?
- 7) Since when has the NPP been operating? What was the final decision permitting its operation?
- 8) Is there any monitoring in place for the operation of the NPP?
- 9) What are the reasons for considering that the extension of the life of the Rivne NPP does not constitute a major change?
- 10) How do you take into account the stress tests to inform the decision for the extension of the lifetime?
- 11) According to appendix II to the Convention, the EIA documentation should contain a description of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed activity. In your response to the Committee, you indicated that the EIA documentation for the Rivne NPP “has unspecified project term of exploitation” and “parameters were not changed”. Do you have any evidence that after 30 years the environment likely to be affected by the activity in Rivne has not changed?
- 12) Is the Government of Ukraine aware of any complaints/concerns expressed by the general public/NGOs at the national level concerning the extension of the Rivne NPP?
- 13) Please provide information on how you plan to provide for the extraction of Uranium and for the short- and long-term storage of the radioactive waste, for the extended operation period of 20 years.

General questions on the legislative framework

- 14) Would the Government implement the full transboundary EIA procedure provided for by the Convention for any new NPP? If so, what is the procedure and the time frame for the implementation steps?
- 15) How many permits are required in the national law for the construction/operation of a new NPP (explain the national permitting procedure for the construction/operation of new NPPs)?
- 16) Is the construction/operation of a new NPP subject to national EIA procedure?
- 17) Are there plans to construct new NPPs and/or to extend the lifetime of existing NPPs close to the borders with neighbouring countries?
- 18) What does the Government of Ukraine consider as possible significant adverse environmental impacts of a new NPP? Does it consider that the impacts of the extension of the lifetime of an NPP differ? If yes, please explain.
- 19) What are the requirements set by legislation to extend the lifetime of an NPP, e.g. for another 20 years?
 - a. Does this require only a renewal or a prolongation of the licence? If, in addition, other permits/decisions are required by legislation, please specify.
 - b. Is there a possibility to continue the extension of the lifetime of an existing NPP without renewing the licence?
- 20) In your legislation: what is the final decision for a new NPP?
- 21) In your legislation: what is considered a major change in a given project or activity? In absence of legal provisions setting quantitative indicators, please explain what is the procedure for determining a “major change”?