

From: "Dick Vos" <dick.vos@minvrom.nl>
To: <TCJ@nrc.gov>
Date: 12/1/04 5:17AM
Subject: Licence Urenco Almelo

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Mr. Piet de Munk asked me to inform you on the subject of the Urenco-Almelo licence for expansion of the capacity for uranium enrichment. The situation is as follows.

The existing licence allows a enrichment capacity of 2800 ton SWU/y. In May 2003 Urenco applied for a licence to increase the capacity to 3500 ton SWU/y. Part of the application was an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The licencing procedure started with an evaluation of the EIS (with public participation). We concluded then that the EIS was satisfactory and could serve as a basis for granting the requested licence. A draft licence was drawn up and published for public participation. Eventually in Feb 2004 the final licence was granted for the requested increase in capacity.

However, one nuclear opponent lodged an appeal (at the Council for State) against this licence and subsequently in Okt 2004 the licence was revoked due to a procedural mistake (made by us as regulatory body). Therefore we must restart the licencing procedure at the fase where we publish the draft licence. (Re-evaluation of the EIS is not necessary).

We hope that this publication can take place in Jan 2005. Subsequently we aim for a renewed final licence in april 2005.

So (up till now) this licence has been revoked once.

When somebody says that the licence has been revoked twice, he may refer to historical events. You see in the past an earlier licence for another capacity increase was also revoked (on procedural grounds). But this happend around 1992 and has nothing to do with this latest licence.

Finally I like to stress that in both cases the licences were revoked on procedural grounds and not because there were doubts about the safety of the plant or the possible dangers for the environment.

Best regards,

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Mail Envelope Properties (41AD9A33.E64 : 7 : 32356)

Subject: Licence Urenco Almelo
Creation Date: 12/1/04 5:13AM
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Created By: dick.vos@minvrom.nl

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Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	1953	12/01/04 05:13AM
Mime.822	3374	

Options

Expiration Date: None
Priority: Standard
Reply Requested: No
Return Notification: None

Concealed Subject: No
Security: Standard