



Romania's experience on the application of the Espoo Convention to nuclear energy-related activities

The planned construction of nuclear reactors 3 and 4 at Cernavoda Nuclear Power Plant in Romania

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Screening



- Romania participated in this EIA procedure as a Party of Origin.
- This project is listed in Appendix 1 point 2 of the Espoo Convention, as it represents the construction of a nuclear power reactor units, Unit 3 and 4 on the NPP Cernavodă establishment, on which already operate Units 1 and 2.
- The notification of the neighboring Parties was done according to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention.



Notification

- ▶ In September 2006, Romania transmitted the notification for the construction of Units 3 and 4 NPP project to the Potentially Affected Parties: Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Ukraine and Republic of Moldova.
- ▶ The notification was accompanied by a non-technical summary and „Guidelines for the scoping stage of the Unit 3 and 4 from Cernavoda NPP”, the documents being written in English.
- ▶ During October-November 2006 Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova and Austria informed us that they wish to participate in the procedure. Hungary decided not to participate and Ukraine provided no response.
- ▶ Nevertheless, the EIA Documentation was sent for consultation to all Parties: Bulgaria, Austria, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.



Public hearing

- November 2007 - public hearings on the territory of Bulgaria in Silistra and Dobrich;
- March 2008 - SNN S.A. Submit the Solutions presentation Form of the issues raised by the public (Romania, Bulgaria and Austria), which contains Annexes A to D, in which Annexes A, C and D are responses to the public and the authorities of Austria and Bulgaria; These are transmitted to the two states;
- March 2008 - bilateral consultations between environmental authorities in Romania and Austria, after a visit to the plant site;
- March 2009 Jan Haverkamp - Greenpeace Austria submitted Dr. Thompson's study on CANDU technology risk analysis; SNN SA's response to this study is on the website of the ministry in the document Greenpeace Volume III (Additions to EIA documentation).

Consultation –Art.5



❖ Consultation regarding Cernavoda NPP

took place between Romania and Austrian environmental authorities under Art. 5 of the Convention, in March 2008. During these consultation, after visiting the project site, the Austrian Party requested details on certain information contained in the EIA documentation.

- ❖ The discussed topics related to the current state of the work on Unit 3 and 4, the reactor core, seismic risk, reactor containment and nuclear safety assessment.
- ❖ The discussion were attended by representatives of the Austrian and Romanian environmental ministries, Romanian National Commission for Nuclear Activity Control, “Nuclearelectrica S.A. National Company, the Environmental Agency from Austria and the Austrian Institute for Applied Ecology.

Romania-Austria (as Party of origin and affected Party)

- ❖ After the public consultation procedure and bilateral expert consultations with Romania regarding the Cernavoda NPP in 2008, Austria submitted a final expert statement to Romania for further consideration in the EIA and decision-making procedure. The final expert statement evaluated and considered the environmental report, comments from the public and outcome of the bilateral consultations.
- ❖ It contained various conclusion and recommendation aiming at mitigating and minimizing negative transboundary impacts of the project to be taken into consideration within the subsequent EIA and other permitting procedures.
- ❖ Romania reacted on a voluntary basis in written form regarding the final expert statement before the EIA decision was issued. Romanian's response to Austria's final expert statement enabled Austria to see how Romania dealt with the final recommendations, which gave more transparency to the procedure.



Final decision (1)

- The final decision for the Cernavoda NPP – Units 3 and 4 project was represented by the Environmental Agreement, and it was taken by the Ministry of Environment from Romania.
- The consultation with the Affected Parties took place during November 2007 – March 2008. The final opinions of the two Parties (Austria and Bulgaria), the requirements proposed to be included in the environmental agreement were expressed by the Affected Party during April-August 2008.
- **April 2008 - Final Opinion of Austria;**
- **August 2008 - Final Opinion of Bulgaria;**





Final decision (2)

- ▶ In March 2012, the beneficiary presented the „Appropriate assessment of the environmental impact of Units 3 and 4 of Cernavoda NPP-Impact on biodiversity”. The affected Parties were informed about this new document and further comments were expected.
- ▶ In September-October 2012 Romania asked once more the affected Parties to send new requirements to their final opinions. Since both Parties stated that they have no further requirements beside the final opinions already given in 2008, Romania sent them the answers to the issues raised by them. The answers were fully accepted by Bulgaria and Austria, and these were integrated in the final decision to the project (the environmental agreement). The environmental agreement contains the proposed conditions and requirements of Austria and Bulgaria.



Final opinions

- The response of the two states:
- ► 28 November 2012 – Bulgaria agrees with the conditions proposed by Romania (4 conditions);
- ► 26 November 2012 – Austria agrees with the conditions proposed by Romania (2 conditions) and the answers formulated by Romania for the other requirements; Austria requests their final opinion to be included in the Environmental Agreement and in the EIA documentation (proposed requirements and conditions).

- On 14 th October 2013, the environmental agreement was issued and was promoted through a Government Decision, the interested public being able to consult it.
- In accordance with Article 6 of the Espoo Convention, the transboundary procedure ended with the transmission of the final Decision (Environmental Agreement), to the two states Austria and Bulgaria, to be made publicly available; The final decision on the proposed activity provided to the Affected Parties was issued along with the reason and consideration on which it was based.



Benefits or added value of the transboundary consultations

- ▶ **Joint program between Republic of Bulgaria and Romania on the exchange of information based on the results of the radiological monitoring (relevant information on the results of the continuous monitoring of water and air)-requirements agreed with Bulgaria;**
- ▶ **Implementation and management of programs to ensure the reliability of critical components for nuclear safety and production, elaborated in accordance with international requirements (requirements agreed with Austria);**
- ▶ **Transboundary consultation could help avoid environmental conflicts between neighboring countries;**
- ▶ **Efficient decision-making;**
- ▶ **Prevents costly irreparable damage;**
- ▶ **Key to green economy and climate change adaptation;**
- ▶ **High level of environmental protection and wellbeing of the individuals and communities;**
- ▶ **Environmental protection measures were added to, and made stricter;**
- ▶ **Minimization of long-distance or transboundary pollution and ensure a high level of protection for the environment as a whole;**

Thank you!

Contacts:

For more about the Cernavoda NPP, visit website of Nuclearelectrica S.A.

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