

Termination and renewal of the Chernobyl NPP decommissioning license

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State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine, tv.sushko@snriu.gov.ua

The State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU) develops legislation in the area of nuclear energy use, carries out state supervision of compliance with legislative requirements, and also issues licenses, including for decommissioning of nuclear facilities.

The only nuclear facility in Ukraine that has a decommissioning license is Chernobyl NPP (license dated March 22, 2002).

On April 26, 2022, the SNRIU made a decision to terminate the validity of this license.

The reason for termination of the license was the inability of the Chernobyl NPP to carry out activities in connection with the occupation of the NPP site by Russian military formations: the probability of mining the territory, the lack of safe connections (bridges, roads), violation of the physical protection system, the need to check the presence of radioactive waste and nuclear materials, etc.

Together with the Norwegian regulatory body and the SNRIU, two recommendation documents were developed:

- "Recommended approach to the state regulation of the safety of nuclear and radiation facilities located in the Chernobyl exclusion zone, which was affected by military actions" and
- "Recommended procedure for restoring the level of safety of nuclear and radiation facilities located in the Chernobyl exclusion zone, which was affected by military actions".

In accordance with these recommendations, at the request of the SNRIU the ChNPP provided supporting documents regarding the possibility of continuing activities after the de-occupation of the ChNPP.

Review of the submitted documents confirmed the ability of the Chernobyl NPP to continue decommissioning activities, and on August 11, 2022, the validity of the license was restored.

Speaker's Title

Ms

Speaker's email address

tv.sushko@snriu.gov.ua

Speaker's Affiliation

State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine

Member State or IGO

Ukraine

Author: SUSHKO, Tamara (State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine)

Presenter: SUSHKO, Tamara (State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine)

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