

Fra lukkede rom til åpenhet:

Aktivisering av det sivile samfunn i framtiden til atomreaktorene i Nordvest-Russland

From closed room to openness:

Involvement of civil society in the future of the nuclear reactors in North West Russia

Annual report 2006

1. Introduction

We have successfully reached our goals for 2006. Our biggest tasks have been a study trip to Lithuania with Sosnovy Bor administration, Leningrad NPP managers and trade unions, publication of a report about Russia's decommission fund, and a seminar on nuclear waste. We have also attended a number of events and meetings, seeking to provide information and promote debate on the topics of decommissioning.

The times are not the best for promoting decommissioning. Nuclear industry has so far not been willing to discuss decommissioning in relations to their plans on new nuclear power construction. New nuclear construction is promoted, along with new power demand both from industry and export.

Nevertheless, we have achieved more and closer contact with relevant and important people and institutions in Russia, Finland, Sweden and Germany. For instance, we find that Rosatom has become more open, inviting us to cooperate with them on these issues, and giving Green World a place in their regional public council for North West Russia. We have been able to meet with nuclear authorities both at "their" meetings and in our own seminar, and put relevant questions directly to them.

2. Overview over activities

The main part of the planned project activities have been implemented. In the following, activities and results for each of the expected success criterias are given.

a) Collection and analysis of information

Collecting information in this field is still a time consuming work, but experience as well as a good bare of achieved information have made the work easier for us. The larger share of our information is still published on our web site, described in section d).

Annual reports

The report "Russia's decommissioning fund" was published in one Russian and one English version in late May. After the draft report was published in autumn 2005, we have gathered comments, facts are double-checked and we have added some general introduction chapters to put the decommission fund in a framework. The report has been positively received by several readers, and especially welcomed by trade unions in Sosnovy Bor, Novovoronezh NPP, and Murmansk regional NGOs, which have said they use it in their work.

The report was disseminated in the international conference "Impact of the public and whistleblowers on energy and nuclear policy" in Znamenka (May 31-June 2) and "Civil G8 meeting" of NGOs from 50 countries in Moscow (July 3-4, 2006), and an international meeting of NGOs and Swedish politicians in Visby (July 3-4, 2006). The report has also been presented to relevant persons and institutions in Murmansk and Leningrad oblasts.

At a meeting at Kola NPP in October 2006, the head of Rosatom Sergey Kirienko confirmed that the data in the report was correct, and also agreed that the amount of money was too small for decommissioning. We regard this as an important step forward, as the status of Russia's decommissioning fund was all rumours before our long-term report work started.

The next annual report will cover three topics: power trade, decommissioning experiences in other countries, and the Russian nuclear waste situation. The topics will be written independently, making it possible to read only one of them. We expect this report to be printed in January or February 2007.

Video film

A trip to Germany to make a video about the decommission experience on Greifswald NPP and Germany anti-nuclear experience in Germany was arranged in early October. The Greifswald NPP have the same type reactors VVER-440/230 like Kola NPP, so German social, technological and environmental experience will be useful for Kola NPP decommission process in Russia. The film "How Greifswald NPP was closed" will be finished in the middle of January 2007.

The short version of the film with Lithuanian decommissioning experiences was ready in July, the length is reduced from 45 to 25 minutes. This gives the opportunity to show the film also when less time is available. In addition, we have made a short film about our study trip to Lithuania with interviews of Sosnovy Bor administration, Leningrad NPP managers and trade union leaders from Leningrad and Novovoronezh NPP. We believe the film is relevant for other nuclear cities as well. These two films are produced in two versions, one with English subtitles. The films have been disseminated among REA, Rosatom, Kola and Leningrad NPPs, and advisor of the Murmansk region governor. Copies of the decommission videos was presented to Mr. Puljaevsky, the chairman of Russian Nuclear Cities association and the head of Sosnovy Bor city administration and to the Russian Nuclear Society (St. Petersburg department), "Atomgrad" – Sosnovy Bor nuclear trade union association.

