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# Stakeholder involvement in development of a new nuclear power plant project in Lithuania

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RICOMET 2016 conference

Risk perception, communication and ethics of exposures to ionising radiations |

Bucharest, Romania, June 1-3, 2016

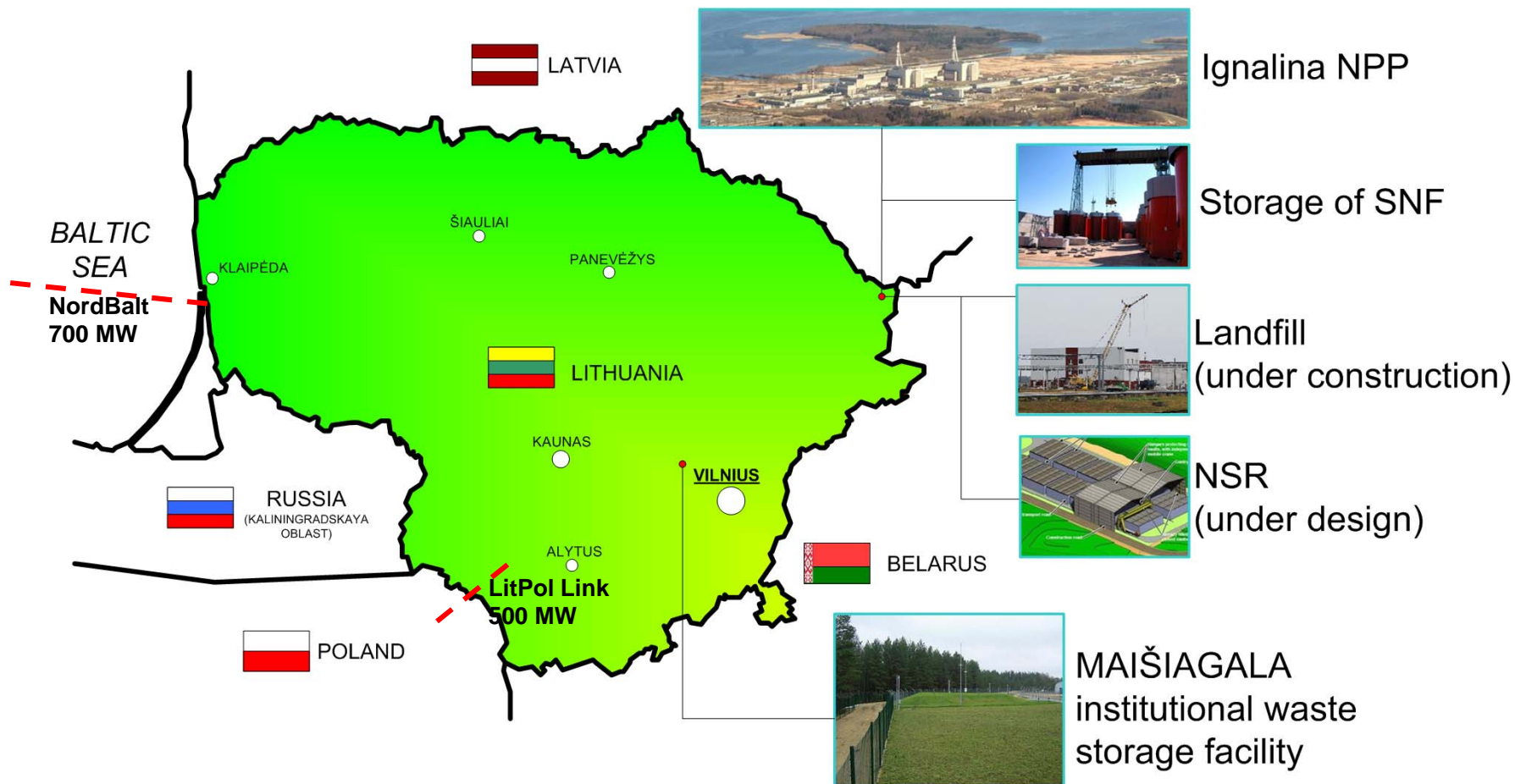


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# 1. Introduction

## Nuclear facilities in Lithuania



# 1. Introduction

## Ignalina nuclear power plant

- Ignalina NPP – 2 units of RBMK-1500 reactors.
- INPP produced about 75% of all energy of the country.
- EU Accession treaty – Lithuania commits to close both reactors. 1<sup>st</sup> closed in 2004, 2<sup>nd</sup> closed in 2009.
- Staff in 2014 was ~2100 (max 5600 during operation).



