



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY
DIRECTORATE D - Nuclear Safety and Fuel Cycle
Radiation Protection

Main Conclusions of the Commission's Article 35 verification

NATIONAL MONITORING NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RADIOACTIVITY

Central and Southern Italy Campania, Molise, Abruzzo, Marche, Umbria and Lazio

DISCHARGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

Garigliano NPP

Date: 12 to 17 September 2011

Verification team: Mr C. Gitzinger (team leader)

Mr E. Henrich

Mr. E. Hrneck

Mr. A. Ryan

Reference: IT-11/06

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 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 (at the time of the visit ENER.D.4, now ENER.D.3) 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, terrestrial and aquatic environment around the site, for all relevant pathways.
- Levels of environmental radioactivity on the territory of the Member State.

Taking into account previous bilateral protocols, a Commission Communication has been published in the Official Journal on 4 July 2006 with a view to define some practical arrangements for the conduct of Article 35 verification visits in Member States.

Two verification teams from DG ENER.D.4 (now DG ENER.D.3) visited (12 to 17 September 2011) central and southern Italy (Campania, Molise, Abruzzo, Marche, Umbria and Lazio) in order to verify the monitoring of environmental radioactivity in these regions as well as the monitoring of discharges and environmental radioactivity at the former Garigliano-NPP site. Representatives of Sardinia and Toscana provided full information of the environmental radiological monitoring in their regions on paper and during the opening meeting. These two regions could only be verified based on the submitted paper documentation, but not visited, due to time constraints. They will be included in a future verification.

The visit also included meetings with representatives of the national and regional authorities having competence in the field of radiation protection.

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 health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation. (OJ L-159 of 29/06/1996 page 1).

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

All verifications that had been planned by the verification team 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, was useful.

- (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 in Central and Southern Italy (Campania, Molise, Abruzzo, Marche, Umbria and Lazio) are adequate. The Commission services could verify the operation and efficiency of these facilities in these six regions and was informed of the situation in Sardinia and Toscana. Additionally the verifications performed at the Garigliano NPP confirmed the adequacy of the discharge monitoring and that of the surrounding environment.
- (2) Under the co-ordination of the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale, ISPRA) a detailed monitoring programme for environmental radioactivity has been elaborated and proposed for the whole of Italy. As far as concerns the implementation of the regional/provincial programmes they are under the responsibility of the regional/provincial authorities. The verification noted that the facilities for monitoring environmental radioactivity on a regional scale on the territory of the regions of Campania, Molise, Abruzzo, Marche, Umbria and Lazio are present and that each of these regions are currently implementing a specific programme for the monitoring of environmental radioactivity. The Commission services were also informed about the situation in Sardinia and Toscana. On the basis of the verification findings the Commission services request the Italian authorities to fully implement the said monitoring programmes as a matter of high priority as projected for 2011 and 2012. The Commission services might conduct in due time a re-verification in the central and southern regions of Italy to verify the state of implementation of these programmes. This observation is valid as well for other regions that may not yet have implemented this programme to its full extent.
- (3) A number of topical recommendations are formulated. These recommendations aim at improving some aspects of the surveillance of environmental radioactivity in Central and Southern Italy. The recommendations do not discredit the fact that this environmental monitoring – after its full implementation – is in conformity with the provisions laid down under Article 35 of the Euratom Treaty.
- (4) The detailed verification findings and ensuing recommendations are compiled in the ‘Technical Report’ that is addressed to the Italian competent authorities through the Italian Permanent Representative to the European Union.
- (5) The Commission services will closely follow up the progress made by the Italian authorities with respect to point (2) concerning the full implementation of the monitoring programmes in all five regions. The Commission services ask the Italian competent authority to inform them of any progress or significant changes with regard to the situation at the time of the verification.
- (6) Finally, the verification team acknowledges the excellent co-operation it received from all persons involved in the activities it performed.

C. Gitzinger

Team Leader