Information on Russian decommission experiences

Information on the decommissioning experience in Belojarsk is written in article form by a local NGO, and published on our web site. This information is also used in our report section about decommission experiences.

As mentioned in the progress report, we have been working on a study trip to Novovoronezh, although it was not in our original plans. We were invited to Novovoronezh by one of the participants at the Ignalina trip, a trade union leader of Novovoronezh NPP. However, it turned out that it was not possible to organize such a trip, because of RosEnergAtom (REA).

It was necessary get a permission from REA to visit and have a meeting at the Novovoronezh NPP. Two weeks after sending a request letter, we got answer from a receptionist that REA gave the permission and we could go to Novovoronezh, but we didn't get an official fax or letter confirmed this permission. When we asked for conformation, it was said that it was a mistake there, there was no permission. We tried postponing the trip at the same time working to get a permission, but our letter was on tables of the REA's officials, it was running from official to official and it didn't give any result.

Also the Novovoronezh NPP's organising committee had many phone talks with REA. From one of them we got the answer that we shouldn't wait for permission anymore. We then chose to cancel the study trip.

b) Continuing and extending dialogue

Mainly thanks to our study trip to Lithuania, our dialogue with important stakeholders has

improved significantly. Concerning Leningrad NPP and Sosnovy Bor, we have access to high rank officials in administration and trade unions. Our contact with Kola NPP and Polarnye Zori has not improved accordingly, as they did not participate.

We have been twice at Kola NPP this autumn –once when TV bridge with Sergey Kirienko in September carried out, and the second meeting with Sergey Kirienko in October. During these meetings we explained our activity and about our coming seminar on spent fuel and nuclear waste in Murmansk to the representatives of the Kola NPP. We got understanding of our activity and oral agreement to take part at the our Murmansk seminar. We sent the formal invitation letter, but got no reply from Kola NPP. From talking with the representatives of the Kola NPP we understood that Kola NPP considers the decommissioning process not relevant, because the operation has been prolonged for 15 years, and they therefore consider that it is not necessary to discuss decommissioning.

We have sought to involve local communities around Sosnovy Bor in information and debate. Zelenyj Mir, with the support of local authorities of Lebyazhye and experts, have began investigations of radioactive contamination of the drinking water in the Lebyazhye municipality.

Study trip to Ignalina NPP

The one week study trip was successfully organized in April. The 14 participants included the mayor of Sosnovy Bor, vice mayor and chief city architect, Leningrad NPP administration representatives, leader of Leningrad NPP trade union, leader of trade union in Novovoronezh NPP, a journalist, a cameraman and NGO representatives from North West Russia, Lithuania and Norway.

The Lithuanian environmental organisation Atgaja facilitated the study trip and participated in the organizing committee along with the networking organisations. Financially, the trip turned out cheaper than expected. This was due to more covering of expenses from the participants themselves, and less travel costs as almost all participants came from St. Petersburg area.

Even though we prioritized representatives from Leningrad NPP and Sosnovy Bor to go on the study trip, we also invited representatives from Kola NPP and Polarnye Zori. However, they found that the trip would take up too much time, as it takes a long time to travel from the north. This in fact turned out very good for the study trip. The fact that we had a limited number of participants, and that all but one (from Novovoronezh) came from the same city/background, made the group more close than what could have been the case if also Kola people had joined.

The study trip opened up for a good dialogue, both with trade unions and Sosnovy Bor administration. After the study trip we have worked to benefit from this possibility, by cooperating with trade union representatives on the social aspects of decommissioning.

After the study trip, the mayor of Sosnovy Bor made a presentation of the decommission study trip on the week meeting of the city administration, and gave interviews to the local newspapers and TV company. Big articles about the decommission study trip were published in “VSEM” - the regional newspaper of the south shore of the Gulf of Finland, St Petersburg magazine “Environment and Human Right”, Russian federal environmental newspaper “PRIRODNORESURNYJE VEDOMOSTI”, and Lithuanian newspaper “V KAZHDYJ DOM” in Visaginas.

