



Vides pārraudzības valsts birojs

*Environment State Bureau of the Republic of Latvia*

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**Regarding the transboundary environmental impact assessment of the planned Reconstruction and transformation of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant storage facility of bituminized radioactive waste into a repository**

The Environment State Bureau (hereinafter – the Bureau), acting as a Point of Contact regarding Notification in accordance with the Article 3 of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (hereinafter – the Espoo Convention) of Latvia and the competent authority on the environmental impact assessment (hereinafter – the EIA) in Latvia, express gratitude to the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania for information concerning the planned activity “*Reconstruction and transformation of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant storage facility of bituminized radioactive waste into a repository*” (hereinafter – the Project) with reference to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention.

The Bureau hereby acknowledges receipt of the notification and the prepared documentation. Considering the nature and scope of the Project and the possibility of the transboundary impacts, we hereby confirm that Latvia intends to take part in the proceedings on the EIA and transboundary consultations as an affected party.

Please be informed that the Bureau published received information regarding Project on the Bureau`s webpage<sup>1</sup> on 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 and send information directly to the involved authorities. The public concerned was given the opportunity to express comments from 15<sup>th</sup> of May till 13<sup>th</sup> of June. The Bureau has received opinions and comments regarding the Project and its potential transboundary impacts within the scope of competence from the Ministry of the Environment Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia, the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, the Nature Conservation Agency, the State Environmental Service, the State Centre for Defense Military Sites and Procurement of the

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

Republic of Latvia.

Below mentioned authorities highlighted aspects that need to be stressed and foreseen in the transboundary EIA of the Project:

- The State Centre for Defense Military Sites and Procurement of the Republic of Latvia recommends evaluating carefully how the planned reconstruction of the storage site for bituminized radioactive waste will affect the territory of the Republic of Latvia, its inhabitants, the environment, including the infrastructure and impact on military security issues.
- The Nature Conservation Agency informs that the site of the Project is located approximately 8 km south of the *Natura 2000* territory the Specially Protected Landscape Area “*Augšzeme*” (sitecode – LV0600300, type – C) and the Nature Park “*Silene*” (sitecode – LV0300400, type – C). The Nature Conservation Agency identified that according to the provided information it is not expected that Project may have a significant impact on *Natura 2000 sites*, also in a transboundary context, but more detailed impact assessments will be provided in the EIA report.
- The State Environmental Service noted that information on radionuclide composition and radioactivity of radioactive waste shall be included in the EIA report.

In addition, to promote effectiveness of participation of to the Latvian public and relevant authorities in the transboundary consultation process, we shortly give you an overview of the national requirements for the EIA procedures in the Republic of Latvia. We would like to draw your attention that Latvian legislation, in particular the Law on Environmental impact assessment, designates at least 30 days long term for the process of public consultation when elaborated EIA report is discussed. The time is being counted from the day a publication is published in a corresponding newspaper (national, regional, local) which will be ensured by the Republic of Latvia after receiving information. A public hearing meeting of the intended activity shall be held. According to the national legislation, a public hearing meeting shall be held no sooner than 7 days after publication is published and no later than 10 days before the end of the public consultation process. In this context we inform you that the public hearing meeting can be replaced with a video conference and video presentations. Afterwards the Bureau will compile the proposals submitted by the public and stakeholders and send them to the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania.

We kindly ask you to prepare the EIA summary that reflects information to the extent and scope necessary for the transboundary EIA (including graphical materials and maps in relation to the transboundary impact aspects) in Latvian.

Looking forward to a further constructive and effective bilateral cooperation 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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