



RISKAUDIT IRSN/GRS International – Cooperation Projects in Decommissioning, Radioactive Waste Management and Disposal

Placing the safety of nuclear waste management in the spotlight of this years' EUROS SAFE forum is important for two key reasons: first, radioactive waste is generated at each stage of the nuclear fuel cycle and secondly, every country is concerned directly with radioactive waste management issues.

EU member states have invested and continue to invest vast means in this area. The scientific and technological progress achieved through research and development, cooperation and exchanges in and among EU member states are being shared with third countries in projects under RISKAUDIT IRSN/GRS International, financed by the the European Commission (EC) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

The following list of projects is limited to support and cooperation in Eastern European countries in the field of radioactive waste management and decommissioning. They have proven that both challenges and achievements are integral part of a successful collaboration.

Ukraine

Under (EC and) EBRD financed projects dedicated to the Chernobyl site, RISKAUDIT experts have assisted the Ukrainian nuclear regulatory authority (SNRIU) together with its TSO (SSTC NRS) in the licensing process of the liquid radioactive treatment plant (LRTP), the dry interim storage facility (ISF-2) and the Shelter Implementation Plan (SIP).



Other important activities in Ukraine are financed by the EC's INSC programme: One current project provides support to Ukraine in the licensing of a certain number of facilities dealing with waste and spent sources storage and/or disposal located on the Chernobyl exclusion zone (UK/TS/39). The project is a follow-up of the work implemented under the TACIS programme in Ukraine (UK/TS/20, UK/TS/26 and UK/TS/35).

Bulgaria – Kozloduy

RISKAUDIT experts provided valuable assistance to the Bulgarian nuclear regulatory authority (BNRA) in activities relating to the decommissioning of Kozloduy NPP Units 1-4 under the PHARE programme. Following the accession of Bulgaria to the EU in 2007, the assistance is on-going under a project started in 2008 and financed by an EC financed fund which is administered by the EBRD. This project encompasses in particular safety assessment of the licensing documentation related to near-surface disposal.

Lithuania – Ignalina

RISKAUDIT experts also provided assistance to the Lithuanian nuclear regulatory authority (VATESI) in activities relating to the decommissioning of Ignalina NPP Units 1&2 under the PHARE programme. The assistance is now on-going under projects started in 2004 and financed by a EC financed fund administered by the Central Project Management Agency of Lithuania. This supportive work mainly deals with decommissioning aspects, waste retrieval and re-conditioning and waste disposal (landfills and near-surface disposal).

Armenia – Medzamor

Decommissioning tasks are regularly included in projects, financed by the EU, concerning assistance to the Armenian nuclear regulatory body (ANRA). EU experts have helped developing Armenian requirements and regulations for the decommissioning of the nuclear power plant Medzamor and they have provided assistance to ANRA in the definition of a decommissioning plan (AR/TS/05). The follow-up projects AR/TS/06 and AR/TS/07 equally include support to decommissioning related work.

Russian Federation

In the past, the EC has also promoted licensing processes of decommissioning and waste disposal activities and based on a technical dialogue between the operator and regulator in the Russian Federation. For example, under TACIS project RF/TS/50, EU technical support was provided to the Russian safety authority for the decommissioning of a heavy water research reactor and the decommissioning of a material testing reactor. Waste disposal was addressed under projects RF/TS/39, RF/TS/51 and RF/TS/54.