



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENERGY

Directorate D – Nuclear Energy
Radiation protection

Main Conclusions of the Commission's Article 35 verification at:

**MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL RADIOACTIVITY OF
FORMER URANIUM MINING AND MILLING SITES AND NATIONAL
MONITORING NETWORK
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RADIOACTIVITY**

SLOVENIA

Date: 30 May to 03 June 2011

Verification team: Mr C. Gitzinger (team leader)
Mr E. Henrich
Mr. A. Ryan

Reference of report: SI-11/02

INTRODUCTION

Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty requires that each Member State establishes the facilities necessary to carry out continuous monitoring of the levels of radioactivity in air, water and soil and to ensure compliance with the Basic Safety Standards ⁽¹⁾.

Article 35 also gives the European Commission (EC) the right of access to such facilities in order that it may verify their operation and efficiency.

For the EC, the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER), and in particular its Radiation Protection Unit (ENER D4), is responsible for undertaking these verifications.

The main purpose of verifications performed under Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty is to provide an independent assessment of the adequacy of monitoring facilities for:

- Liquid and airborne discharges of radioactivity into the environment by a site (and control thereof).
- Levels of environmental radioactivity at the site perimeter and in the marine (if applicable), terrestrial and aquatic environment around the site, for all relevant pathways.
- Levels of environmental radioactivity on the territory of the Member State.

The first EC verification of the national monitoring network for environmental radioactivity (laboratory based monitoring network) in Slovenia and radioactivity monitoring of the Krško NPP site was performed from 12 to 16 June 2006. From 30 May to 03 June 2011, a verification team from DG ENER (former DG TREN) visited the former uranium mining and milling site of Žirovski Vrh and different sites in Slovenia, which are part of the national monitoring system for environmental radioactivity. The laboratories of the Institute of Occupational Safety and the Jožef Stefan Institute, as far as they are involved in the uranium related monitoring tasks, were also included in the visit. The aim of the verification was to check the operation and efficiency of the facilities and associated analytical laboratories for continuous monitoring of the levels of radioactivity in air, water and soil in the vicinity of this site and some stations of the automatic monitoring network of dose rate levels on the territory of Slovenia.

During the verification activities addressing the monitoring of radioactive discharges from this former mining and milling site and the corresponding environmental radioactivity monitoring, the EC team was accompanied by representatives of the Slovenian competent authority, the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration (SNSA). The team also visited the laboratories and had meetings with representatives of national authorities the Slovenian Radiation Protection Administration, (SRPA, of the Ministry of Health) having competence in certain fields of radiation protection. An opening meeting and a closing meeting were held, with all parties involved during the visit, in the premises of the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration.

The present document gives an overview of the main conclusions by the verification team and corresponding recommendations. More detailed information concerning the verification is available at the technical report of the verification.

¹ Council Directive 96/29/Euratom of 13 May 1996 laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation (OJ L-159 of 29/06/1996)

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

All verification activities that had been planned were completed successfully. In this regard, the information supplied in advance of the visit, as well as the additional documentation received during and after the verification activities, was useful.

The information provided and the verification findings led to the following conclusions:

- (1) The verification activities that were performed demonstrated that the facilities necessary to carry out continuous monitoring of levels of radioactivity in the air, water and soil with regard to the surveillance of the Slovenian territory are adequate. The Commission could verify the operation and efficiency of these facilities.
- (2) A few recommendations and suggestions are formulated, mainly in relation to general quality assurance and control. These aim at improving some aspects of the environmental surveillance. They do not detract from the general conclusion that the Slovenian national monitoring system of environmental radioactivity – including operational monitoring of the former Uranium mining and milling sites – is in conformity with the provisions laid down in Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty.
- (3) The detailed verification findings and ensuing recommendations are compiled in the ‘Technical Report’ document that is also addressed to the Slovenian competent authorities through the Slovenian Permanent Representative to the European Union.
- (4) The Commission services ask the Slovenian competent authority to inform them of any progress or significant changes with regard to the situation at the time of the verification.
- (5) Finally, the verification team acknowledges the excellent co-operation it received from all persons involved in the activities it performed.

C. Gitzinger

Team Leader