

Response to the Request by the Secretariat of the Espoo Convention (it. 23 of Decisions of the Implementation Committee under the Espoo Convention) Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources informs as follows.

Pursuant to the effective Ukrainian Law, specifically. Article 6 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Procedure for Making Decisions on Siting, Designing, Construction of Nuclear Installations and Facilities of National Importance, which are Intended for Radioactive Waste Management", " *...Decisions on lifetime extension of the existing nuclear installations and facilities intended for radioactive waste management, which are of national importance, shall be made by the state regulatory body for nuclear and radiation safety, on the basis of a conclusion of the state nuclear and radiation safety expert review, introducing changes to the license for operation of a nuclear facility or installation of national importance, which are intended for managing the radioactive waste* ".

There is a regulation governing the NPP lifetime extension matters. This are "Generic Requirements for Continued Operation of NPP Power Units beyond their Designed Life Term based the Outcomes of the Periodic Safety Re-assessment" approved by Order No. 181 of the State Nuclear Regulatory Committee of Ukraine on 26.11.2004. Paragraph 1.2 of these requirements reads that after the designed life term expires a NPP unit can continue operation provided that changes in the operational term of a power unit are introduced into the license authorizing the activity called "**operation of a nuclear facility**".

As per Article 1 Paragraph V of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, the "*proposed activity*" means any activity or any major change to an activity subject to a decision of a competent authority in accordance with an applicable national procedure". The operational lifetime extension does not lead to any major changes in the operation of a nuclear facility determined by the license authorizing its activity at the life cycle stage called "operation of a nuclear facility".

The license extending the life time of the Rivne NPP units 1 and 2 was not subjected to transboundary EIA procedure envisaged by the Espoo Convention because mentioned above license is not the decision in terms of article 6(1) of Espoo Convention.

If Implementation Committee of Espoo Convention will need more detailed reasoning of mentioned above then Ukrainian Party will present for it.