
From:
Sent: Monday 20 March 2023 14:11
To:

Cc:
Subject: Environmental impact assessments of the 10-years extension of the operation of the of Doel 4 and Tihange 3 nuclear power reactors and the nuclear safety-related improvement works related to that extension (deadline 20-06-2023) - ESPOO

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Dear Madam, Sir,

1. Retroacts

In view of the problems with the supply of electricity from neighboring countries, the heavy dependence on fossil fuels, the acceleration of the energy transition, and the geopolitical tensions that make prices very volatile and put the supply of natural gas under pressure, the Belgian government took the decision on 18 March 2022 to take the necessary measures to extend the operation of nuclear reactors Doel 4 and Tihange 3 for a period of ten years. This decision is in line with the European Commission's policy of increased independence from fossil fuels and diversified energy supply.

On 1 April 2022, the Belgian government approved, in first reading, a draft bill to allow the continued operation of the Doel 4 and Tihange 3 nuclear reactors for another 10 years.

This draft bill and the work necessary for this extension of their operation must now be submitted to an environmental impact assessment, public consultation, consultation of the relevant national authorities and a transboundary consultation in accordance with the ruling with reference 34/2020 of the Belgian Constitutional Court of 5 March 2020 and in accordance with our obligations under the Espoo Convention and Aarhus Conventions and the EIA Directives. As was the case for the extension of the Doel 1 and Doel 2 reactors, countries within a 1000 km radius of these nuclear power plants will be consulted. Your country will therefore also be consulted in due time.

The DG Energy of the Federal Public Service Economy, SMEs, Self-employed and Energy has been entrusted with the task of carrying out this consultation.

2. Proposed Project

The proposed Project consists of the 10 years extension of the operation of Doel 4 and Tihange 3 reactors and the nuclear safety-related improvement works related to that extension. The proposed Project is submitted to an environmental impact assessment in Belgium.

The Belgian government considers that the proposed Project plays a vital role in securing its supply of electricity until 2035. The project is also in line with the policy that the European Commission wishes to pursue for increased independence from fossil fuels and diversified energy supply.

3. Environmental impact assessment

The Nuclear Power Plant of Doel is located in the Port of Antwerp, on the river Scheldt, approximately 6 km from the border between Belgium and the Netherlands. The reactor Doel 4 is in operation since 1985.

The Nuclear Power Plant of Tihange is located on the bank of the Meuse river, near the village of Tihange in the Walloon province of Liège, approximately 40 km from the border between Belgium and the Netherlands and approximately 65 km from the border with Germany and Luxemburg. The reactor Tihange 3 is in operations since 1985.

The project that is the subject of the environmental impact assessment relates to the strategic decision and works (as known at the time of conducting the assessment) for the lifetime extension of the Doel 4 and Tihange 3 nuclear reactors for a period of 10 years, from the date of the first post-closure industrial electricity production (as provided for in the 2003 Nuclear Generation Act). The latest envisaged date for shutdown when extended by 10 years is 31 December 2037.

The corresponding documents and their non-technical summaries are available in French, Dutch and German. A courtesy translation in English is available of the non-technical summary.

The documents can be downloaded from the websites of the FPS Economy, SMEs, Self-employed and Energy concerning the public consultation on the environmental impact assessments of the 10-years extension of the operation of the of Doel 4 and Tihange 3 nuclear power reactors:

- <https://economie.fgov.be/en/Doel4-Tihange3>
- <https://economie.fgov.be/nl/Doel4-Tihange3>
- <https://economie.fgov.be/fr/Doel4-Tihange3>
- <https://economie.fgov.be/de/Doel4-Tihange3>

4. EIA participation and consultation

The countries participating in this transboundary consultation have the opportunity to provide the opinions of their public and relevant authorities on the Proposed Project.

The participating countries are kindly requested to summarize the results of their national consultation and to send those results to the Directorate General for Energy of the FPS Economy, SME's, Self-Employed and Energy, **no later than the 20th of June 2023.**

5. Information about the decision-making timetable.

The Proposed Project is now at pre-examination stage. The remaining stages are:

- National consultation: from 20 March to 20 May 2023
- Transboundary consultation: from 20 March to 20 June 2023
- Law adoption by the Belgian Parliament no later than 31 December 2023

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this notification.

All communication and queries related to the present letter should be addressed to



- nuclear@economie.fgov.be (by email)
- or by post to FPS Economy, SME's, Self-Employed and Energy, Directorate-General Energy, Division « Nuclear Applications »,

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