



RAW INFO

Issue of the State Enterprise Radioactive Waste

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Simon Murphy, Project Manager at the European Commission:
There is a real progress in the non-radioactive equipment dismantling



a country-beneficient, Bulgaria reports on the progress in the projects to the highest level – the Managing Board of the Kozloduy International Decommissioning Support Fund (KIDSF) and the Assembly of the Contributors.

The forum takes place in London and the second conference for this year has already been appointed for November 15th. SERAW is committed to a great deal of these projects. For this reason, at present SERAW is actively preparing to take part in the upcoming conference. This topic was also part of the programme of the September's meeting, notwithstanding the fact that SERAW reports on all details of the completed work to EBRD on a monthly basis.

SERAW has previous experience of cooperation with EBRD on the work process for building a National Repository for RAW (NRRAW). The mechanism for cooperation was perfected and completed more than two years ago, when transferring projects from the NPP to SERAW.

In this period, EBRD performed an overall complex evaluation of the Enterprise's resources to manage projects, adhering to the EU rules and regulations. The Bank gave a very good attestation to all fields of the Enterprise organization. Another

interesting audit took place in the beginning of this year's summer – employees of SERAW and NPP Kozloduy were evaluated on following the EBRD requirements for Environmental and Social Policy of EBRD and the results were again very good.

European institutions are uncompromising in their evaluations and when their statement for the management of the Enterprise is a positive one, it is a certain proof that the organization works truly well and all kinds of speculations (there are always speculations, when it comes to money) become groundless. Moreover, answering a signal, sent from Bulgaria, SERAW was a subject of an investigation by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). A month ago, OLAF sent an official letter, stating that the inspectors have found absolutely no violations hence the investigation was completed.

For these reasons, SERAW addresses the inspections as means to adopt good practices and motivation for a constant improvement of the processes. These inspections created optimal environment for publicity and transparency of the expenditure of KIDSF among the Bulgarian society and the citizens of the European community.

MAIN TOPIC THROUGH THE EU INSPECTIONS, SE RAW GAINS TRUST AND AUTHORITY

Mechanisms for cooperation with European institutions

A working visit by representatives of the European Commission (EC) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in connection with the projects, related to the process of decommissioning of shut-down nuclear power units in Kozloduy NPP took place at the end of September.

There is an existing practice for such visits to take place every six months. Essentially, these are working visits, where the Project Management Unit (PMU) team at the Enterprise discusses the flow of the ongoing

activities with representatives of the European Contributors; they comment on operational issues, plan the future work, and update the priorities of the project management. The inspectors monitor directly the decommissioning activities of the equipment in the non-radioactive part of the units and the process of building supplementary equipment for the upcoming decommissioning, financed by the European Union.

This is not the only system for control of the Enterprise's activities. European institutions keep a close eye on the expenditure of the funds they have granted. Twice a year, as

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Thus the State Enterprise, in its quality of a state organization, contributed to Bulgaria's good name.

As a result of the established trust, with the approval of the Contributors, this year KIDSF granted funds in the amount of 65 billion Euro for the complex of activities, related to building the NRRAW. The aim of SERAW's Management is the upcoming Assembly to grant its principle approval to Grants, which would guarantee the monthly payments of the employees, working in Units 1 to 4 for the next 3 years, so that this expense does not fall on Bulgarian economy.

Moreover, detailed reports on the processes of decommissioning for the period 2014 – 2020 have already been prepared. In case these plans are convincing for the European Commission, the tasks, related to the safe decommissioning of the shut-down power units of NPP Kozloduy for the corresponding period will be adequately completed.

Procedures on project management and selection of contractors

The projects of the State enterprise are managed as per the rules of EBRD and the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC). These are unified rules, valid throughout EU, with very

clear criteria. They minimize the possibility for purposeful unscrupulous impact on winning public tenders, and meanwhile guarantee the selection of the best contractor for engineering, analyses, construction or any other activities, related to the process of decommissioning.

