

Joint Project – Nuclear Risk & Public Control

Invites you to the Webinar

Environmental Impact Assessments on Lifetime Extension of Nuclear Power Plants:

How to make use of the new rules for your campaigning

2:00 – 4:30 p.m. CEST on April 21, 2022

Background

The Joint Project is preparing this webinar to provide support for NGOs and the public to initiate and join an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure for the life-time extension of nuclear power plants (LTE) now that the *Espoo Guidance* has been decided.

The issue of the applicability of the Espoo Convention on EIA to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants has been contested for years and many countries simply extended the operating time of their nuclear power plants based on nuclear safety assessment but without reviewing aspects of environment protection under precautionary principles. Seven years after the case of the lifetime extension of NPP Rivne 1&2/Ukraine, against which NGOs successfully complained, the Espoo Meeting of Parties 2021 agreed on a Guidance on EIA for LTE, the *Guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants*. The widely discussed question of when conducting an EIA has been solved by introducing four situations, which trigger the obligation for an EIA.

Another question we want to discuss: Is an NGO's participation in an EIA LTE procedure useful beyond having access to some information? Yes, also because the EU Taxonomy will include nuclear. Among nuclear projects is LTE, making investments into technical requirements for the extended operation time eligible for taxonomy.

Programme

Chair

2:00 – 2:10 Patricia Lorenz, FoEE/GLOBAL 2000: *Introduction on strategic value of EIA LTE, ongoing EIA on Krško LTE*

Speakers

2:15 – 2:25 Priska Lueger, Environmental legal expert with ÖKOBÜRO and Justice & Environment: *Legal Tools for Public Participation in LTE Processes*

2:30 – 2:40 Martin Giersch, Environment Agency Austria: *Lifetime Extension of Nuclear Power Plants – Technical Background for the Applicability of the Espoo Convention*

2:45 – 2:55 Jan Haverkamp, Senior Expert with Greenpeace und WISE: *Two cases how to use EIA procedures in practice – Borssele (Netherlands) and Tricastin (France)*

3:00- 3:10 Gabriele Mraz, Austrian Institute of Ecology: *NPP Lifetime Extension: Examples for transboundary Environmental Impact Assessments (Ukrainian NPP and Loviisa 1&2/Finland)*

Discussion

The speakers

Priska Lueger is an environmental lawyer with the ÖKOBÜRO and has been coordinating the EIA complaints under the Aarhus and Espoo Convention for NGOs, including Dukovany LTE. She will introduce the key issues and key differences of those Conventions for NGOs who want to participate in procedures. She will also present her new publication *Toolkit for public participation in LTE processes*.

Martin Giersch works as a nuclear expert with the Environment Agency Austria. He was member of the Austrian delegation to negotiate the Guidance with the other Espoo member states and can offer a unique chance to understand the provision finally agreed upon. He will present technical aspects such as ageing and obsolescence, safety standards of new and old nuclear power plants.

Jan Haverkamp, working for WISE and Greenpeace, will explain public participation procedure in the EIA and how to work with them as an NGO, using NPP Tricastin and Borssele as examples. He will discuss whether safety and environmental questions need to be included in the process.

Gabriele Mraz has long-standing experience as consultant for EIA and SEA in the nuclear field and will report from her practical experiences with LTE EIA. Most recently she was involved with the LTE EIA procedures for several Ukrainian NPP life-time extension, which proved being a very lengthy and questionable process. She will provide an overview over practical issues and the topics which are raised in those procedures and whether the EIA for LTE NPP Loviisa 1&2 constituted good practice.

The online webinar will be held in English.

Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUucOCqjksGdVcG5kLApNMkz3bF2Y-awaZ>

This event is organized by the Joint Project – Nuclear Risk & Public Control (<http://www.joint-project.org/>)

