

Doel, 25 March 2010

OSART audit acknowledges that safety is a priority for Electrabel at Doel nuclear power station

The OSART team (**O**perational **S**afety **R**eview **T**eam) acknowledges that safety is a priority at the nuclear power station and that efforts are continually being made to optimise safety and reliability at our facilities. Over the last three weeks, the team from the **I**nternational **A**tomic **E**nergy **A**gency (IAEA) carried out an in-depth audit at units 1 and 2 of the Doel nuclear power station, operated by Electrabel, GDF SUEZ Group. In the wake of the successful audit in 2007 at the Tihange nuclear power station, this confirms the professionalism of Electrabel in its nuclear power plants.

The safety audit ended today with a final meeting at which the OSART team presented its initial findings.

The 15 international experts noted 14 'good practices', i.e. areas where Doel sets an example for other nuclear power stations around the world. These include: the existence of individual training programmes for all emergency plan personnel, thorough training in the correct use of special protective clothing in the controlled areas, and training and coaching for contractors, focusing on activities during overhauls.

The experts also formulated a number of recommendations (5) and suggestions (10) that will help the power station continue developing in line with the world's best practices (i.e. the OSART reference framework).

The recommendations and suggestions cover several areas, including: formalising the existing cooperative arrangement with the local fire brigade, further developing and actively using a theoretical model for planning and carrying out activities, and formalising the use of protective equipment in the control rooms. The power station is also encouraged to more quickly share its experiences with other nuclear power stations, to continue developing its workplace accident prevention plan and to pay even more attention to small anomalies at the facilities.

Jan Trangez, Doel Site Manager, explains: *"This OSART audit is an important acknowledgement of the professionalism of all personnel at the Doel nuclear power station. It also states the high level of the security of the installations and this at the time the decision was taken to extend the lifetime of the first three units (Doel1,2 and Tihange 1) by ten years. The OSART recommendations and suggestions will also help us further develop our professionalism in line with the*

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best international practices. This dovetails perfectly with Doel's mission of 'striving for excellence'!"

In accordance with the OSART methodology, the final conclusions of the OSART mission will be released within about four months when the OSART report is published in full on the website of the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control.

Electrabel, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, is now set to develop an action plan the Doel nuclear power station can use to prepare for the OSART Follow-Up audit in early 2012.

MORE INFORMATION?

www.electrabel.com/kernenergie, Doel Nuclear Power Station / News and Press

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