Seminar on waste problems

The seminar on spent fuel and radwaste in Murmansk was successfully organized at November 23-24. At the seminar took part representatives of Russian and Norwegian NGOs (from Chelyabinsk, Murmansk, Apatity, Sosnovy Bor, Oslo); of nuclear industry

(Rosenergoatomproject (Moscow), JSC TVELL (St Petersburg), Public relations centre of the Federal Agency for atomic energy in the North-West Region (St Petersburg); representatives of the Kola science centre of the Russian academy of sciences (Apatity); the aid of the Murmansk Oblast Governor advisor; representative of the portal www.kolatom.ru and journalists.

The mission of the seminar was to discuss actual problems on safety radioactive and nuclear treatment, spent nuclear fuel handling, and finding acceptable solutions for this. The participants heard and discussed 12 presentations. In spite of difference in views on strategic issues of the nuclear technology development, representatives of the public and nuclear industry were positive about the continuation of such seminars in the future. The seminar provided a discussion platform for working out environmentally, economically, socially and ethically acceptable solutions for safe management for long-term radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel.

An important result of the seminar was a resolution, which was accepted by all of participants of the seminar. The resolution stated that the seminar participants support:

1. Development and implementation of socially, environmentally and economically acceptable concepts for the decommissioning of NPPs, which have exhausted their operation resource, and for the disposal of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel.
2. Enactment of the Law for RW and SNF handling in the Russian Federation.
3. Establishment of a dedicated national fund for RW and SNF management
4. Establishment a specialized organization to carry out the long-term storage (disposal) of SNF, also fund for the decommissioning of old NPPs.

The seminar participant from JSC TVELL (St Petersburg) sent the seminar resolution to the Russian President representative in North West Russia, and to the Presidium of Russian nuclear society – Rosatom nuclear and radioactive safety department's heads. He also sent it to two nuclear magazines in St Petersburg "*Atomnaya energetika*" (Atomic energy) and "*Bezopasnost okruzhayushey sredy*" (Environmental safety).

Rosenergoatom and Duma dialogue

In August we met with Rosenergoatom's representatives at the REA office in Moscow, in order to set a dialogue with the officials face to face. For two hours we talked about our decommissioning project and possible cooperation with REA. They stated that they in the future will invite us to seminars and conferences. We feel we have taken our first steps to set a dialogue with REA officials.

In December 2006, Green World was invited to a round table with Rosatom in St.Petersburg, on the proposed new reactor at Leningrad NPP and NGO-Rosatom cooperation. We interpret this as a sign that the nuclear authorities take us more seriously than before, and consider us to be a stakeholder in these processes. We assume that the Murmansk seminar was an important factor for getting such invitation. During the round table, Rosatom expressed interest in cooperating with us, and our suggestions on more open hearings and dialogue about decommission plan were positively received. Still, it remains to be seen what will in fact come out of this positive attitude.

Regarding Duma dialogue, it is a problem for us that the Sosnovy Bor representatives in the Russian State Duma and in the Federation council act like nuclear industry promoters. As far as Green World can tell, none of the members of the Russian Duma have environmentally friendly visions or represent democratic political parties. This is making it difficult to find a good way into Duma dialogue.

The new Russian legislation about the public participation and EIA will be adopted very soon. We need some time to investigate the new Russian Law for the installation of the new

environmental protection strategy.

c) Focus on new power demand and new nuclear capacity

We are constantly working to keep updated on new power demand and plans for new capacity.

Information collection/ process following

An analytical article about new aluminium capacity in Kandalaksha is written by Gaia and published on our web site. The analysis shows that the large Russian aluminum companies “Rusal” and “Sual” have plans to increase their production of aluminum, and recently announced an interest in investing in nuclear industry, and in particular in the construction of new power. As it is now, however, private investments in the nuclear sector is not allowed by law.

