

## Regulatory issues for safety and environmental regarding uranium mining and milling in Romania

*Wednesday 25 June 2014 17:10 (1 minute)*

The safe deployment of nuclear activities in Romania is provided by Law 111/1996, republished and completed by Law 193/2003 and Law 378/2013.

The competent national authority in the nuclear field, which has responsibilities of regulation, authorization and control as stipulated in this Law, is the National Commission for nuclear Activities Control (CNCAN).

According art. 2b) provisions of the nuclear Law shall apply to design, possession, siting, construction-assembly, commissioning, operation, conservation and decommissioning of the mining and milling facilities for uranium and thorium ores and of the waste management facilities of the waste resulted from the mining and milling of uranium and thorium ores.

With regards to uranium mining and milling, the Romanian legislation takes into account three objectives:

- to ensure that the workers, the public and the environment are protected against the radiological hazard resulting from the exploitation of the uranium mining and milling industries;
- to provide protection during the period of exploitation and after the closure of uranium mines or milling facilities;
- to ensure that wastes (dumps) resulting from the operating of uranium mines and tailing ponds resulting of uranium ore milling are treated as radioactive waste.

Based on the provisions of Law 111/1996 CNCAN has issued a series of Radiological Safety Norms and Guidelines for Uranium and Thorium Ores. The provisions of this norms provide elementary safety standards for the health protection of both workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation. In the same vein the specific regulations and guidelines contain detailed provisions on: the content of radiation protection program, conditions for release in the environment of liquid and gaseous effluents, monitoring and surveillance programs of the radioactivity of the environment factors, long term stability of dumps and tailing ponds, decommissioning of uranium production facilities, and so on.

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**Session Classification:** Poster Session

**Track Classification:** Health, safety and environment