

Brussels, 13 May 2015

Period of unavailability of Doel 3 and Tihange 2 reviewed

In accordance with Electrabel transparency obligations, Electrabel informs that the period of unavailability of Doel 3 and Tihange 2 is pushed to November 1st, 2015. This update follows the details communicated by the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control in the context of the review process about the reactor vessels of Doel 3 and Tihange 2.

The FANC has confirmed that it will, together with its technical subsidiary Bel V, analyze the safety case using the specific expertise of the recognised inspection organisation AIB Vinçotte (for the theme « Ultrasonic inspection techniques : detection, measurement and location of hydrogen-induced flaw indications »), of the International Review Board (for the theme « Material properties of specimens containing hydrogen flakes: radiation effects and transferability of the test results to the Doel 3 and Tihange 2 reactor pressure vessels ») and of an external research team (for the theme « Structural integrity of a reactor pressure vessel containing hydrogen flakes »).

The FANC will collect opinions from all these parties and take them into account to decide whether Electrabel is allowed to restart the Doel 3 and Tihange 2 units. FANC estimates that this process will take another few months.

Based on these elements, Electrabel considers that the period of unavailability has to be reviewed and therefore has updated the information for the market through the GDF SUEZ Transparency website.

As a reminder, in the context of the review process about the reactor vessels of Doel 3 and Tihange 2, Electrabel has taken the initiative to put on hold the two reactor vessels on March 25th, 2014. Since then, the company has mobilized a strong expertise, internally within the ENGIE Group as well as externally, in order to carry out more than 1500 tests on samples. A hundred people are involved in the process, amongst which about twenty international experts. These works represent a world first in the nuclear industry. The next step now consists in preparing a safety case. In order to explain the exact scope of the safety case, Electrabel will communicate in all transparency on the tests that have been carried out, once the file has been submitted to the authorities.

Electrabel reminds that the decision to restart relies on the FANC.

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