



**Minutes of the first GMF Workshop held in Jaslovské Bohunice
(Slovak Republic)
5 & 6 June 2007**

First day, 5 June 2007

Opening welcome by:

Mr. Peter Riska, Mayor from Jaslovské Bohunice.

The importance of nuclear energy and the need to improve its governance was stated and it was followed by an introduction of the participants, speakers and the representatives of the municipalities.

The questionnaire on perception and knowledge in nuclear aspects was also presented to the participants and they were asked to fill it in.

The organization and schedule of the workshop was also explained.

Mr. Mirkus, representative of the regional government

Mr. Mirkus highlighted the importance that the representatives of municipalities have as a chance to contribute to the development of nuclear power.

Nuclear power is linked to development of municipalities and it has brought prosperity in the form of high salaries, development, increase of the levels of knowledge and information.

Nuclear energy contributes to development not only at national level but at European level.

Nuclear power is a reliable source and also environmentally friendly as it contributes to reduce climate change, improves national economy and reduces dependence on oil and coal. But we also need to be aware of the risks.

Central government often passes on to local governments the need to develop acceptance of nuclear power).

Mr. Valak, representative of Bohunice Nuclear Power plant

He acknowledged the relevance of the workshop and wished it big succes .

Mr. Roland Palmqist. President of the GMF

The aspects of safety, transparency and public influence were introduced.

The participants were informed on the project objectives and the perspectives on the following project workshop to be held the 5-6 September 2007 in Neckarwestheim (Germany).

The need to communicate and learn how is the nuclear situation in each community was pointed out, as well as the increasing interest from communities on nuclear issues.

THE SITUATION IN SLOVAK REPUBLIC

National policy and development of nuclear regions in the Slovak Republic.

By Mr. Nantias, Representative of the Ministry of Economy

He apologized for the absence of the Minister of economy, Mr. Lubomir Jáhnatek in the workshop.

Mr. Nantias made a brief review on the future and present of nuclear power in Slovakia. This year there has been a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first reactor in Slovakia.

Final deadlines to shut down and decommission Units 1 and 2 of the 'V1' nuclear power plant in Jaslovske Bohunice have been agreed: by the end of 2006 for Unit 1; by the end of 2008 for Unit 2.

The fear of an energy deficit in Slovakia after 2008 was pointed out as well as the need for further of developing strategies after decommissioning.

Slovakia could also be the venue for the European Nuclear Energy Forum to be held by the end of 2007.

Mr. Nantias pointed out that 80% of the public accept the power sector in Slovakia. The nuclear sector will play an important role in the energy sector in Slovakia. He also highlighted the importance of the relationship between nuclear power and the surroundings as well as the safety and reliability of nuclear power. Local communities played a role in Slovakia in helping central government to develop the legislation on nuclear matters.

The nuclear power plants of Bohunice and Mochovce and the local communities.

By Paolo Ruzzini, Chairman of Slovack Electric (SE)

There are nine nuclear installations at present in Slovakia which produce approximately 50% of the national electricity production.

It was pointed out that nuclear power in Slovakia requires further developments on safety. At present, more than 3000 people are involved in nuclear energy in Slovakia. Education plays an important role in preparing the new generation to take the responsibilities of nuclear plants both at elementary school and university levels. There are many information channels; many can interact with each other. Many events come from initiatives from local communities and at least once a year there is an open doors day at nuclear plants.

Transparency is important to build credibility in the activities carried out in NPP. Public opinion pools are important to assess the success of the procedures developed for mantaining transparency.

The importance of the role of the civil info committee as an effective initiative for attention and development of community and the continuity of support was pointed out.

Full interaction between the communities and technicians is fundamental for safety and local development.

Safety: public perception and public opinion

By Marta Ziakova, *Chairman of the Slovak Nuclear Regulatory Authority (UJD)*

The Regulatory authority of the Slovak Republic (UJD) was established by the Slovak Parliament as an independent governmental body in January 1993. The UJD was given the mandate to ensure peaceful uses of nuclear energy, take responsibility for regulating safety of nuclear installations, radwaste treatment and control of nuclear materials.

The UJD aims to enforce the nuclear safety as a priority above economic aspects, to create legislation framework, to implement control activities independently, to carry on a dialogue with all licence holders, to support education and increase technical competences, to promote research in the field of nuclear safety, to assure the necessary resources to execute supervisory activities, to assure the implementation of commitments resulting from national and international agreements, to ensure the right for free access to information.

