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José Cabrera NPP decommissioning. Past, present, future and lessons learned

In Spain, the José Cabrera nuclear power plant is facing the final stage of its decommissioning process, as all of the buildings, structures and systems have already been dismantled (except for the Independent Fuel Storage Installation) and the clean-up plan is currently ongoing.

In accordance with Spanish regulations, the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council (CSN), which is the sole nuclear safety and radiation protection authority in Spain, is responsible for ensuring that nuclear facilities are managed safely in all stages of their life cycle, including decommissioning, with the aim of protecting workers, population and environment from the harmful effects of ionising radiation. Besides, the Radioactive Waste National Company, SA (Enresa), is directly responsible for planning and carrying out the dismantling of these facilities.

In this paper, we will do a brief journey through the evolution of the decommissioning process of José Cabrera NPP, from a regulatory point of view, focusing on the current status of the site and the next steps to cover (final status survey and the license termination of the process), and finishing with the lessons learned and the regulatory challenges to undertake in the near future.

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