

Notification of an affected Party of a proposed plan or programme under article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

Draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria - National programme in conformity with Directive 2011/70/EURATOM

<i>Description of information to be included</i>	<i>Information</i>
General information on the plan or programme	
Name of the plan or programme	Draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria - National programme in conformity with Directive 2011/70/EURATOM
Type and sector of plan or programme (e.g., local land-use plan, national energy strategy)	National level
Territorial coverage (e.g., regional, national)	National territory
Main content and purpose of the plan or programme (e.g., framework setting for projects, determination of use of land) and its links with other plans or programmes	<p>The draft of the updated Strategy for the management of SNF and RAW is a fundamental document presenting the national policy, principles, goals and tasks related to the safe and responsible management of all stages of the management of SNF and all types of RAW - from generation to disposal. The draft of the updated Strategy outlines the implemented and planned practical solutions, their stages and deadlines for implementation, as well as the method of their financing. Information is presented on the condition and operation of the existing facilities, as well as the steps for the implementation of future facilities.</p> <p>The draft of updated strategy consists of two parts as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nuclear programme of the Republic of Bulgaria, basic principles, policy and objectives, legal and regulatory framework as well as responsibilities for the implementation of the strategy and involved agencies in the process of SNF and RAW management • An updated strategy which presents how Bulgaria is implementing national policy to achieve the objectives of the national strategy and details the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) SNF management, including: basic characteristics of SNF, SNF management practices, existing SNF management facilities, planned tasks and activities for SNF management, Analysis of long-term SNF management options, Report on existing SNF quantities, and Projections and estimation of expected SNF quantities. (b) RAW management, including: RAW management at Kozloduy NPP, RAW management at State Enterprise RAW and HLW management. (c) decommissioning activities at Kozloduy NPP Units 1-4. (d) human resource management activities including: secondary and higher education, research institutes and research, development and demonstration activities necessary for the implementation of the solutions for the management of SNF and RAW. (e) Economic and financial aspects, with an assessment of the costs of managing SNF and RAW, including for decommissioning activities, financing schemes in place and a general assessment of the costs and adequacy of financing schemes. (f) Policy of transparency and open dialogue by providing effective public information and by involving all stakeholders. <p>The Draft of Updated Strategy considers three scenarios for SNF reprocessing, assuming normal operation of Units 5 and 6 and annual generation of SNF containing about 38 t of heavy metal. The Strategy Action Plan sets out the activities under the realistic and optimistic scenarios.</p> <p>The draft of updated National Strategy will achieve its objectives through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities currently in use: the main ones are the operating Units 5 and 6, the Kozloduy NPP Dry Storage Facility for spent nuclear fuel, the Kozloduy NPP Units 1 to 4 Decommissioning Facility, the Plasma Waste Incineration Facility. • The projects to be implemented, namely National Repository for the Disposal of Low- and Medium-Level Short-Lived RAW (NRRAW), which is in the process of being constructed, following a transboundary EIA report, and Decision of 2016 and a StBK-type (reinforced concrete cubes) Packaging Fabrication Facility by State Enterprise RAW, located on the Kozloduy NPP site, as well as the Construction of a New Nuclear Power Build (NNPB) on the Kozloduy NPP site since 2015. <p>The development and implementation of the draft updated Strategy aims to link with other relevant national strategies, including: the draft Strategy for Sustainable Energy Development of the Republic of Bulgaria until 2030 with a horizon until 2050.</p>
Whether the plan or programme is binding	The draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria is a binding document.

Submitted documents	
Draft plan or programme	The draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria is enclosed to the Notification.
Environmental Report	The Environmental Report is enclosed to the Notification.
Other documents (with description)	-
Languages into which documents are or will be translated	The enclosed documents are translated in English, and Romanian for the Environmental Report
Description of the decision-making procedure and of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure in the Party of origin	<p>The draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria is currently under the strategic environmental procedure (SEA) developed by the Ministry of Environment and Water.</p> <p>The title holder of this strategy is the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria.</p> <p>The Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water is in charge with the SEA procedure at national level and with the transboundary SEA procedure, as well.</p> <p>By the present Notification, Bulgaria is applying the transboundary SEA procedure with the countries that are likely to be affected by the strategy.</p> <p>If the notified countries respond that they participate in this procedure, Bulgaria expects comments and points of views from the affected public and from the authorities of the affected Parties.</p> <p>A public hearing will be organized at the request of the affected parties.</p> <p>After the SEA procedure is closed, the Bulgarian public authorities will adopt the Strategy by Governmental Decision.</p>
Description of the phases of the planning procedure	<p>The planning procedure consists in the following stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of the draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria • conducting the SEA procedure at national level and in a transboundary context, as well; • taking into consideration the results of the national and transboundary consultations; • completion of the SEA procedure and issuance of the environmental approval; • adoption of the draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria by the Bulgarian Government Decision.
Legal basis for the planning procedure (quoting the regulation or other legal basis)	The draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and radioactive waste (RAW) constitutes the national programme of the Republic of Bulgaria for the responsible and safe management of SNF and RAW within the meaning of the EU Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of SNF and RAW. It has been developed in implementation of Article 74 of the Safe Use of Nuclear Energy Act (SUNEA) and the by-laws.

