



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

DIRECTORATE D - Nuclear Safety and Fuel Cycle
Radiation protection

Main Conclusions of the Commission's Article 35 verification

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Environmental radiological monitoring in the Slovak Republic

Monitoring of liquid and gaseous discharges at the Mochovce NPP

Dates 3 to 7 November 2014

Verification team

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Reference SK-14-03

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 (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.

For the purpose of such a review, a verification team from DG ENER visited Slovakia from 3 to 7 November 2014. This mission dealt with

- Environmental radiological monitoring programme and activities as implemented in the visited regions of Slovakia and monitoring of radioactive discharges at the Mochovce nuclear power plant, including sampling and monitoring systems, analytical methods, quality assurance and control aspects, reporting, etc.;
- Measuring laboratories, in particular infrastructure, analytical methods, quality assurance and control aspects, as well as reporting;
- Installation of ambient gamma dose rate probes as part of the national surveillance network.

The present document gives an overview of the main conclusions by the verification team concerning relevant aspects of the environmental surveillance and corresponding recommendations. More detailed information concerning the verification is available in 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) which will be superseded by 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, p. 1).

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

All verifications that had been planned by the verification team were completed successfully. The information supplied by the Slovak 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 continuous monitoring of levels of radioactivity in the air, water and soil in Slovakia 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 radioactive discharges to air and water at the Mochovce NPP site are adequate. The Commission could verify the operation and efficacy of these facilities.
- (3) A few technical recommendations and suggestions are formulated, in particular the following:
 - a. As regards the Public Health Authority (PHA) laboratory resources, the verification team recommends that PHA improves the laboratory equipment situation by acquiring additional counting equipment or by agreeing on back-up counting arrangements with other laboratories in the event of a malfunction (Section 9.1 of the Technical Report).
 - b. As regards the PHA laboratory emergency preparedness arrangements, the verification team suggests that the laboratory considers the need to establish procedures for carrying out mobile environmental radioactivity monitoring during an emergency situation and to institute the necessary technical arrangements (Section 9.1 of the Technical Report).
 - c. As regards the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute, the verification team points out that relying mainly on one person may in case of prolonged absences cause problems with guaranteeing continuity of operational tasks. The team recommends that staff allocations for these tasks be reinforced (Section 9.2 of the Technical Report).

These recommendations aim at maintaining a constant monitoring quality level by improving equipment and people back-up arrangements. They do not discredit the fact that the verified parts of the national monitoring system for environmental radioactivity are 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 Slovak competent authorities through the Slovak Permanent Representative to the European Union.
- (5) The Commission services request a report on the implementation of the recommendations by the Slovak authorities and about any significant changes in the set-up of the monitoring systems before the end of 2016. Based on this report the Commission will consider the need for a follow-up verification.

- (6) Finally, the verification team acknowledges the excellent co-operation it received from all persons involved in the activities it performed.

V. Tanner

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