



7 August 2007

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Lithuanian Ministry of Environment
Lietuvos Energija AB

Dear Madame or Sir,

Latvian Green Movement writes in regard to the environmental impact assessment (EIA) programme prepared for the proposed nuclear power plant (NPP) in Ignalina, Lithuania. The project promoter Lietuvos Energija AB has invited Lithuanian residents to participate in this stage of the EIA process by submitting comments on the programme document.

As an environmental nongovernmental organization from Latvia, we are concerned that public consultation on the EIA programme has started only in Lithuania, while residents in the neighbouring countries of Latvia, Poland and Estonia have not yet been given the opportunity to comment on the EIA programme. This is especially alarming for residents of the Daugavpils region in Latvia, who live less than 30 kilometres from the proposed site of the Ignalina NPP.

We acknowledge that summaries of the EIA programme are available on the Lietuvos Energija AB website in Latvian, Polish and Estonian. However the information provided in these summaries is too general and does not provide detailed information about key environmental issues and likely environmental impacts of NPP construction in Ignalina, effectively denying the public a significant basis upon which to provide comments to the EIA programme.

The EIA process for the Ignalina NPP must comply with requirements of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). Specifically, Article 2 (6) of the Espoo Convention states:

The Party of origin shall provide, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, an opportunity to the public in the areas likely to be affected to participate in relevant environmental impact assessment procedures regarding proposed activities and shall ensure that the opportunity provided to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to that provided to the public of the Party of origin.

With respect to this provision of the Espoo Convention, we request:

- full versions of the EIA programme and all related documents in Latvian, Estonian and Polish languages, just as those available for public consultation in Lithuania; and
- that public consultation processes in affected countries- Latvia, Poland and Estonia - are carried out simultaneously with the consultations organized in Lithuania and the consultation as well as public meetings should be organised outside of holidays season.

Thank you in advance for the positive consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Alda Ozola-Matule

Latvian Green Movement /CEE Bankwatch Network