

## Joint Press Release **ENSREG - Gozatomnadzor**

### **Comprehensive risk and safety assessments (stress tests) of the Belarusian nuclear power plant**

Brussels,  
04 July 2018

In the wake of the Fukushima accident in 2011, Europe has taken the lead in carrying out comprehensive risk and safety assessments ("Stress Tests") of Nuclear Power Plants (NPPs) to assess how they can withstand Fukushima type event. The final results of the EU Stress Tests have provided important technical insights for safety improvements for all participating countries – EU and neighboring. The EU Stress Tests have been carried out in a transparent manner in the interests of citizens and a stronger global safety culture. Since the beginning, the stress tests have been carried out on a voluntary basis. The **European Commission** and the **European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG)** have continually expressed their willingness to support any non EU country which would decide to undertake the same kind of peer review process and this support has been extended to Belarus.

Belarus met its voluntary commitments to undertake stress-tests of the Belarusian NPP taken in the context of Joint Declaration on Stress-Tests of 2011 by preparing the National Report with recommendations on safety improvement measures and hosting a peer-review organized by ENSREG in a constructive and transparent manner.

The **Peer Review of the Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant stress-tests was conducted in a constructive and collaborative atmosphere and fully in line with specifications for EU stress test, including on transparency**<sup>1</sup>. This peer review was conducted by a team of 17 experts from EU and non EU Member States with a good balance between nuclear power and non-nuclear countries. The team included also 2 representatives from the Commission and 3 observers<sup>2</sup>.

The Peer Review Mission to Belarus took place from 12 to 16 March 2018 and the Peer Review Board came to Belarus from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> June to present the final version of the Peer Review report to Gosatomnadzor (GAN) and Belarus NPP representatives. The Peer Review report was endorsed by ENSREG the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018.

The **Peer Review Team (PRT)** and Peer review Board recognise and commend the open and transparent way in which GAN and the licensee sought to address all their comments and questions during the review.

Previous stress tests were undertaken on pre-existing reactor designs that were already operational and on NPPs under construction at the time in the EU. From the start, in the spirit of continuous safety improvement, the experts from the PRT considered that highest and most recent safety standards, including those established by WENRA (Western European Nuclear Regulators Association)<sup>3</sup> should be taken into account during the stress test process for Belarus. This fact is important for the review process, as the safety expectations for new NPPs are generally higher than those for existing plant. GAN has confirmed that it will consider the implication of this as part of its response to the recommendations.

<sup>1</sup> Detailed information is publically available on the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) website <http://www.ensreg.eu/EU-Stress-Tests/Background-and-Specifications>

<sup>2</sup> 1 from the IAEA, 1 from the Russian Federation and 1 from the Islamic Republic of Iran

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.wenra.org/publications/>

**Detailed information on the outcome of this peer review can be found on the ENSREG Website where the full report and an executive summary are published<sup>4</sup>.**

The Belarus national report was drafted in accordance with the requirements of the EU stress tests. The PRT report is overall positive. It highlights various good practices but presents further potential improvement that have been identified during the review exercise performed in Belarus with a view to ensuring continuous safety improvement. **The PRT recommends that Gosatomnadzor in accordance with the principle of "intelligent ownership", should identify the necessary safety improvements in response to the recommendations made in this report by the PRT and those by Gosatomnadzor itself, and incorporate them into a National Action Plan** containing all relevant safety improvement measures and associated implementation schedules.<sup>5</sup>

## **Background**

**In 2011** the Republic of Armenia, **Republic of Belarus**, Republic of Croatia, Russian Federation, Swiss Confederation, Republic of Turkey, Ukraine, in cooperation with the EU, **confirmed their willingness to undertake on a voluntary basis comprehensive risk and safety assessments ('stress tests')**, taking into account the specifications agreed by the European Commission and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) on 24 May 2011.

In October 2017, the Belarus Ministry for Emergency Situation (MES) represented by its department Gosatomnadzor (GAN) submitted its National Report on Stress Tests for Belarus Nuclear Power Plant to the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) for peer review.

Detailed information on the Belarus Stress Test process and associated documents have been regularly published on the ENSREG website during the peer review process:

<http://www.ensreg.eu/EU-Stress-Tests/Country-Specific-Reports/EU-Neighbouring-Countries/Belarus>

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ensreg.eu/EU-Stress-Tests/Country-Specific-Reports/EU-Neighbouring-Countries/Belarus>