Description of the phases of the SEA procedure, including participation of the affected Party	<p>According to the national legislation in force (Environmental Protection Act (EPA) transposing the Directive 2001/42/CE), the Ministry of Energy (MoE) has finalized the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report and the draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria and submitted them to the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water.</p> <p>These documents will be made available to the public on the web site of MoE, as well as on the web site of the Ministry of Environment and Water.</p> <p>The Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water notifies the countries that are likely to be affected by the strategy and will send the proposed draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report, asking whether the parties are interested to participate in the transboundary SEA procedure.</p> <p>In case of an affirmative answer, the notified countries are obliged to make available to its own public and authorities the received documentation, in order to ask for comments and opinions. All comments and opinions will be sent to the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water to be taken into account in the SEA procedure.</p> <p>The final decision regarding the draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria will be made available to the countries that are likely to be affected by the strategy.</p>
Legal basis for the SEA procedure (quoting the regulation or other legal basis)	Environmental Protection Act and the Ordinance on the Conditions and Procedure for Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes for setting up the environmental assessment procedure of certain plans and programmes.
Present phase of the planning procedure and of the SEA procedure	<p>During the SEA procedure the draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria has been developed, the final version of the strategy is now ready for consultation.</p> <p>The Environmental Report has been drawn up and will be posted on the web site of the Ministry of Environment and Water, together with the draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria, for consultation and receiving comments.</p> <p>Both documents will be made available to the public on the web site of MoE and the Ministry of Environment and Water.</p>
Time schedule of the foreseen continuation of the planning procedure and of the SEA procedure	Planned date for finalizing the SEA Procedure: before the date for the adoption of the Strategy.

Process and timing of the possible adoption of the plan or programme	Planned date for adoption of the Strategy from the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria: June 2024.
Information on the public participation process in the Party of origin	
Opportunities for the public to participate:	
Start and end dates for the public to provide comments on the environmental report and draft plan or programme	The public can provide comments on the environmental report according with the legal basis for the SEA procedure. The public can also provide comments during the public hearing. The public hearing is envisaged to take place according with the legal basis of the SEA procedure.
How the public is informed of the public participation process	The public is informed at different stages of the SEA procedure through the web sites of the MOEW and MoE. The announcements include the time, the place of the public hearing and the documents which can be consulted and upon which comments can be made.
Whether a public hearing is organized and, if so, when	A public hearing will be organized and announced, in due time according with the legal basis of the SEA procedure.
How the public is informed of the adoption of the plan or programme and how the information specified in article 11, paragraph 2, is made available	At the adoption of the strategy, the Bulgarian public and authorities will be informed on the web site of the Council of Ministers, MoE and the Ministry of Environment and Water. The draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria will be made available together with a statement summarizing how the environmental, including health, considerations have been integrated into it, how the comments received have been taken into account and the reasons for adopting it in the light of the reasonable alternatives considered.
Expected time schedule for transmittal of comments and questions by the public of the affected Party on the draft plan or programme and on the full environmental report	Bulgaria expects comments and questions from the public and the authorities of the affected Party on the draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria and the SEA report for a period not shorter than 30 days after publication of the notice for expressing an opinion.
Authority responsible for the planning procedure	Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Bulgaria
Authority/institution responsible for the adoption of the plan or programme	The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria
Authority responsible for the SEA procedure	Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria
Authority/institution responsible for the SEA decision (if applicable)	Ministry of Environment and Water of the Republic of Bulgaria
Affected Parties	
List of Parties to which notification has been sent	Romania; Republic of Serbia; Republic of North Macedonia; Republic of Greece; Republic of Austria
Point of contact for the transboundary procedure	
Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the transboundary SEA procedure: Name, address, e-mail, tel. and fax numbers	Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the transboundary SEA procedure is: Administrative services Ministry of Environment and Water 22 Maria-Luisa Blvd. 1000 SOFIA Telephone: +359 2 940 6662 Fax: +359 2 980 3548 E-mail: edno_gishe@moew.government.bg g.alieva@moew.government.bg

Deadlines for response to the notification	
Deadline for responding to indicate whether the affected Party wishes to participate	The affected Parties will inform Bulgaria if they intend to participate in the SEA procedure for the National Strategy until October 30, 2023.
Deadline for transmission of comments on the draft plan or programme and the full environmental report by authorities of the affected Party (if different from above)	Bulgaria expects comments from the possibly affected Parties on the draft of updated strategy for the management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste in Bulgaria and on the SEA report until November 10, 2023. The comments have to be transmitted in English and if possible in editable format.
Means of communication	
Means by which letters from the Party of origin are sent (e.g., e-mail, fax, post, via embassy)	By e-mail to the following focal points for SEA Protocol On the countries that are likely to be affected by the strategy
Means by which affected Parties are asked to send their letters	Administrative services Ministry of Environment and Water 22 Maria-Luisa Blvd. 1000 SOFIA Telephone: +359 2 940 6662 Fax: +359 2 980 3548 E-mail: edno_gishe@moew.government.bg q.alieva@moew.government.bg