



**LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS APLINKOS MINISTERIJA
THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

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Implementation Committee under the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in a
Transboundary Context
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August 2022 No.

**REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022 ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION VIII/4C
ON COMPLIANCE BY BELARUS WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE
CONVENTION IN RESPECT OF THE BELARUSIAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN
OSTROVETS**

Referring to the letter of the Chair of the Implementation Committee dated 15 October 2021, we submit our annual report for 2021–2022 on the progress made to implement Decision VIII/4c. It is important to note that because of the request to submit the report by no later than 15 August 2022, it contains information on the progress made during the period from the date of the last report (September 2021) to August of the year 2022.

We are looking forward to further cooperation.

Vice-minister

Raminta Radavičienė

ENCLOSED

Annex I. Report for the year 2022 (September 2021–August 2022) on implementation of Decision VIII/4c on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant in Ostrovets.

Annex II. Topics for the bilateral meeting of experts.

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Annex I

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022 (SEPTEMBER 2021– AUGUST 2022) ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION VIII/4C ON COMPLIANCE BY BELARUS WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION IN RESPECT OF THE BELARUSIAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN OSTROVETS

1. Bilateral Agreement for the implementation of the Espoo Convention

In the light of recommendations provided in Decisions VIII/4c and IS/1d and with a view to enhance practical implementation of the Convention, Lithuania was expecting to continue its efforts related to the draft Bilateral Agreement on the Implementation of the Espoo Convention between Lithuania and Belarus (further referred to as the draft Bilateral Agreement).

Regrettably, no perceptible progress has been achieved during 2022 due to the inactivity of the Belarusian side and absence of the replies to the proposals of Lithuania regarding development of the draft Bilateral Agreement. As noted in previous reports, since the bilateral meeting of representatives from Lithuania and Belarus, which took place in Vilnius on 15–16 January 2020, a number of written proposals and follow-up letters were sent by Lithuania both in 2020 and in 2021.

We would like to mention the most important proposals to the draft Bilateral Agreement, including a revision of the proposed time frames, harmonized with durations of national Lithuanian EIA procedures; a graphical flowchart of the procedures of transboundary EIA as defined in the draft Bilateral Agreement with an indication of responsibilities of each party, relevant timeframes and identification on procedural gaps in the proposed bilateral EIA process; a new draft of the proposed text of the Bilateral Agreement with a suggestion of a more detailed wording of Article 2(2) of the draft Agreement by listing examples of permits required to proceed with the proposed activity; a suggestion for a special clause, regulating the possibilities to organize remote online public hearings and bilateral consultations due to the long lasting global COVID-19 pandemic and related safety measures and restrictions.

Unfortunately, Lithuania has only received confirmations that Belarus will provide its response in the near future. No actual responses were received neither in 2021 nor in 2022.

2. Post-project analysis and establishment of a joint bilateral body

At the initiative of Lithuania, on 3 February 2022 a remote online session of experts from relevant institutions of Lithuania and Belarus was organised with the aim of discussing the issues related to the implementation of the recommendation of the Meeting of the Parties set out in Decision VIII/4c on the Review of compliance with the Espoo Convention to continue bilateral expert consultations on issues of disagreement, including on matters that are beyond the scope of the Convention.

The issue of post-project analysis and establishment of a joint bilateral body was raised during the above-mentioned bilateral meeting. Lithuania indicated that although the Espoo Convention does provide a legal framework for bilateral or multilateral agreements, it does not contain specific provisions for establishment of a post-project analysis body. Therefore Lithuania

presented a proposal to discuss this specific issue within the framework of the draft Bilateral Agreement, as Article 7 of this Agreement could constitute the legal basis for establishment of such a body. Belarus expressed its intent to consider the proposal of Lithuania.

3. Bilateral consultations on issues of disagreement, including on matters beyond the scope of the Espoo Convention

As mentioned above, on 3 February 2022 a remote online session of experts from relevant institutions of Lithuania and Belarus was organised with a specific purpose of discussing the issues of disagreement, including on matters beyond the scope of the Espoo Convention. The list of topics discussed is presented in Annex II.

Additional information, related to the issues of disagreement was provided by Belarus during the online bilateral meeting. However, we would like to note that the issues of disagreement were not solved during the meeting and it was agreed to continue the exchange of information and opinions related to these issues. The minutes of the meeting have been prepared and currently are coordinated between the participants.

On April 26 2022 Lithuania emailed the Belarusian side information on how to access the results on verifications of radiation monitoring in EU countries (including Lithuania), as this request was expressed by Belarus during the meeting. However, the Belarusian side has not yet provided their presentations or other documents requested by Lithuania during the meeting.

Annex II

Topics for the bilateral meeting of experts

1) Site selection

- Invitation of the IAEA SEED mission with modules covering a review of Belarusian NPP site selection and evaluation, including environmental impact assessment.
- Evaluation of the density and distribution of Lithuanian population and evaluation of the protective actions at the extended planning distances in accordance with IAEA safety standards and documents.

2) The siting of the facilities for storage and disposal of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel in Belarus

- Site selection criteria.
- Current situation.
- Timetable for implementation of the projects.

3) Potential environmental problems related to the usage of water from the Neris River for cooling the reactors of Belarusian NPP.