This predetermines very high requirements of the candidates: they should present proof for solidity and financial stability, based on turnover and revenues for the past three years; successful experience and professional authority as a result of implemented projects.

The practice in the EU system shows that whenever the task is highly complex, like building a repository for radioactive waste, it is almost impossible for a single company to win the tender. Usually, leading companies unite in a consortium, most often an international one, where each of the participants is acknowledged as a leader in its own country and in its corresponding scope of activity. The best in the branch unite.

Nuclear energy projects are extremely complex and their implementation includes different in nature tasks: grounds for safety, related to the security of the equipment; environmental impact evaluation, related to people's health and preservation of natural resources; geological and hydrological research, which needs to guarantee that there is no potential for migration of radionuclides, etc. Under these conditions SERAW needs to prove to the Contributors that the selection of a contractor is the best possible.

This explains the complexity of the project management. First, the development of very precise terms of reference is of utmost importance, because they should reflex exactly the real necessity of

each activity, which needs to be performed. SERAW is a beneficent of goods and services and does not operate with financial flows in the projects – EBRD makes all payments directly to the selected contractor for the particular procedure.

In this relation, the Bank participates actively and strictly in the procedure. A long and multi-level procedure for the final selection of a contractor takes place, starting with the fact that each announcement is simultaneously published on the official internet pages of SERAW and EBRD. The separate tenders start with an invitation for demonstration of interest, which creates a broad list of candidates. After a commission reviews all provided documents, they select a shortlist.

The approved candidates place their detailed offers for the particular project, which are further revised by a commission, consisting of SERAW specialists and representatives of the International consultant, experts from the Ministry of Economy and Energy and external academic experts. The full documentation after each level of the tender is sent to EBRD to be revised by their experts and only after their approval, the procedure continues to the next level.

The whole process requires enormous efforts on behalf of well-trained personnel – engineers, economists, lawyers. However, it provides confidence to the Management of the Enterprise for performing their duties in the best possible way, adhering to the EU rules and regulations, focused on minimizing the possibilities for manipulation of the tenders, corruption practices or selection of unreliable or incompetent contractors.

Kozloduy International Decommissioning Support Fund

In November 1999, the Bulgarian Government and the European Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding in which the Bulgarian Government undertook a firm commitment to close and decommission Units 1 - 4 of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant (NPP).

The Kozloduy International Decommissioning Support Fund (KIDSF) has been established, administered by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), in order to support the decommissioning activities and to mitigate the negative consequences of the units' early closure.

International Federation of Consulting Engineers

(commonly known as **FIDIC**, from French: Fédération Internationale Des INGENIEURS-Conseils) is an international standards organization.

The FIDIC contract templates are worldwide known standards for construction and engineering contracts.

In Europe, they apply to various projects – from projects for generating energy from wind or water, to large infra-structural projects.





Simon Murphy, Project Manager at the European Commission: SE RAW progresses responsibly with the process of non-radioactive equipment dismantling

The European Commission expressed its satisfaction with the work of the State Enterprise Radioactive Waste on the Project for decommissioning of Units 1-2 of Kozloduy NPP.

"I am satisfied with the progress of the dismantling process during the period which I have observed - since June last year, when I first entered the Turbine hall. I have seen real progress on activities related to the dismantling of non-radioactive equipment", Simon Murphy, Project Manager at the European Commission, stated.

On September 25-26, 2013 a scheduled working visit of representatives of the European Commission (EC) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was held at the site of Units 1-2 of Kozloduy NPP (KNPP) to review the current status of the projects, related to the decommissioning process of shut-down power units of KNPP.

The visit was part of the established practice of biannual joint meetings at the site of the 440-MW Units. During the working meeting the staff of SERAW's Project Management Unit discussed with Simon Murphy - Project Manager at

the European Commission, and with Valentine Seider from EBRD, the progress of ongoing activities. Immediate objectives were formulated and project management priorities were specified.

