

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
CONVENTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT
PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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Ref. Follow-up on decision VI/2 of the Meeting of the Parties
(EIA/IC/S/4 Ostrovets nuclear power plant)

10 January 2018

Dear Ms. Malkina,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Implementation Committee under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Kyiv, 2003).

At its fortieth session, held in Geneva from 5 to 7 December 2017, the Committee continued the consideration of the follow-up by Belarus with decision VI/2 (paras. 48–64) regarding the Ostrovets nuclear power plant. Please see the summary of the Committee's deliberations on the matter in the report of that session of the Committee (ECE/MP.EIA/IC/2017/6, paras 27-36).

During the session the Committee initiated its review of draft decision VII/2 (paras. 54–65) concerning the matter, taking into account the Committee's deliberations at its ad hoc session in Minsk and the discussions held during and in the margins of the seventh session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Committee maintained its opinion that the site selection remained the key issue.

Noting that Belarus had already provided extensive information on the matter, the Committee recognized the need to have a straightforward compilation of the process of the site selection procedure in order to support its assessment. To this end, I am now writing at the Committee's request to invite your Government to provide a brief updated compilation of all existing information on the site selection process, including:

- (a) Description of the process that resulted in the selection of Ostrovets site, covering the following topics:

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- (i) The geographical area(s) that were initially considered for the selection of candidate sites for the new nuclear power plant (the whole territory, one or several regions) and corresponding justification for initial consideration of these geographical areas;
- (ii) Criteria used to select:
 - a. Seventy four sites at the initial stage of the site selection process;
 - b. The final three candidate sites (Kukshinovsk, Krasnopolyana, Ostrovets).

When answering this question, please also indicate the relative 'weight' (importance) of each criterion in the overall score obtained when comparing all initially proposed sites during the selection process;


- (b) Description of the selection process, including justifications for:
 - (i) Eliminating the first twenty sites;
 - (ii) Eliminating the other fifty one sites;
 - (iii) Selecting the final three candidate sites (Kukshinovsk, Krasnopolyana, Ostrovets);
 - (iv) Selecting the final site in Ostrovets;
- (c) Detailed information on consultation of both public and administrative authorities during the site selection process referred above, both at national and transboundary level;
- (d) Dates of each decision taken during the selection process, including the decision on selecting seventy four sites, exclusion of twenty sites, exclusion of the other fifty one sites, selecting the Ostrovets site.

In addition, further to paragraph 59 of decision VI/2, may I kindly invite you to provide the 2017 report on the implementation of the Committee recommendations of decision VI/2.

The answers to the questions and the report will enable further assessment of the matter by the Committee with the view to finalize its draft recommendations to the 'intermediary' Meeting of the Parties to be held at the end of 2018 or early 2019.

You are kindly requested to provide the information to the secretariat in English by no later than **26 February 2017**, for the Committee to consider at its next session.

Yours sincerely,



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