



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate D - Nuclear energy, safety and ITER
D.3 – Radiation protection and nuclear safety

Verification under the terms of Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty

Main Conclusions

FRANCE

Malvési Nuclear Site

Monitoring of radioactive discharges Environmental radioactivity monitoring arrangements

Dates 14-16 December 2021

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INTRODUCTION

Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty requires that each Member State shall establish 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 standards¹.

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.

The radiation protection and nuclear safety unit (ENER D.3) of the EC's Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) 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;
- Levels of environmental radioactivity at the site perimeter and in the marine, terrestrial and aquatic environment around the site, for all relevant pathways;
- Levels of environmental radioactivity on the territory of the Member State.

For the purpose of such a review, a verification team from DG ENER visited France on 14-16 December 2021. This mission dealt with

- Facilities for routine monitoring of environmental radioactivity and radioactive discharges at the Malvési nuclear site;
- Measuring laboratories, in particular infrastructure, analytical methods, quality assurance and control aspects, as well as reporting.

There is no possibility of a large radioactive release from the Malvési site in the event of an accident, therefore no specific verifications were carried out on emergency environmental monitoring facilities.

The present document gives an overview of the main conclusions by the verification team concerning relevant aspects of the environmental surveillance and corresponding suggestions. More detailed information concerning the verification is available in the technical report (TR) of the verification.

¹ Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation, and repealing Directives 89/618/Euratom, 90/641/Euratom, 96/29/Euratom, 97/43/Euratom and 2003/122/Euratom (OJ L 13 of 17.1.2014)

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

All verifications that had been planned by the verification team were completed successfully. The information supplied by the French authorities in advance of the visit, as well as the additional documentation received during and after the verification, was useful.

- (1) The verification activities that were performed demonstrated that the facilities necessary to carry out monitoring of levels of radioactivity in air, water and soil at the Malvési nuclear site and in its vicinity are adequate. The Commission could verify the operation and efficiency of a representative part of these facilities.
- (2) The verification activities that were performed demonstrated that the facilities necessary to carry out continuous monitoring of levels of radioactivity in the gaseous and liquid discharges at the Malvési nuclear site are adequate. The Commission could verify the operation and efficiency of a representative part of these facilities.
- (3) The detailed verification findings are compiled in the 'Technical Report' that is addressed to the French competent authority through the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union.
- (4) The Commission services request a report on any significant changes in the set-up of the monitoring arrangements. Based on this report the Commission will consider the need for a follow-up verification.
- (5) Finally, the verification team acknowledges the excellent co-operation it received from all persons involved in the activities it performed.

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