



Latvijas Zaļā kustība

Latvian Green Movement

02.09.2008.

Nr. *2.5-30*

To: Mr. Artūras Paulauskas
Minister of Environment
The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Cc: Mr. Raimonds Vējonis
Minister of Environment
The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia

RE: Public hearing meetings in Latvia on the New Nuclear Power Plant Project in Lithuania

Dear Mr. Paulauskas,

Latvian Green Movement (LaGM) writes in regard to the environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure for the proposed new nuclear power plant (NPP) in Visaginas, Lithuania. We have reviewed the EIA report that was released on August 27, 2008 and that is available in English, Russian and Lithuanian languages, as well as a short summary in Latvian.

Considering the importance of the proposed project from the environmental, social and economical perspectives, the public in Latvia should be given the same opportunities as the residents of Lithuania to participate in the EIA process. As you may or may not be aware, this is also a requirement of the Espoo Convention.

Therefore we ask you to ensure that public hearing meetings on the EIA are held both in the cities of Riga and Daugavpils. Riga is the capital of Latvia and most of the non-governmental organisations and interested institutions following the EIA process for the new NPP are based there; hence having a public hearing meeting would be a good opportunity to discuss the EIA report. Daugavpils is the second biggest city in Latvia and is located less than 30 kilometres from the proposed site of the new NPP and the public should be given appropriate opportunities to take part in the EIA process.

We also ask you to ensure that proper translation into the Latvian language is provided during the public hearing meetings in order to provide the public and other stakeholder representatives with meaningful opportunities to participate in what is a highly important discussion.

Thank you in advance for a positive consideration of our request and I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest disposal.

Yours sincerely,

Aija Ozola-Matule

Latvian Green Movement /CEE Bankwatch Network