We have had a meeting with Mr Kristoffersen, member of Norwegian Parliament and leader of comitee for energy and environment in Nordic council to share views and discuss possibilities. We have made a brief about the power situation in North West Russia and impact on the future of the old reactors from power trade.

We participated and gave comments in the RosEnergoAtom (REA) presentation of the Feasibility Study of the new NPP in Sosnovy Bor in April, and the Rosatom presentation in May.

Power cable between Russia and Finland

The plans for a power cable between Russia and Finland proved dangerously possible during the year. In October we went to Stockholm and Helsinki and met with parlamentarians and Ministrys to tell about the consequences of increased power trade, namely the prolongation of old nuclear reactors in Sosnovy Bor and environmental dumping. We also met with Finlands ambassador to Norway, to tell him our views.

In connection with the meetings in Stockholm and Helsinki we made a position paper and a background note on the proposed cable.

As allowing more Russian power into the common Nordic power market also effects Norway, we have worked towards Norwegian authorities to get them to say clearly to Finnish authorities that we don’t want more of this power into our common marked. However, getting Norwegian authorities to make a statement towards Finland proved difficult, although it is Norwegian official policy that these reactors should be closed.

The Finnish government chose to say no to the cable, and the threat is thus stopped this time. However we are sure that new efforts to increase power trade between Russia and western countries will come in the future.

There is no final storage in Russia, nor any reprocessing solution for the spent nuclear fuel from RBMK-1000 reactors. The supertoxic nuclear waste (about 35.000 spent nuclear fuel rods) is still located in the pools of the temporary nuclear waste storage only 90 metres from the Baltic Sea.

A TV interview with Oleg Bodrov from Green World about the cable on Finnish TV may be seen at <http://www.yle.fi/yle24/videosali/index.php?a=11&t=1&q=1>

Workshops on energy security

In June we co-organized a conference in Znamenka resort, outside of St.Petersburg. The conference title was “Impact of the public and whistleblowers on energy and nuclear policy” and the main financing came from US funds. Parts of the conference were devoted to the

question of whistleblowers, whereas “our” part was related to nuclear policy and energy issues.

Before Russia’s hosting of G8 meeting in July, we also participated in two international G8 civil conferences in Moscow. In the first one we participated with two Russian representatives, in the second with one Russian and one Norwegian. These conferences were propaganda meetings for Putin to show democratic and NGO-friendly attitudes, but we found our participation worthwhile, as they gave improved contacts and information sharing. In the last of these Civil G8 meetings, we successfully proposed for the final document a demand that all G8 countries should ratify the Espoo convention, to warn neighboring states about projects that may affect them. Neither Russia nor US have ratified the Espoo convention, which means that it is more difficult to get Russia to warn other countries about for instance nuclear projects.

We have presented our analysis of the nuclear development and risks in the Baltic Sea and Barents Sea regions at a conference in the Finnish Parliament, and at a NGO meeting in Stuttgart in April.

Public EIA about a new nuclear station in Sosnovy Bor

In May we participated in a Rosatom meeting with local and regional authorities in Sosnovy Bor. It was a meeting-presentation of the idea to construct new NPP with 4-6 units in Sosnovy Bor. We informed the authorities that Green World will participate in the decision making process. We have sent the necessary request-letters to the authorities about the EIA for preparation of an independent EIA.

December 4, Sosnovy Bor city administration published the “*Tekhnicheskije Zadanije*” (technical rules) of the Feasibility Study of new LNPP-2 in Sosnovy Bor site. The plans involve construction of a new Leningrad NPP-2 with 2 nuclear VVER-1000/428 reactors of 1150 MW capacity each. So the total capacity of the new NPP (LNPP-2) will be 2300 MW.

There are no plans in the technical rules of LNPP-2 to close down the old Chernobyl type reactors of Leningrad NPP, and no plans for the decommission process of the old Leningrad NPP units. In our work with the new reactor plans, we have stressed the necessity to link decommissioning of old units with construction of new ones.