Main issues regarding the decommissioning projects were reviewed during the working visit. These projects will be presented at the upcoming Assembly of Contributors of International Fund Kozloduy on November 15, 2013.

The representatives of the European Union observed directly dismantling activities of the equipment in the Turbine hall of Units 1-2, and the construction of ancillary facilities for the upcoming decommissioning.

We found many positive organizational changes that prove good preparation of SERAW for the moment, when a real decommissioning shall start. All teams understand their roles well", Simon Murphy said at the end of the working visit.



EBRD confirms that SE RAW follows strictly the European standards

Representatives of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) confirmed that the State Enterprise Radioactive Waste follows strictly the European standards.

This became clear during the final meeting of the working group from SERAW and the audit team, held on September 25, 2013, which estimated decommissioning activities in terms of EBRD's policy on social issues and environment.

Peter Moore - Senior Environmental Expert from EBRD, expressed his satisfaction with the high level of compliance found in SERAW's work in fulfilling the criteria of the Bank concerning social responsibility and environmental responsibility.

"We are very grateful to the working group participants, with whom we have discussed and clarified the European standards EBRD requires from all its partners.

We found that they are set largely in the Bulgarian legislation and SERAW follows them in all its activities. I was impressed by the openness of the Enterprise's representatives.

EBRD administers funds that are allocated by the Kozloduy International Fund as a grant to support the decommissioning activities.

State Enterprise Radioactive Waste is the operator of the process and works closely with EBRD on the projects, funded by European Contributors.

We have worked with them on their desire to pinpoint together the differences in the standards - where they exist, and to reach a common position on the improvements that can be made to cover all EBRD criteria regarding social issues and environment", Peter Moore said at the end of the meeting.





BIRD PROTECTION –
AT THE FOCUS OF SERAW

The Compatibility Assessment Report (CAR) on the Project for decommissioning of Kozloduy NPP Units 1-4, implemented by SERAW, has been developed by a team of top Bulgarian scientists and specialists, led by Prof. Dr. Eng. Dimitar Pavlov.

CAR covers a total of six protected areas – one under the Birds Directive and five under the Habitats Directive. The nearest area to the site of the Project is Zlatiyata protected area at 1.2 km, and the farthest one is 19 km away – Tsisbar protected area. The ornithological diversity in these areas is extremely high and includes above 120 bird species. In Zlatiyata alone there are 122 bird species, 28 of which are in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria, and 53 species are of environmental importance at European level. Five of them are endangered on a world scale, 36 species are endangered in Europe.

The place is among the most important ones in the European Union for a number of species inhabiting mainly open spaces, such as the White Stork (Ciconia ciconia), the Western Marsh-harrier (Circus aeruginosus), Levant Sparrow hawk (Accipiter brevipes), and others.

That is why the SERAW experts, developing the project, pay special attention to potential effects of future decommissioning activities.

The conclusions of the Compatibility Assessment Report confirm that the implementation of the SERAW project is not expected to have negative effects on the various bird species and their habitats.

The project implementation will not include construction of further infrastructure (including transmission lines); there will be no harmful emissions and pollution (radiation, noise, soil, air, etc.).

The project will not have a cumulative effect and negative impact either on the nesting sites, or on the places where the birds get food and spend the winter, or on their migration corridors.

The assessment of the degree of impact has been made on the basis of the results of field studies, existing scientific information, and main regulations regarding the environmental legislation.



The successful implementation of the decommissioning project is a top priority of SERAW, which is always guided by its main mission – to protect the life and health of people and environment with **CARE FOR THE FUTURE.**

1. **Great Cormorant** (Phalacrocorax carbo)
2. **White Stork** (Ciconia ciconia)
3. **Black Stork** (Ciconia nigra)
4. **Great Egret** (Egretta alba)
5. **Black-headed Bunting** (Emberiza melanocephala)

The pictures on this page were kindly provided by Aleksandrina Lipova.