



Visagino atominė elektrinė

NEWSLETTER

Preparatory Works for the New Visaginas Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) Project

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Project Topicalities

A call for investments in the new NPP Project has been announced

At the beginning of December 2009, Lithuania announced a call for investments in the new NPP Project. Its purpose is to find for the Project a financially strong strategic investor experienced in the nuclear energy sector.

It is expected that the negotiations with the regional partners and strategic investors and the contracting process will be completed in 2010. Then the designing of the new NPP will start; the process will take approximately two years and will involve the selection of technologies, preparation of construction site, and obtaining of requisite permits and licences. Construction of new nuclear reactors normally lasts 4 to 6 years.

Preparation of the detailed plan is proceeding successfully

The detailed plan for the new Visaginas NPP was completed in September and is in the process of coordination with relevant authorities. In November this plan, which provides for the land plots required for the new NPP construction and the closure of the Ignalina AE, was agreed upon with the Standing Commission on Construction of the Visaginas Town Municipality, and in December an agreement of the State Territorial Planning and Construction Inspectorate was obtained.

At present adjustments to the scheme of forests of national significance in the Utena County are being made; upon agreement on the scheme it will be submitted to the Visaginas Council for approval.

The detailed plan covers the land plots situated in Drūkšiniai village of Visaginas Municipality. Its approval process is expected

to be completed by the end of first quarter of this year.

Invitation to tender for the supply of seismic exploration services has been announced

In October 2009, Lietuvos Elektrinė AB, acting on behalf of Visagino Atominė Elektrinė, UAB and the Ministry of Energy, announced an international tendering procedure for the supply of 2D/3D seismic exploration services. This investigation is mandatory for the purposes of site evaluation according to the IAEA safety standards. During the seismic explorations, the deep geological structure and the tectonic evolution of the area surrounding the Visaginas NPP sites will be determined.

The findings of the investigation will be used in the drawing up of the technical description of the construction site, on the basis of which the technical project and the safety analysis for the new NPP will be prepared. The project "Evaluation of Construction Sites According to the IAEA Safety Standards" will be completed by the summer of 2010.

A strategy for the new NPP's radioactive waste management has been prepared

In November, the Radioactive Waste Management Strategy for the Visaginas NPP was prepared. The strategy will be required for the drawing up of the documentation of the NPP's technical specifications. In addition, a feasibility study into the use of the near-surface repositories of short-lived radioactive waste of very low, low and intermediate activity of the Ignalina NPP was prepared.

"The ways of management of the radioactive waste generated in the operation of the nuclear power plant and the spent nuclear fuel must be planned now, in the course of preparatory works for the new NPP Project. It is these issues that the strategy and the feasibility study deal with", says Tadas Matulionis, Pro-

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ject Development Director of Visagino Atominė Elektrinė, UAB. The Radioactive Waste Management Strategy was formulated in consultation with TVO Nuclear Services Oy, a Finnish company with an over thirty years' experience in the radioactive waste management field.

Preparations for the designing of the cooling systems for the new NPP completed

In December the mathematical modelling of the water temperature in the Drūkšių Lake on the shores of which the new Visaginas NPP will be built. The modelling was performed by a Finnish company EIA Ltd. On the basis of the model, an optimum cooling system for the new NPP will be selected and its application will contribute to the compliance of the environmental requirements.

A public supervision committee formed specifically for the Drūkšių Lake investigation projects has given a positive evaluation of the report on the modelling of the water temperature in the Drūkšių Lake. At present preparation of guidelines on the development of the lake's water temperature monitoring system is underway.

Cooperation with Educational Institutions

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Knowledge and Experience

In October the Visaginas NPP's representatives met with A. Saugargas, Member of the European Parliament, and presented the conclusions on the business model and financing plan prepared for the new NPP Project and informed about the course and prospects of the project.

On 19 – 30 October the Visaginas NPP's representatives took part in the regional training courses on nuclear safety held by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Lithuanian Energy Institute (LEI). Participants in the training were acquainted with the basic concepts of nuclear, radiation and environmental safety and principles of ensuring and evaluating safety of nuclear power plants.

On 27 – 30 October the Visaginas NPP's representatives took part in an international conference held by the IAEA in Vienna. Speakers representing various countries and organizations shared information about the challenges and opportunities related to the development of nuclear energy programmes. The Visaginas NPP's representatives presented news about the NPP Project implemented in Lithuania to the participants in the conference.

9 – 11 November

Representatives of Visaginas NPP and the Lithuanian State Nuclear Energy Safety Inspectorate (VATESI) took part in a meeting organized by IAEA for the planning of the European regional nuclear safety and nuclear energy projects for 2010-2011. The nuclear safety projects include specific activities in the area of ensuring nuclear safety and developing relevant competences, while the nuclear energy projects are focused on the provision of assistance to the IAEA member states and involve the implementation of nuclear energy programmes.

On 12 December the new Visaginas NPP Project was presented at the UN Conference on Climate Change in Denmark. The participants in the meeting were mainly interested in the prospects

of nuclear energy in Lithuania, the selection of technologies in the NPP construction, and the impact of different technologies upon the environment.



Fig. 1. At the UN Conference on Climate Change in Denmark



Fig. 2. At the UN Conference on Climate Change in Denmark