

Leo Šešerko

The Nuclear Waste Management in Slovenia and Croatia

Meno wrote: No reasonable man would construct a nuclear power plant and put people and nature in danger of radioactivity. There are two major problems with the NPPs – 1. continuous releasing of radioactivity in the environment during every day operation; 2. nuclear waste. The result was police persecution of his mother Anna in Slovenia and halt of his career as researcher at the school of medicine in Pittsburgh/USA.

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- On Nov. 6th 1971 the institute Josef Stefan answered the prime minister, without ever informing Meno: the radioactivity is all natural and everywhere around us. Important is only to keep it in legal limits, and set through the IAEA instructions and introduce appropriate laws on radioactivity release. But electricity production in the nuclear industry is the cleanest of all forms of energy production: cleaner than coal, oil or other electricity power plants. And there is no reason to lower the maximal dosis and concentrations, as they are advised by the ICRP.

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In the construction period between 1972 - 1981 there was a race between the two republics who will get most part of orders for subcontractors from each of collaborating and competing firms of both republics, while employments were equally divided among them and no side was especially interested in nuclear waste management.

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- A provisional hall was constructed for the keeping of used nuclear fuel, which is after 34 years of operation still in use. During the ten days of war as the Yugoslav army attacked Slovenia willing to declare being a sovereign state the hall would be an easy target. So it is still today. The NPP was shut down for the ten days of war.
- During the democratic changes the Green party won almost 9% votes in general elections. One of its objectives was to introduce a referendum to close down the NPP.

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Prime minister Janez Drnovšek of liberal democratic party obstructed the referendum after one third of the members of parliament supported it and signed the proposal.

He was just the peak of the iceberg of the transformation of the nuclear lobby after democratic political changes.

In 1994 local politicians of his liberal democratic party, in alliance with the management of the NPP and the ministry of economy, under pressure of the EU commission, started parliamentary action to create a fund for decommissioning of the NPP after its life expectancy would be once finished. The aim was not a perfect nuclear waste management but chaneling more money to local community of Krško to prevent opposition to nuclear power.

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It was not meant a used fuel depository, but a depository of low and middle radioactive waste. A used fuel depository is beyond any official argument and the preparations for the LMRW depository should evoke the expectancy of the general public, knowing that the nuclear waste has to be reasonably managed, that that is it. It proved to be impossible to find any location outside of Krško for the LMRW depository, though mayors of the local communities chosen, were mostly in favour of it.

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But a LMRW depository was acceptable in the community of Krško, where the reactor is situated, for several reasons. Here the political dominance of the supporters of the NPP and persecution of opposition is stable and for the time of its operation assured through financing of the three closest communities by the NPP. The main part of the financial cake goes to the community Krško.

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The cooperation in relationship to the NPP Krško between Croatia and Slovenia and especially to the nuclear waste management proved to be extremely difficult and unsatisfactory. The main problem became opposite interests: official slovenian interest is keeping the NPP operating under any condition, the main interest of Croatia was to receive electricity under minimal costs. For this reason they established two devided funs for decomission and two completely different system of collecting funds, under two completely separated national fund laws.

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Croatia funds for decommissioning the NPP Krško in million EURO

Year	Payments	Total funds
2009	80	84
2010	99	109
2011	114	128
2012	129	142
2013	143	162

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Slovenia's funds for the decommissioning the NPP

In million Euro:

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	0,7	3,9	12,4	27,9	44	63.2	86,5	105,3

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2011	2011
114,3	121,5	131,5	145,7	136,2	145,1	147,9	160,3t

But these two funds do not represent financial means of the same character: there are differences in way of collecting them in in the way how they are used or should be used in the future.