

Nuclenor rejects the Industry Ministry's decision on the Garoña power station as arbitrary and without justification



- Nuclenor will take all legal actions that correspond to it in defence of its legitimate rights and interests
- The plant has been modernized and brought up to date with substantial annual investments and its safety endorsed by the Nuclear Safety Council as well as by five inspection teams from international organisms in the past 12 years (the last three of which from the International Atomic Energy Agency, a United Nations body)

2009/07/02.- NUCLENOR considers the decision of the Industry, Tourism and Trade Ministry to not renew the operating licence for the Santa María de Garoña nuclear power station for the requested 10 year period to be arbitrary and lacking any justification according to the law.

Authorizations to operate nuclear power stations in Spain are renewed in accordance with established procedures. The current operating licence, issued on 5 July 1999 by the Industry and Energy

Ministry, established the conditions for the company responsible obtain the extension.

NUCLENOR has met these conditions in their entirety, punctually and satisfactorily, as borne out by a favourable opinion issued by the Nuclear Safety Council (CSN) on 5 June 2009. The decision to not authorize a 10 year extension, in line with the ruling of the Nuclear Safety Council report, represents a departure from the conditions established in the above-mentioned procedure.

The extension until 2019, sought by NUCLENOR, was based on the following considerations:

- 1 The favourable opinion on safety and reliability issued by the Nuclear Safety Council (the sole public body competent to issue rulings in questions of nuclear safety and protection against radioactivity) and five inspection teams from international institutions over the past 12 years, the last three of which corresponded to the International Atomic Energy Agency, an organism of the United Nations.
- 2 The current conditions at the Santa María de Garoña power station, modernized and brought up to date with sizeable annual investments, in particular over the past few years, maintaining at all times a vision of long term operations in accordance with the possibility of an extension implicit in the present licence.
- 3 The dedication of a well-trained workforce, fully committed to safety, as reflected in the mentioned international inspections.
- 4 A well-established international practice of continuity at nuclear power stations currently in operation. There are at present 16 nuclear power stations that started operations before Santa María de Garoña (examples being those at Dresden and Oyster Creek in the United States, Tarapur 1 and 2 in India, Fukushima in Japan and Beznau in Switzerland). Seven of these plants have been authorized to operate for up to 60 years. The latest example has been the authorization for the U.S. power station at Oyster Creek to extend its operations to 60 years, granted on 8 April this year by the Obama Administration.
- 5 The importance of continuing operations at the Santa María de Garoña nuclear power station to the national electricity grid for the requested 10 year period, in terms of security of supply, provision of competitive base load electricity, reduced CO₂ emissions and its contribution to economic and social development in the region.

NUCLENOR therefore believes the new situation at the Santa María de Garoña plant to be unique and unprecedented, in view of the existence of:

- a favourable opinion regarding the plant's continuity issued by the competent state organism for nuclear safety
- a company that wishes to continue operations
- employees who want to continue with their careers
- a climate of support for continuing operations among local residents, institutions and social agents.

And in the face of this united opinion a government that acts arbitrarily, ordering the plant's closure for strictly political reasons.

In the light of this situation, NUCLENOR declares its intention to take all legal actions that correspond to it in legitimate defence of the rights and interests of all those affected by an arbitrary and totally unjustified decision.