

PROSPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS IN NUCLEAR POWER ENGINEERING (ECONOMIC ASPECT)

Ulyana Pysmenna

State Scientific Engineering Center of Control Systems and Emergency Response, Kiev, Ukraine

Energy sector is really a basis of economy, and nuclear energy sector, which gives up to 45% of Ukrainian energy, is especially important. Its future development implies attraction and involvement of youth. The attitude of society to nuclear energy has always been skeptic because of fear of disasters such as Hiroshima, Chernobyl etc. But the level of nuclear safety grows and overtakes the social attitude and youth attitude in particular. That is why PR activities are important.

Recently the Public Consultations concerning completion and modernization of Khmelnytsky NPP Unit 2 and Rivne NPP Unit 4 have been carried out in line with the European rules and with the statutory requirements of the EBRD and in accordance with the general policy of Ukraine relating to public information. The project required public consultations to ensure that all public organisations and citizens are given an opportunity to express their opinion before the project is initiated.

Young specialists both supporters (Ukrainian Nuclear Society, Energy Union) and opponents (Green World, Youth Environment league) took an active part in the process of public consultation.

The support and strengthening of positive image of nuclear energy is important. That is why the general state policy in the field of nuclear power is aimed at openness and transparency of information for the public.

From the start it was important that those responding to the public should be adequately trained and that the efforts of backstopping experts should be coordinated. Seminars and briefing sessions for public consultation participants were therefore, frequently held in Kiev.

These included:

- Training seminar for Public Consultation Organising Committee and staff from the NPP information centres – (8 participants).
- Experts seminar and workshops for both Ukraine and Western experts – (35 attended).
- Public Meeting briefing and training session – (25 participants).

The public was first given information about the programme by media press releases. The full package documentation available to the public after the announcement, comprised:

- 1) Press release
- 2) Project Presentation
- 3) Environmental Impact Assessments
- 4) Least-Cost Analysis
- 5) Riskaudit Safety Assessment Report on modernisation programme.

The Environmental Impact Assessments provide a basis for the public consultation process. As far as the requirements of the Ukrainian legality are concerned, these Environmental Impact Assessments are considered to be preliminary reports. Their purpose is to allow examination of the extent to which reasonable measures have been taken to minimise any environmental impacts, or to enhance potential environmental benefits.

The main phases of the Public Consultation process cover:

1. Informing the public and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) about the public consultation process and determining the steps needed to ensure that the public be involved as well as determining the deliverables to be issued by a release of adequate information.
2. Public meetings and other dialogue.
3. Receiving questions and comments from the public, NGOs and other interested organisations.
4. Providing answers to the questions asked.
5. Issuing recommendations on environmental actions for the future.

The process has subjected all the main aspects of the project to intense independent scrutiny by a wide and interested audience. This

helped to ensure that any potential negative environmental impacts from the plants would be minimised throughout the completion and modernisation works, commissioning and operating life of the plants.

This was the first consultation held in a CIS country, it was also the first one to be organised and managed

through modern communications methods such as E-mail, CD-ROMs and the Internet.

The following **conclusions** should be made.

- Public consultations support and strengthen the positive image of nuclear energy projects, also by youth.
- The public relations work which includes only occasional meetings or discussions of some problems is not effective.
- Effective are the following facilities:
 - press releases in popular scientific and technical issues (now there are a few of such issues because of lack of financing)
 - career-guidance at all phases of education (to begin with secondary schools to post-graduate courses).

It is well known that the economic situation in a country influences the functioning of electric energy market and efficiency of energy companies. The aim of our research is to find out the ways of further development of energy branch and what economic consequences the different changes in legislation and taxation systems can bring about. Great attention is paid to the activities of the producers of nuclear energy and regional energy supplying companies and the state of payments in electric energy market. Current research is being carried out to find out the ways of enlarging current assets, decreasing debts, also optimal equipment depreciation normatives and main dependencies between some economic indexes and existing tariffs.

All these tasks can be effectively solved using the international experience and cooperation. We successively use the code IAEA-TICDOC-863 Vienna 1996 "Recent Experience in the Use of IAEA Planning Methods for Energy, Electricity and Nuclear Power Planning among

Member States of Europe, the Middle East and North America". It is important that such codes have been adjusted for Ukraine.

One of the most important parts of analysis is the optimization of expenditures directed to different elements of energy generation. During the analysis such aspects as electricity needs in industry, agriculture and other areas, financial budget investments in the energy sector etc. are taken into account. Such problems are solved in conformity with international approaches.

Thus, grounded is the necessity for handing over international expertise in contract price-formation and adjusting it to the specific features of local taxation system. Moreover, the following project management problems influence the effectiveness and profitability of scientific and technological projects:

- the necessity for using the current versions of operational documents in monitoring scientific research work. Today the specialists do not have the latest versions of such documents, or do not have them at all. Such situation leads to the increase of labor cost and overheads and the time period to monitor the work, and, which is most important, does not exclude some mistakes and shortcomings in expertise;
- the necessity of comparative analysis of the Ukrainian normative documents requirements, the customer requirements and international standards with the aim to define the need to develop additional normative requirements and/or the revision of existing ones.

At present the development of international cooperation in nuclear power engineering introduces areas beyond the existing frontiers.