



ПАСОЛЬСТВА  
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ  
У ЛАТВІЙСКОЙ РЭСПУБЛІЦЫ

вул. Елусбеznікас, 12,  
LV 1050 г. Рига, Латвія  
т. +371 6 722 25 60  
ф. +371 6 732 26 61

VALTKRIEVIJAS  
VĒSTNĪCĪVA  
LATVIJAS REPUBLIKĀ

Jāzusbēznīcas iela 12,  
LV 1050 Rīga, Latvija  
t. +371 6 722 25 60  
f. +371 6 732 26 61

19.10.2011

№

02-05/846

На №

ад

**Министерство среды и регионального  
развития Латвийской Республики**

Направляем копию письма Первого заместителя Министра природных ресурсов и охраны окружающей среды Республики Беларусь В.Кулика.

Приложение: на 4 л. в 1 экз.

Посол

А.М.Герасименко

ЖИМШ 67 20 45 40  
18.10.2011 Письмо

SANĒMŅS  
Latvijas Republikas Vides aizsardzības  
un reģionālās attīstības ministrijā

19.10.2011  
02-05/15723



**МІНІСТЭРСТВА  
ПРЫРОДНЫХ РЭСУРСАЎ І АХОВЫ  
НАВАКОЛЬНАГА АСЯРОДДЗЯ  
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ  
МІНПРЫРОДЫ**

вул. Калектарная, 10, 220048, г. Мінск  
тэл. (37517) 200-66-91; факс (37517) 200-55-83  
E-mail: minproos@mail.belpak.by  
р/р № 360490000111 ААБ «Беларусбанк»  
г. Мінск, код 795, УНП 100519825; АКПА 00012782

13.10.2011 № 13-15/4586-ВН  
На № \_\_\_\_\_ ад \_\_\_\_\_

**МИНИСТЕРСТВО  
ПРИРОДНЫХ РЕСУРСОВ И ОХРАНЫ  
ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ  
МИНПРИРОДЫ**

ул. Коллекторная, 10, 220048, г. Минск  
тел. (37517) 200-66-91; факс (37517) 200-55-83  
E-mail: minproos@mail.belpak.by  
р/с № 360490000111 АСБ «Беларусбанк»  
г. Минск, код 795, УНП 100519825; ОКПО 00012782

Ministry of Environmental  
Protection and Regional  
Development of the Republic  
of Latvia

Re: On the answers to the  
questions of the Latvian party

Dear Mr. Guntis Puķītis,

On behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus I would like to express gratitude for the fruitful and constructive cooperation on implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.

As it has been indicated in our letter of September 23, 2011, please find enclosed answers (in English) to the questions of the Latvian party contained in the letter of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia of August 5, 2011.

We avail of the opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia assurances of our highest consideration.

Enclosure on 3 pages.

Sincerely,

First Deputy Minister

Vitaly Kulik

026573

## Answers to the questions of the Latvian party of August 5, 2011

In response to the letter of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia of August 5, 2011, we would like to inform you about the following.

*As for the issue of establishment of the environment monitoring system, in the area of the Belarusian NPP to be constructed we would like to cite an example of the existing practice of the Republic of Belarus for organization and carrying out radiation monitoring in the control area of the Ignalina NPP and also planned arrangements for organization and carrying out radiation monitoring in the control area of the Belarusian NPP.*

In the control area (the Belarusian territory of the impact area) of the Ignalina NPP and other radiation hazardous projects planned on the territory of the NPP site the automated radiation control system, consisting of 11 automatic points of gamma irradiation dose power measurements, is functioning. Apart from the gamma irradiation dose rate sampling of radiation aerosols is performed in continuous condition in the local response centre of Braslav with the use of a filtering and ventilating unit. Starting from 1992 the radiation monitoring of surface waters (Drisvyaty lake) and soils has been carried out in the area of influence of the Ignalina NPP. And the monitoring of surface waters has been carried out according to hydrochemical features since 2006.

The following is planned in the control area of the Belarusian NPP:

an automated radiation control system, consisting of 15 automatic points of measurements of gamma irradiation doze rate, is to be established;

on the basis of the Oshmyany meteorological station a laboratory of the radiation and ecological monitoring and a local response centre are to be organized for provision of operation of the automated radiation control system.

Points of observations of the atmospheric air monitoring in the control area of the Belarusian NPP are to be equipped with filtering and ventilating units (aerosol stations) for continuous control of radioactive aerosols content in the air. The laboratory of the radiation and ecological monitoring on the basis of the Oshmyany meteorological station is to be equipped with a mobile radiological laboratory for performance of express analyses of soil, water and atmospheric air samples. In this area the radiation and ecological monitoring of surface waters near the Belarusian NPP has been started since 2010 on the following rivers: Viliya, Gazovka, Losha, Osmyanka. Water samples are taken for determining the content of radionuclides and chemical ingredients. Points have been selected for control of content of radionuclides and chemical ingredients in the soil. The list of controlled parameters of the radiation monitoring in the control area of the Belarusian NPP will be extended. The content of radionuclides in water vegetation will be controlled, as well as the content of tritium and carbon-14 in water and atmospheric air.

