



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

*Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia*

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Rīga

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**Regarding the transboundary environmental impact assessment of the reconstruction and transformation of the Ignalina NPP storage facility of bituminized radioactive waste into a repository**

The Environment State Bureau (hereinafter – the Bureau) would like to express gratitude to the representatives of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and representatives of the draft report of the Environmental Impact Assessment (hereafter – the EIA report) for cooperation regarding organizing public participation of the transboundary environmental impact assessment (hereafter – the EIA) of the project “*Reconstruction and transformation of the Ignalina NPP storage facility of bituminized radioactive waste into a repository*” (hereinafter – the Project).

According to the national legislation and bilateral cooperation regarding public participation process, the term for the process of public participation in Latvia was determined from 24<sup>th</sup> of November till 27 of December 2023. Information regarding the EIA of the Project and public participation options was published on the webpage of the Bureau<sup>1</sup>, the Daugavpils Municipality<sup>2</sup>, and the Augšdaugava District Municipality<sup>3</sup>, in the local newspapers “*Latgales Laiks*” (in the Edition on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2023) and “*Augšdaugavas Novada Vēstis*” (in the Edition on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2023). Information was sent directly to the various stakeholders considering the national procedure of the EIA in the transboundary context.

Please be informed that the Bureau received written comments from the State Defense Military Facilities and Procurement Centre in cooperation with the National Armed Forces, the Nature Conservation Agency and the Augšdaugava Municipality. The Bureau has not received any written/mutual comments from the public.

The State Defense Military Facilities and Procurement Centre noted that it had no comments or

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.vpvb.gov.lv/lv/parrobezu-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejumu-projekti/ignalinas-atomelektrostacijas-ekspluatacijas-partrauksana-lietuvas-republikas-teritorija>.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.daugavpils.lv/pilseta/par-daugavpili/pilsetas-zinas/pazinojums-par-ietekmes-uz-vidi-novertejuma-sabiedrisko-apsriesanu>.

<sup>3</sup><https://www.augšdaugavasnovads.lv/novads/aktualitates/jaunumi/pazinojums-par-sabiedrisko-apsriesanu-2/>.

proposals on the aspects of the assessment of the transboundary environmental impact of the Project.

The Nature Conservation Agency provide the following views and comments on the EIA of the Project:

- The EIA report has been prepared in good quality and observing the requirements laid down in the EIA legislation.
- The Project shall be implemented only if the requirements laid down in Chapter 6 “Monitoring” of the Project EIA Report are complied with.
- The Project site should be as close as possible to the surrounding nature (birds, animals, etc.) in order to minimise the risks of interaction between each other.
- The site of the Project is an object of high danger which must be strictly monitored at national level.

The Augšdaugava Municipality has concluded that the assessment provided in the EIA Report indicates that there will be no increase in radiological impact on the territory of Latvia, as well as no significant negative impact on the population and the environment. Taking into consideration that the Augšdaugava Municipality area and the surrounding settlements are located in the direct potential impact zone of the Ignalina NPP and the planned radioactive waste disposal site, any activities taking place during the dismantling of the Ignalina NPP could potentially endanger the residents of the Municipality. According to the Augšdaugava Municipality, the safety aspects of the intended disposal site need to be assessed in depth, namely a detailed assessment of the design safety of the disposal site in order not to spread radionuclides to the environment. In addition, the Augšdaugava Municipality would like to be informed about the monitoring results carried out in the future, so that residents in the Municipality of Augšdaugava can be informed thereof.

The representatives of the Ministry of the Environment Protection and Regional Development and the Radiation Safety Centre asked several questions regarding the Project and its EIA during the hearing. The representatives expressed gratitude for the received answers. We appreciate that the Lithuanian Energy Institute sent additional written explanations to the Radiation Safety Centre to provide complete answers on questions asked during the hearing. However, we would appreciate receiving minutes of the hearing to reconcile it with authorities that participated in it.

Regarding further procedures we kindly ask you to send us information mentioned in the Article 6 of the *Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context* (hereinafter – the Espoo Convention) when the final decision of the Project to conclude the process of the transboundary consultations. In addition, according to the Article 7 of the Espoo Convention we kindly ask to inform us about the results of post – project analysis of the Project.

The Bureau would like to express willingness to continue commenced successful bilateral cooperation in the field of the EIA in the transboundary context.

Yours sincerely,

Daiga Avdejanova (signature\*) Director of Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia  
*\*Document is sign with secure electronical signature*

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