- Water balance of Neris river: the current insufficient water availability of the Neris river and potential impact of climate change; technical conditions for the operational refill of water from Vileika, Olkovsk and Ručunsk water storage facilities; ensuring of environmental flow in emergency cases; possible conflict between Neris water use for NPP and other water users. System for monitoring of water levels, flow rate and temperature, information on the quality of cooling water discharged into the Neris. Current situation, ensuring of the good state of ecosystems.
- Possible level of contamination of the Neris water in case of an accident in Belarussian NPP likely to affect groundwater fed from the Neris.

4) Issues related to radiological monitoring

- Mapping of the current radiological monitoring system in Belarus, with special attention to the station and probes oriented towards Lithuania.
- Exchange of real-time data from early warning systems of Belarus and Lithuania.
- The progress of implementation of verification of the system of radiological monitoring in Belarus by the European Commission: status, results, plans.
- Accreditation of procedures for ecological monitoring in the monitoring area of the Belarusian NPP: current status, recent upgrades, accreditation of testing methods not limited to information for drinking water.

5) Seismic issues

- New assessment of Gudogai Earthquake year 1908: the methodology/approach in defining of its parameters.
- Results of newly compiled revised seismic catalogue.
- Results of site selection and selected alternatives for the extended network of seismic stations in 30 km from the NPP; state of preparatory and construction works for stations installation.
- Issues regarding the results of the seismological observations for years 2010-2018.
- Newly compiled seismotectonic model.
- Results of the observations of the tectonic activity of Ashmeny Quaternary fault; results of the observations of vertical and horizontal movements of the fault.

- Prompt implementation of the stress test recommendations: qualification of the fire extinguishing systems as well as on-site fire brigade building to sustain a design basis earthquake, installations of the stationary stations of the seismic observation network and other recommendations, which are not directly related to seismic event.

6) Post-project analysis

7) Other issues

- Assessment of an intentional crash of a commercial aircraft.
- Establishment of the discharge limits for Belarussian NPP.
- Preparation and review of the final safety analysis report for the Belarussian NPP Unit 1 before authorisation of routine operation at full power of Unit 1 of the Belarussian NPP.
- Making full Pre-OSART mission report available publicly.
- Provision of clarification on of Pre-OSART mission recommendation reflected in executive summary of the report: “The plant managers should enhance monitoring and supervision of the commissioning programme to ensure adequate plant readiness for safe operation”.
- Clarification and details about status of Belarussian NPP Unit 1 standby reactor cooling system and possible failures in this system, which could influence the safety level of Unit 1.
- Technical improvements, which were done, if any, to address recommendations of Belarussian and foreign experts following review of construction licence application and application supporting documents.

DETALŪS METADUOMENYS

Dokumento sudarytojas (-ai)	Lietuvos Respublikos aplinkos ministerija 188602370, A. Jakšto g. 4, LT-01105 Vilnius
Dokumento pavadinimas (antraštė)	REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022 ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION VIII/4C ON COMPLIANCE BY BELARUS WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION IN RESPECT OF THE BELARUSIAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN OSTROVETS
Dokumento registracijos data ir numeris	2022-08-16 Nr. D8(E)-4266
Dokumento gavimo data ir dokumento gavimo registracijos numeris	–
Dokumento specifikacijos identifikavimo žymuo	ADOC-V1.0
Parašo paskirtis	Pasirašymas
Parašą sukūrusio asmens vardas, pavardė ir pareigos	Raminta Radavičienė, Viceministras
Sertifikatas išduotas	RAMINTA RADAVIČIENĖ, Lietuvos Respublikos aplinkos ministerija LT
Parašo sukūrimo data ir laikas	2022-08-12 15:19:06 (GMT+03:00)
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Informacija apie sertifikavimo paslaugų teikėją	ADIC CA-A, Asmens dokumentu israsymo centras prie LR VRM LT
Sertifikato galiojimo laikas	2021-01-28 09:06:18 – 2024-01-28 09:06:18
Informacija apie būdus, naudotus metaduomenų vientisumui užtikrinti	"Registravimas" paskirties metaduomenų vientisumas užtikrintas naudojant "RCSC IssuingCA, VI Registru centras - i.k. 124110246 LT" išduotą sertifikatą "DBSIS, Informatikos ir ryšių departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos vidaus reikalų ministerijos, į.k.188774822 LT", sertifikatas galioja nuo 2022-05-19 16:48:06 iki 2025-05-18 16:48:06
Pagrindinio dokumento priedų skaičius	–
Pagrindinio dokumento pridedamų dokumentų skaičius	–
Priedamo dokumento sudarytojas (-ai)	–
Priedamo dokumento pavadinimas (antraštė)	–
Priedamo dokumento registracijos data ir numeris	–
Programinės įrangos, kuria naudojantis sudarytas elektroninis dokumentas, pavadinimas	DBSIS, versija 3.5.66.1
Informacija apie elektroninio dokumento ir elektroninio (-ių) parašo (-ų) tikrinimą (tikrinimo data)	Atitinka specifikacijos keliamus reikalavimus. Visi dokumente esantys elektroniniai parašai galioja (2022-08-16 07:38:21)
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