



**Ministry of Environment
and Food of Denmark**

Environmental
Protection Agency

Nature Management

Ref. HETER

November 19 2019

To point of contact in:

Sweden, Norway, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom as per the enclosed list

Notification pursuant to Article 3 of the Espoo Convention on Dansk Dekommissionering's application for the establishment of a new upgraded storage facility (NUSF) for radioactive waste at Risø

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency hereby notifies of Dansk Dekommissionering's planned environmental impact assessment and application for permission to establish an upgraded storage facility for radioactive waste at Risø in Roskilde Municipality in Denmark. The new upgraded storage facility will store the radioactive waste until 2073, at the latest, when a final depot can be put into use somewhere else than Risø.

This notification is based on Article 3 of the ESPOO Convention on cross-border environmental impact assessments and Article 7 of Directive 2011/92/EU on the impact of certain public and private projects on the environment.

Background

Since 1958, the "Nuclear Test Station Risø" has researched into the peaceful utilisation of nuclear energy. The research centre had three reactors (from 1960), a number of different laboratories and a radioactive waste treatment station at its disposal. Later the Hot Cell, the fuel element production in the so-called Technology Hall and other storage facilities were added. At Risø all radioactive waste from the Danish society is processed and stored, with the exception of NORM waste produced outside of Risø.

In 2003, the Danish Parliament decided that the nuclear facilities at Risø were to be dismantled. Dansk Dekommissionering was established with the purpose of dismantling and cleaning the buildings and facilities that had been used for or affected by nuclear research or development by 2023 to a level where buildings, facilities and areas could be released as so-called "greenfield" and in that way be used for other purposes without any radiological restrictions. In 2003, an EIA report was prepared, which included the decommissioning at Risø.

In 2018, the Danish Parliament decided that the waste should be moved to a final depot by 2073, at the latest, and furthermore to upgrade the Dansk Dekommissionering's storage facilities at Risø. The environmental impact assessment must include the buildings, facilities and activities that are deemed essential in the period after the decommissioning and until 2073, as well as that part of the decommissioning that is carried out after 2023, demolition of buildings and facilities and the transfer of radioactive waste to the new upgraded storage facility, as well as the decontamination of soil and groundwater pollution under the ore piles after they have been transferred to the storage facility.

The project

All the radioactive waste will be collected in a *New Upgraded* high-water proof and climate-controlled *Storage Facility*, which will be established on the Risø peninsula. The storage facility is expected to be a building of approx. 10,000 m² and a height of 15 m. In addition, the storage facility, which will either be established in existing or new buildings on the Risø Peninsula, will have the following features: *Receiving Station* for radioactive waste, *Analysis Laboratory* (currently the laboratory is located in an existing building, which is not being modified), *Handling Facility*, *Administration Building* with changing room facilities, an *Exhibition Facility* and *Storage Buildings* for empty containers, drums, etc. The project also includes demolition of existing buildings and facilities, partly to create space for storage and the other new facilities where the existing buildings cannot be reused, and partly to create more green spaces on Risø. Trees are being cut down in the area in order to make room for the new upgraded storage facility.

The waste is low- and middle-active. It consists of:

- Scrap metal and concrete from the destruction of nuclear facilities
- Operational waste such as gloves, work clothes, plastic covering, needles, etc.
- Sources from external users (for example weak sources from smoke alarms and powerful sources from hospital blood irradiation systems)
- Bitumen (concentrate from the distillation of water with radioactive particles)
- Tailings (waste product from uranium mining) and uranium ore (a resource that is potentially waste if no other use exists)
- A smaller amount - 233 kg - of irradiated test fuel

Project timetable

The aim is to start using the new upgraded storage facility at the beginning of 2023. Therefore, the plan is to carry out the environmental impact assessment during 2019 and 2020 in parallel with providing the necessary underlying planning basis (town plan and district plan). Project planning can be done during 2020 and 2021 and buildings can be erected during 2021 and 2022. After this the waste can be moved to the NUSF.

Environmental impact assessment

As the project is subject to EU Directive 2011/92 / EU Annex 1, par. 2b *"Nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors including the dismantling or decommissioning of such power stations or reactors (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials, whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kilowatt continuous thermal load)"*, it is decided that an environmental impact assessment is to be carried out, which is intended to demonstrate, describe and assess any significant, direct and indirect, impact of the project on:

- The general population and human health, including leak of hazardous substances from the buildings and impacts on safety in the event of an accident.
- Biodiversity, with special emphasis on protected species and habitats, including impact on Natura 2000 sites and on species subject to the EU Habitats Directive
- Land, soil, water, air and climate
- Materials, cultural heritage and landscape, including an assessment of the visual impact on the coastal landscape
- The correlation between these factors

Expected cross-border impacts

Dansk Dekommissionering states that leaks resulting from the operation of the new buildings will be lower than leaks resulting from operations today. Updated accident scenarios will be prepared as part of the environmental impact assessment. Any potential cross-border impact will probably take place via the atmosphere, e.g. it will be airborne.

Timetable for environmental impact assessment

In the period December 2, 2019 - January 2, 2020, ideas and proposals for delimitations of the environmental impact assessment are received.

Simultaneously with the Danish process, an ESPOO hearing will be held in which Sweden, Norway, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK are consulted on whether they wish to participate in the process of preparing the environmental impact assessment.

When the consultation period is over, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency will prepare a delimitation note, which will determine what subjects will be covered by the environmental impact assessment.

The environmental impact assessment is prepared in 2020. The environmental impact assessment is then released to the public for a period of 8 weeks. Based on

the assessment report and the responses to the hearing request, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency will decide whether a permit can be issued.

In addition to the permit from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, SIS (The National Institute of Radiation Protection under the Danish Health Authority) must approve the safety assessment prepared by Dansk Dekommissionering in order for the buildings to be used for the desired purposes, including the assurance that all operations and accidents will be handled safely in relation to DD employees and the population in general.

Participation in the environmental impact assessment process

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency kindly asks you to provide the following (at the latest by January 9, 2020):

- acknowledgement that the notification has been received
- whether you want to participate in the environmental assessment process
- comments on the project and its possible cross-border impacts and to assist in the inclusion of relevant authorities, organisations and the general public

Please send responses to the hearing request (marked with case number MST-533-00148) to:

Ministry of Environment and
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Protection Agency
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Or by mail to mst@mst.dk

Yours sincerely,



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