*As for the issue of safety assessment of the planned Belarusian NPP, we hereby provide the following information which is also available in the EIA report of the Belarusian NPP.*

Proceeding from the necessity of provision of high safety degree during development of nuclear power engineering for implementation in the Republic of Belarus, the Russian design "NPP-2006" was selected by using the advanced water-cooled reactors of "three plus" generation having the increased reliability and safety of the Water-Cooled Power Reactor. The design of "NPP-2006", according to which the Leningrad NPP-2 and the Baltic NPP are being built on the territory of the Russian Federation nowadays, the whole complex of measures is foreseen (molten-core catcher, the system of passive containment heat removal, etc) which ensure minimization of consequences of severe beyond-design accidents. The "NPP-2006" project of "three plus" generation was designed taking into account influence of extreme external factors (earthquake, tsunami, flood, etc.) which occurred during the accident at the "Fukushima" NPP in Japan. The reactor building is covered with a double protecting shell having the ventilated space between "the layers". The internal metal shell protects environment and human beings from radiation, and the external shell protects the reactor from any undesirable outer interference. The reactor will not be damaged in case of earthquake, hurricane, flood, explosion and even aircraft downfall. Apart from active safety systems the NPP power blocks are equipped with passive systems which do not require operator's interference and power supply for putting into operation. Their safety is based on the multi-barrier protection preventing from release of radioactive fission products to environment. A fuel tablet is the first barrier which detains 98% of radioactive fission products, the second barrier is the tight shell of the heat emitting component, the third one is the strong reactor casing having the thickness of walls reaching 25 cm and more, and, finally, the fourth barrier is the tight protecting shell preventing from release of radioactive substances to environment. Also, the passive safety systems used at "NPP-2006" power blocks include a molten-core catcher and the system of passive containment heat removal.

The Ostrovets site, chosen as the priority for the NPP according to the results of survey and research works, has no unfavourable criteria and meets the requirements of the national legislation and IAEA recommendations for location of the NPP.

Also, we hereby inform you that within the frameworks of the Belarusian NPP design "Preliminary report for substantiation of the Belarusian NPP safety" will be worked out. In compliance with the requirements of normative documents the assessment of safety of the Belarusian NPP will be carried out in the report, based on technical solutions implemented in the design.

*As for the issue of seismicity* of the area of the Belarusian NPP location, we hereby inform you that at the stage of site selection the following was adopted according to the results of researches carried out by the employees of the state institution "Centre of geophysical monitoring" of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus as the final assessment:

the value of the designed earthquake - 6 points according to MSK-64 scale;

the value of the maximum estimated earthquake - 7 points according to MSK-64 scale.

Responsible buildings and structures of the Belarusian NPP project are designed taking into account an earthquake of 8 points according to MSK-64 scale.

We also inform you that that the Republic of Belarus supports initiatives of IAEA, the Russian Federation and the European Union on performance of measures for assessment of risks and safety at nuclear projects - "stress tests", wherein additional aspects of NPP safety will be considered.

As for the other issues which are not related to the provisions of the Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context, we inform you as follows.

*As for the issue of cooperation for preparation of the plan of transboundary actions in case of emergency situations and preparation of an agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Latvia on early announcement about the radiation danger, on information exchange and cooperation in the field of nuclear safety, we propose the following:*

cooperation between our countries for preparation of the plan of transboundary actions in case of emergency situations should be carried out within the frameworks of the Agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Latvia on cooperation in the field of prevention of catastrophes, national disasters, other emergency situations, as well as liquidation of their consequences, dated July 8, 2003;

a possibility of conclusion of an Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on the operative announcement about nuclear accidents, information exchange and radiation protection should be considered. A draft Agreement was prepared by the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus (was attached to our letter of September 23, 2011).

*For the issue of licensing procedure of the Belarusian NPP we hereby inform you about the following.*

The activity licensing system of the Republic of Belarus in the field of the use of nuclear power and ionizing radiation sources was worked out taking into account the international activity and IAEA recommendations.

To obtain the license entitling to place the nuclear unit the following documents proving the safety provision should be provided:

a feasibility study (as far as the NPP block location substantiation is concerned);

a report on safety substantiation for the NPP block containing the substantiation of the selected site of the NPP block along with coverage of safety aspects, the general description of the NPP block and its safety for the environment and population (environmental impact assessment is taken into account), including the preliminary analysis of safety of the NPP block physical protection;

general quality assurance program for the NPP block;

quality assurance program for selection of the site for the NPP block.