

ENSREG  
Conference

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PANEL - LONG TERM OPERATION OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS

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### **Nuclear life-time extensions and justification**

Many life-time extensions are currently driven by a lack of decommissioning funds (UA, NL, ES, BE). This is a clear example of economic arguments interfering with risk management. That reality diverts from the real issues at stake, which are exposure of the population and environment to unjustifiable risk, and avoidance of not only compulsory but also logical information gathering by the operator and all involved authorities to inform their decision on life-time extension.

### **Nuclear life-time extensions and public participation**

For us the following issue is crucial: the right on public participation taking into account environmental issues is actively undermined by nuclear regulators in Ukraine, Belgium, Sweden, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Spain and Slovakia. France is still hesitating to use the most obvious instrument to inform EdF properly about the impacts of LTO. This is simply shameful.

There is a natural legal, moral and logical right of citizens that are confronted with decisions of such impact to be consulted.

**YOU morally and legally CANNOT DECIDE ON LIFE-TIME EXTENSION / LTO WITHOUT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- When the nuclear programmes started, technical life-time of nuclear reactors was supposed to be 30 (VVER 440, some of the older Western BWR reactors) to 40 years (the others).

- The public could expect exposure to the risk of these reactors for that time.

- 10 to 20 years extension of this time means 25, 33 or even 50% increase of that exposure. That is an environmental impact.

- Also a 25, 33 or 50% increase of uranium use and the need for uranium extraction, increase of radioactive waste volumes and radioactive inventory (without disposal solutions for >90% of the radioactive inventory - the HRW!). Those are environmental impacts.

- There are physical changes made over the lifetime of the reactors that have never been submitted to public participation concerning the environment.

- The environment has changed.

And there is ALWAYS a decision – or more often than not – a tiered or layered decision.

- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS A MUST – Why do YOU resist?