

Annex 3

In 25th July 2020, press media announced the decision of the Spanish Government of authorizing the extension of exploration of Almaraz Nuclear Power Plant up to 2028, which means the function of a nuclear power plant with almost 50 years old, when the life cycle is 30 years old (<https://jornaleconomico.sapo.pt/en/news/espanha-renovou-licencas-de-exploracao-da-central-nuclear-de-almazar-are-2027-e-2028-617869>).

English version:

Spain renewed exploration licenses for the Almaraz nuclear power plant until 2027 and 2028

Spanish government sources, cited by the news agency Efe, said the Spanish Ecological Transition Ministry formalized orders to renew permits for these facilities.

Madrid renewed the exploration license for Groups I and II of the Almaraz nuclear power plant in Cáceres, the last one before the start of the closure of the Spanish nuclear power plant, located about 100 kilometers from the Portuguese border.

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1

In the case of Group I of Almaraz, the exploration license is extended until 1 November 2027, and in the case of Group II until 31 October 2028.

The renewal of Almaraz licenses was requested by the entity that currently operates the installation, namely Iberdrola, Endesa and Naturgy.

Just this week, at a parliamentary hearing, last Wednesday, July 22, Minister João Pedro Matos Fernandes stressed that, "according to the Spanish Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan, it was decided to close all Spanish nuclear power plants in a phased manner, between 2025 and 2035 ", concluding that," thus, the definitive closure of the Almaraz Nuclear Power Plant in 2028 is foreseen ".

"In his Plan, the Spanish Executive reaffirms the commitment that, as long as Spain keeps its nuclear power stations in operation, it is necessary to permanently strengthen its security, optimize its operation and the management of depleted nuclear fuel", said the minister of the Environment.

This official added on the occasion that, "in the articulation verified between the two countries within the framework of the energy and climate planning instruments, there has always been an alignment in terms of the promotion of renewable energies and a commitment in the articulation of energy policy options".

For Matos Fernandes, “this alignment has also occurred in the context of the application at the European and international level of the applicable environmental assessment instruments, namely the environmental impact assessment, considering in particular the requirements associated with the international instruments to which Spain is linked.

“The Portuguese authorities were aware of developments in the process of renewing the authorization to operate the nuclear power plant in Almaraz, for both units, I and II. The shutdown of unit I is scheduled for 2027 and of unit II in 2028. According to these dates, the Almaraz nuclear power plant will be the first to close, followed by the phased closure of the remaining Spanish power plants, until 2035”, assured the Minister for the Environment.

Matos Fernandes said that, “in this sense, and taking into account that the Portuguese State has clearly shown the importance it attaches to its participation in the processes associated with the extension of the operation license of this plant and the promotion of the duties of transparency and provision of information to the public, the necessary steps were taken, through official channels, with the Spanish authorities to reaffirm the need to guarantee the involvement of our country in the referred process, through cross-border consultation ”.

“It was also stressed the importance of being assessed and considered, in the context of the authorization of the extension of the aforementioned license, the probability of occurrence of negative and significant cross-border impacts and the availability and interest of the Portuguese authorities in promoting the best articulation of this theme”. , concluded the Minister of the Environment last Wednesday.

Today, the 25th of July, it was learned that the Spanish Ecological Transition Ministry also renewed the exploration license for the Vandellós II plant in Tarragona.

2

The authorization for the Vandellós II plant is extended for a period of 10 years from 26 July 2020, as a result of which the authorization will expire on 26 July 2030, although a new authorization of shorter duration may be requested. , as according to the timetable agreed between the National Radioactive Waste Management Company (Enresa) and the companies that own the plant, it can continue to operate until 2035.

This renewal of the license for Vandellós was requested by Endesa and Iberdrola, entities that currently operate the installation.

The Spanish Ecological Transition Ministry has authorized the granting of new licenses, which will be the last for both groups in Almaraz, following a favorable report by the Nuclear Safety Council (CSN).

The authorized renewal periods correspond to what was agreed in the protocol of intentions signed by Enresa in 2019 with the owners of the nuclear power plants operating in Spain, to carry out the orderly and gradual closure of the Spanish nuclear park between 2027 and 2035.

This protocol takes into account the predictions of the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030, which the Spanish Government presented to the authorities of the European Union and according to which, by 2030, 74% of the Spanish electricity system will be supplied by renewable energies.

The authorizations approved by the Ministry of Ecological Transition are also consistent with the project of the 7th General Radioactive Waste Plan, presented by Enresa to the ministry in March and currently under study and processing, in order to allow the phased closure of facilities to allow for the carrying out dismantling and waste management works according to the available human and technical resources.