

Notice for Members of the Public

Transboundary Environmental Public Consultation with Belgium Concerning the life time extension of the Doel 1 & 2 Nuclear Power Plants

For information

The full set of documents being provided to facilitate this transboundary environmental consultation are set out below. For ease of reference the documents are set out in groups A, B, C and D. With group A containing documents and correspondence that led to the consultation taking place, and documents at group B, C and D being provided by Belgian authorities concerning the project taking place.

- August 2020 notification from Belgium **(A)**
- Report on the Justified continued safe operation of Doel 1 & 2 **(A)**
- Federal Nuclear Control Agency (FANC) screening determination **(A)**
- EPA advice in response to FANC screening determination **(A)**
- April 2021 notification from Belgium opening the TEIA consultation **(A)**

- Executive summary of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the nuclear safety-related improvement works (66 pages) **(B)**

- Environmental Impact Report on the nuclear safety-related improvement works (in 6 parts) **(C)**:
 - a. Chapter 1 – General Section
 - b. Chapter 2 – Non-Radiological Impacts (in 2 parts)
 - c. Chapter 3 – Radiological Aspects
 - d. Chapter 4 - Conclusions
 - e. Annex A - Maps

- Non-technical summary of the EIR concerning the law/decision to extend the operational life of the nuclear power plants (47 pages) **(D)**

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Doel 1 and 2 are two of Belgium's seven nuclear power plants (NPPs) and have been in operation since 1975. They are situated near the Port of Antwerp, which is close to the border with the Netherlands and approx. 840kms from the east coast of Ireland.

In 2003, Belgium passed a law that stipulated that nuclear power plants would be deactivated 40 years after their industrial commissioning. This meant that Doel 1 & 2 were scheduled to cease operations in February and December 2015 respectively. However, the 2003 law provided for the King to issue a decree to allow NPPs to remain operational in the event of a threat to security of electricity supply. In 2015 a Federal law passed extending the life time operation of the Doel 1 & 2 NPPs by 10 years, requiring deactivation in 2025.

An environmental NGO challenged the 2015 law that granted LTEs to Doel 1 & 2 in the Constitutional Courts. The Constitutional Court in turn, referred to the CJEU for a preliminary ruling (Case C-411/17). In summary, the outcome of that case, is that the decision to extend the life time operation of the NPPs constitutes a 'project' within the meaning of the EIA Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU), therefore an environmental impact assessment is required along with the associated transboundary consultations.

Belgian authorities have advised that two separate Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) have been prepared. One EIR relates solely to the decision to extend the operational life of Doel 1 & 2. The second EIR concerns the nuclear safety-related improvement works that includes the construction of three new buildings on the site, including ; two buildings for hosting the Containment Filtered Venting System of the nuclear plant and, one building housing the new fire extinguisher pump station.

However, although two separate Environmental Impact Reports were prepared, Belgian authorities have advised that they should be evaluated in conjunction, and viewed as one and the same project.

In order to facilitate this transboundary environmental public consultation, on Friday 2nd of April Belgian authorities provided the following documentation:

1. The EIR of the nuclear safety-related improvement works (chapters related to transboundary issues)
2. The Executive Summary that accompanies the EIR of the nuclear safety-related improvement works (66 pages)
3. The Non-Technical Summary of the EIR related to the law/decision to extend the operational life of Doel 1 & 2 (47 pages)