The UJD has regulatory functions such as establishing standards and regulations, issue licenses for nuclear facilities organizations, select personnel and users of nuclear materials, inspect facilities organizations and users of nuclear materials. Other activities carried out by the UJD are: information in the annual report, legislative activities, evaluation of safety, emergency, activities of communication, human resources, economic data, plans for development in the future.

International co-operation is also important for the exchange of information in the field of nuclear power. Slovakia is signatory to all relevant international agreements in the area of Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy. Slovakia is since 1999 in the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The responsibility of national government is also a requirement for safety. This is acquired by developing international agreements as well as detailed safety standards and measures.

In order to maintain public confidence it is mandatory to demonstrate a continuous improvement on safety record in all nuclear facilities and activities. For that purpose, the UJD places a high priority on keeping the public fully informed of activities related to nuclear energy. In this extend, there has been an increased support of communities to nuclear power, 79% of the population believe that power plants can be operated in a safety way.

Difficulties in relation with mass media were pointed out as it regularly communicates negative facts related to nuclear issues.

Decommissioning projects in Slovakia

By Pavol Hiža Head of Bohunice PMU

The Slovak Republic has committed to shut down Units 1 & 2 of Bohunice V1 NPP in 2006 and 2008 respectively, undertook through *Resolution No. 801/99 of the Slovak Government*. Decommissioning is expected to start in 2012.

The Bohunice International Decommissioning Support Fund (BIDSF), administered by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), was established in November 2001 to finance and/or co-finance selected projects related to the final shut-down of Units 1&2 (V1) of Bohunice.

It is important to treat V1 NPP historical RAW before decommissioning. Due to the decommissioning of the V1 NPP the disposal capacity is insufficient for RAW arising from V1 NPP decommissioning, for that purpose it is being planned to build also a RAW Interim Storage at Bohunice site. Also, Slovenské Elektrárne a.s. (SE) has applied to conduct a feasibility study of Enlargement of the National Repository in Mochovce.

It has to be considered how the closure will affect the communities around the nuclear plant. In this context, the impact of the closure of V1 lay less in economic shortfalls than in the problem of dealing with the nuclear waste. The changes are expected to be slow and gradual because decommissioning a nuclear plant is a complex and long-term process.

Final Comments

By Mr. Mirkus, representative of the regional government

The following aspects were pointed out:

Press conferences should be organised always after positive things, not only after negative things in relation to nuclear energy.

Good performance of the nuclear authority.

The need of availability of Environmental information

The need to organize conferences.

The importance of the European Nuclear forum

Importance of international cooperation. Slovakia has an open policy of cooperation.

Importance of this workshop in Slovakia.

Importance of regular information.

The need of national funds to be invested in nuclear energy.

Importance of networking

The positive impact of the workshop carried out in Slovakia and the EU

Second day, 6 June 2007

Governance and energy policies in Europe.

By Mr Tomás Botella, Unit H2 of DG TREN (EC).

The content of the presentation focussed on energy policies for Europe, nuclear energy policies, governance on nuclear issues and EC/DG TREN support activities to nuclear issues.

It was stated that current energy policies are no longer sustainable and that trends of CO2 emissions are increasing. There is an agreement for the first time of the benefits of nuclear energy to reduce climate change, therefore the contribution of nuclear energy in the security of energy supply and CO2 emissions reduction, while ensuring nuclear

safety and security are paramount in the decision-making process at European level. It is for each and every Member State to decide whether or not to rely on nuclear energy.

The European Commission published on 8 March 2006 a Green Paper on developing a common, coherent European Energy Policy. The Green Paper will help the European Union to lay the foundations for secure, competitive and sustainable energy.

Development of *The energy and climate package of the EU Commission* as a sound basis for the preparation of the European energy and climate protection action plan, which is planned to take place on the Council's spring summit 2007.

The Strategic objective “20 – 20 – 20” strategy “low-carbon energy economy” for 2020 and beyond aims at limiting global climate change to 2 degrees Celsius. Main objectives are: a) improve internal energy market, b) increase reliance on low carbon sources, with main focus on the renewable and nuclear energies; c) extend EU energy to EU neighbours and involve citizens in its implementation.

