

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

ON DECOMMISSIONING OF RESEARCH REACTOR IN SERBIA

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Former Yugoslavia has had nuclear research reactors from the end of '50s near capital, Belgrade. NPP was built at the end of '70s in Republic of Slovenia. During this period the State had laws and regulations consistent with international regulations.

Research reactor RA was temporary shutdown in 1984 to be renovated. Increasing of economic problems not allowed repairing.

Decision of final shut down was issued in 2002 after long period full of political, social and economic problems.

Regulatory Authority for radiation and nuclear safety in Serbia, from the beginning of nuclear activities were responsible ministries. Now, it is the Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection. To fulfill independence stipulation, Ministry established Regulatory Commission for Nuclear Safety in 2005 as advisory body for Minister.

Present nuclear law in Serbia is the Law on the Protection against Ionizing Radiation published in 1996. Special chapter of the Law is Nuclear Safety Measures. Article 30 gives legal basis for decommissioning. In spite of the fact that word "decommissioning" is not mentioned in the Law, the article explain it:

"If the user of nuclear object proposes to stop permanently to use the object has obligation previously to inform responsible federal organ.

The user of nuclear object from the first attitude is due to implement adequate measures of recovery of the nuclear object and its environment in terms which are defined by responsible federal organ."

The responsible federal organ in fact is the Regulatory Authority in country.

Besides the Law there are 17 regulations: 11 for radiation protection and 6 for nuclear safety. Regulations were issued in long period from 1997 to 2000 and are better compatible with the BSS No. 115 and other IAEA documents than the Law.

The decision for beginning of decommissioning process was made in July 2002. Recognizing lot of problems in the fields of radioactive waste safety and nuclear safety in Serbia the IAEA established big project for support VIND (Vinca Institute Nuclear Decommissioning) Program.

VIND Program consists of three parts:

- Spent fuel removal
- Radioactive waste management
- Decommissioning of RA reactor

VIND Program is supported by TCP of the IAEA and NTI.

Time scale lasts until 2016 with tendency to prolong. Two greatest reasons for delay operations are:

- Funding – not solved yet completely
- Limited potentials in human resources.

It is not possible to skip very important characteristic: Vinca Institute organizational problem. Fifteen years from shut down to decision for decommissioning beginning left consequences very hard to be solved.

The IAEA multiply efforts helping to exceed lacks, especially to establish functional regulatory body.

More than three years lasts process of creating new nuclear law. The main cause for such long period is constant political changing resulted in removal responsibility from one to another ministry. When radiation protection was under ministry of environmental protection and nuclear safety under ministry of science have been started with two separate laws. After establishing joint ministry (Ministry of Science and Environmental Protection) two drafts were unified in one Law.

The last Draft version passed the IAEA law expert's review and is in front of adopting procedure.

The main point in new law is establishing of new, independent regulatory body as Agency for radiation protection (of course with all aspects of safety and security). In the new law and new regulations will be accepted all recommendations from relevant IAEA documents.