The technical rules were adopted by Rosenergoatom and Sosnovy Bor city administration. It is the first step according the Russian legislation for the NGO to participate in the decision making process. We will send our comments to this document and recommend to include decommission of the old reactors at Leningrad NPP in the EIA or Feasibility Study report of the new LNPP-2.

The public hearing of the EIA is now scheduled to take place in February 2007. Only in relation to, and after this public hearing, it will be possible to conduct our independent EIA, originally scheduled for 2006.

d) Networking and information

Our networking organisations are functioning well, with one main responsible person in each organisation, that always attends the strategy meetings and are responsible for the organisation’s work in the project.

Strategy meetings for the network

This year we have arranged 5 network strategy meetings. All participating organisations have been present in all meetings, with at least one person. Below is a list of our network strategy meetings in 2006, along with working meetings and events where more than one organisation

participated.

- January 15-16: Network strategy meeting in Oslo. Oleg Bodrov from Green World, Julia Korshunova from Gaia, Dag Høystad, Yngvild Lorentzen and Kjersti Album from NNV
- January 25-February 3: Working together in Apatity. Julia Korshunova and Yuri Ivanov from Gaia, Kjersti Album from NNV
- February 4-7: Working together in Sosnovy Bor and Vistino. Oleg Bodrov from Green World, Kjersti Album from NNV
- March 9-11: G8 Civil meeting in Moscow. Julia Korshunova from Gaia and Oleg Bodrov from Green World
- April 3-7: Study trip in Lithuania.
- April 9-11: Network strategy meeting in Sosnovy Bor. Oleg Bodrov from Green World, Julia Korshunova from Gaia, Kjersti Album from NNV
- May 29-June 2: Network strategy meeting in Sosnovy Bor, and G8 conference in St Petersburg. Oleg Bodrov from Green World, Julia Korshunova and Yuri Ivanov from Gaia, Kjersti Album from NNV
- July 3-4: G8 Civil meeting in Moscow. Oleg Bodrov from Green World and Tore Brænd from NNV.
- September 11-14: Network strategy meeting in Oslo. Oleg Bodrov from Green World, Julia Korshunova from Gaia, Dag Høystad, Yngvild Lorentzen, Tore Brænd and Kjersti Album from NNV
- October 8-10: Working together in Stockholm, and meetings in Helsinki and Stockholm with members of parliaments and representatives of Ministrys. Oleg Bodrov from Green World, Tore Brænd from NNV.
- November 23-25: Nuclear waste seminar and network strategy meeting in Murmansk. Oleg Bodrov from Green World, Julia Korshunova and Yuri Ivanov from Gaia, Dag Høystad and Yngvild Lorentzen from NNV

Web site decomatom

The operation of the web site continues succesfully. In 2006 we have got a new design on our front page, and updates are made continously. We are publishing new information and articles on the site, as they are produced.

The web page has a counter which reflects the amount of visitors. In adition, we have an independed expert from Krasnoyarsk, where our web-master passed a web training program, that gives his opinion of how the web site is working.

We have established a new technical solution, so the members of the network may publish articles on the web site by themselves without help of the web master. The web master has released more time for writing, and new items are published approximately once a week.

3. Economical report

The grant for 2006 was 1 050 000 NOK. Table 1 shows a preliminary overview over the expenditures. The final economical report will be ready by April 2007.

Table1: Overview of expenses (NOK)

	Budget	Preliminary result
Salaries NNV	425 000	425 000
Transfers Russian NGOs, travels, translations etc	300 000	322 900
Travels NNV	75 000	70 000

Meetings/ conferences/ seminars	165 000	150 000
Publications	85 000	82 100
Total	1 050 000	1 050 000

4. Attachments to this report

- Report 2006: Status of Russia's decommissioning fund
- DVD with two films from Ignalina
- Position paper and background information about the nuclear electricity export from Russia to Finland
- Program and list of participants from Lithuania study trip
- Program, list of participants and resolution from Murmansk seminar
- Print of our web site www.decomatom.org.ru