The Nuclear Forum aims to develop a broad stakeholders’ debate about risks and opportunities of nuclear energy. There are 2 candidates as host country: Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The first meeting is foreseen in autumn 2007. The members of the Forum are expected to be: energy market, European civil society, European institutions and dedicated experts. The chair person will be of High Level Group of regulators. The suggested potential lines for debate are: a) Strengthening and accelerating industrial innovation b) improving transparency and good governance c) implementing appropriate financial models and instruments.

The GMF pilot initiative was considered a good tool to strengthen local governance while supporting the Commission in drawing policy conclusions.

Experience in Spain.

By Mariano Vila d’Abadal, General Manager of AMAC

The AMAC (Spanish Association of Municipalities which in nuclear areas) was created in 1990 and it includes villages in a 10km ratio around the NPP. It has a position of acceptance of nuclear energy and aims to take part in national Decision Making Processes in nuclear issues. Its essential pillars are: a) Safety as a non negotiable right; b) the necessity of information; c) economic development included in nuclear activities. The main objectives of the association are: a) the promotion of safety as guarantee for the future; b) the implementation of energy plans; c) the organisation of conferences together with the Ministry of the Interior; d) the promotion of a regular relationship with the Spanish regulatory body (CSN); e) the promotion of investments in civil protection communication tools, evacuation roads, etc); f) access to complete, regular, objective and understandable information.

The association shows an open opposition to the enlargement of intermediate storages and it defends a centralized storage approved by consensus by the interested parties. It is also interested in creating an economic alternative to the nuclear based on the energy industry, tourism and agriculture and to encourage a positive view on the dismantling actions as a possibility for development by distributing contracts to more than one company.

AMAC has created Local Information Commissions. Its members are: the Ministry of Industry, CSN as the regulatory Body, operator, Regional government, mayors from the municipalities affected, social and economical representatives.

It also develops activities which aim to inform to the citizens about the operation of NPP and about modifications, new projects, emergency planning and any news concerned to nuclear issues. For that purpose the association organizes events addressed to the public and develops activities such as conferences, seminars and technical visits in order to increase participation in European Projects and to promote the empowerment of the Local committees of Information.

In relation to compensations there is a Ministerial order about compensations due to the storage of the radioactive waste. The type and amount of compensations provided, depending on the kind of storage, was explained. After the presentation, participants asked for more information on compensations policies.

Experience in Sweden.

By Mr. Ted Lindquist (Secretary of local liaison committee in Oskarshamn NPP)

Oskarshamn is one of the main targets in Sweden for the siting of a high level waste repository in 2010. The final decision on the siting is to be taken by the central government. There are no direct compensations from NPP to the municipality.

The Swedish emergency organization states that the county governments are responsible for all rescue operations and municipalities with NPP's have the obligation to take part in emergency planning, preparedness organization, information and exercises. The inner emergency planning zone is about 12 - 15 km radius.

The central authorities are advisors and there is no truly centralized decision-making board. The local safety committee is a government institution that has the task to provide neutral information sources, to inform the public, to follow the work on security and radiation protection at the NPP. It has the right to obtain information from NPPs as it is obligatory for NPPs to inform the committees.

In order to implement a site for a national HLW repository the following aspects should be considered: a) the disposal methods must be safe and technical feasible; b) the site has to be suitable from a geological and social point of view; c) the affected citizens and the municipality must accept it and by law a local veto is possible; d) transparency and open attitude from the applicants; e) provision of sufficient time for acceptance; f) independent funding from the state/government.

The Oskarshamn model involves the following aspects: a) existence of 3 working groups in relation to safety, future perspectives and neighbour relations; b) acknowledgment of the contributions given by the environmental groups; c) acknowledgement of the expertise of the regulatory authorities; d) building local competence. It also acknowledges the need of long time to build trust, the importance of public participation, and the requirement of a realistic timetable and a predictable process in order to pursue achieve a democratic and successful siting process.

Experience in Hungary

By Mr. Gyözö Kovács, NYMTIT, Boda Municipality

As a long-term strategy Hungary plans to construct a repository for disposing of long-lived high level radioactive waste. By 2010 there should be a decision on the disposal site.

One of the most detailed studied areas of the country from geological point of view is the Boda Claystone Formation, which underlies a uranium ore formation mined for 42 years. In the course of surveying for the uranium ore, a clay (aleurolit) formation was found in the western part of Mecsek Mountain, very close to Boda Municipality. This formation is potentially suitable for hosting a disposal site for HLW. The geologists are almost certain that this is a perfect place for the final repository, but thorough investigations still remain to be conducted. At this moment an underground laboratory is being built to assess and guarantee the availability of a repository that will enable the disposal of high level radioactive waste at Boda Municipality. The approval from the communities to build a laboratory was stated via referendum.

In 1996 the Public Information Association of Western Mecsek, NyMTIT was created. The Association consists of the mayors of nine municipalities and its role is to safeguard the interests of their constituents in connection with the plans for a final repository for spent nuclear fuel in the area. This assignment also includes information, despite the fact that the project is still far in the future. The information is provided via local television, newspapers, study visits, rolling exhibitions and open door days. It also includes contact with other associations in other countries. Every 2 years the association organises a public opinion survey to assess the increase of awareness towards the association and information flow among citizens. It is acknowledged that information flow and trust has increased over the past years.

The aim of the association is to build up knowledge and public confidence in anticipation of the day when a decision will have to be made. Provision of information at schools is also considered very important, since it is the next generation who will make the decision.

In relation to compensation procedures, it was stated that the compensations system is not clear in Hungary as it changes every year.

Experience in Belgium.

By Mr. Van Dijk, Dessel Municipality.

Dessel is a small municipality where the nuclear companies form an important employment sector.

In 1998 the Federal government decided that a definitive solution for Belgian low-level waste should be developed. The municipality of Dessel was a candidate for the disposal of low-level and short-lived waste.

In September 1999 the non-profit organisation STOLA-Dessel were constituted and four working groups investigated whether it is technically possible and socially acceptable to dispose of low-level waste in Dessel. In November 2004 the residents of

Dessel, through STOLA, voted on whether low-level waste could be disposed of definitively in the municipality and on which conditions. STOLA decided that the disposal of low-level and short-lived waste is possible in Dessel, under well-defined conditions in which safety, health and the environment come first, together with positive implications for the residents of Dessel.

In April 2005 STOLA was succeeded by STORA-Dessel, which finished its study of the conditions of the disposal of low-level and short-lived waste in the municipality of Dessel. STORA has a total of 63 members, 50 of which represent local organisation and 13 represent individuals. Through STORA the population is involved in nuclear activities in the municipality.

In order to involve a larger population, the following dissemination activities are being carried out: distribution of newsletters door to door, organisation of debates, articles in municipal information booklet, the **www.stora.org** is available and small-scale polls are undertaken.

In June 2006 the Federal government decided to build a surface disposal site in Dessel. STORA aims to develop a broader involvement of local stakeholders with representation of the Dessel communities so that local conditions are met together with continued local participation in the decision making process for the construction of the disposal site.

Experience in Romania.

By Ms Mircea, Cernavoda municipality

For the moment, Cernavoda is the main nuclear area in Romania with 2 operating CANDU units and there is already a decision made to finish units 3 and 4.

Inclusive governance is a new concept and attitude to be understood and applied both by nuclear authorities and citizens representatives. In this context, plant management and upper decision levels are being more open to social demands and new funds are available for Cernavoda city development. In addition, a little increase of public information has been produced, although there is not any clear strategy for convincing people. There is actually a strong relationship among organizations – local, regional and national NGOs, local authorities. Two public debates are organized per year.

Cooperation with other European local authorities, NGOs and institutions has been considered an important gain of the last few years, as well as the participation in different common projects and learning experiences from other countries in order to increase knowledge on governance. In addition, being a member of GMF and a partner in COWAM projects have been two of the main European paths that have helped to better define nuclear strategies in the area. In this context, the conference held in Cernavoda April 5-6, 2006 and jointly organised by GMF and EU caused an important impact.

Cerdanova Municipality was also part of Cowam 2 project, being actively involved in the Roadmap for Local Committee construction. COWAM in practice also keeps Romania in the European framework. The first National Stakeholder Group meeting was held in June 1, 2007.

Closing session

By Mr. Mr. Peter Riska, Mayor from Jaslovské Bohunice and Mr. Roland Palmqvist, President of the GMF