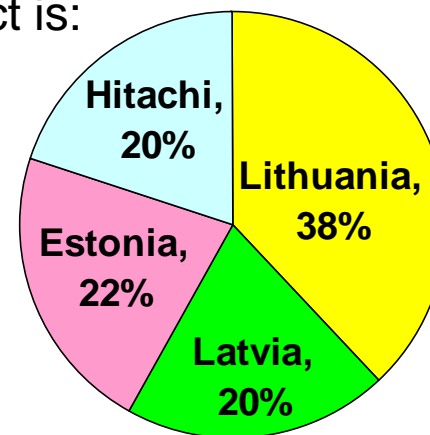
## 2. New Visaginas NPP

### Overview

- Visaginas NPP – 1 unit of ABWR 1350 MWh (Gen. III).
- Planning to construct near Ignalina NPP.
- In total project cost is approx. EUR 5 billion.
- Lithuanian companies can get approx. EUR 1.5 billion (it consists approx. 30% of the total amount) from VNPP construction.
- It is the biggest infrastructure project in the Baltic countries over 20 years.

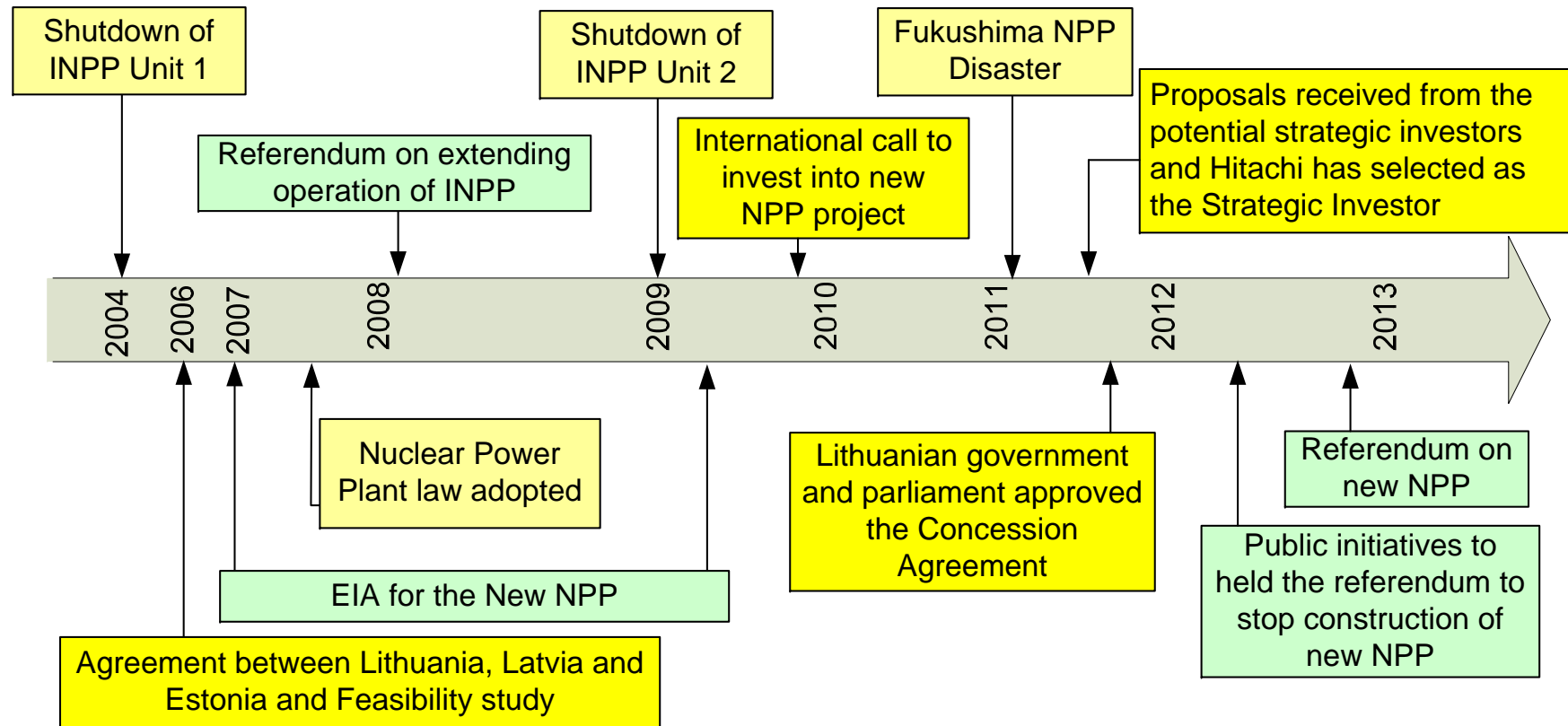


According to the Concession agreement, the share of the project is:



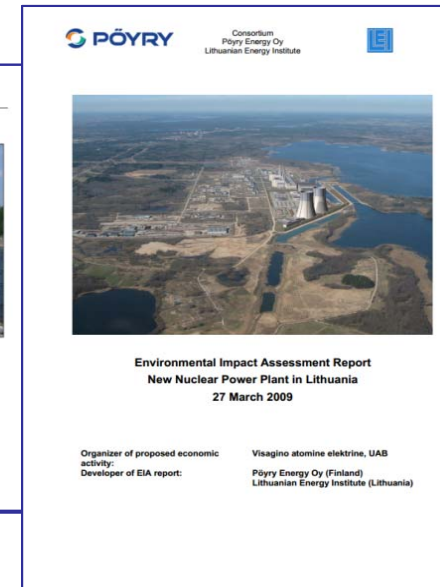
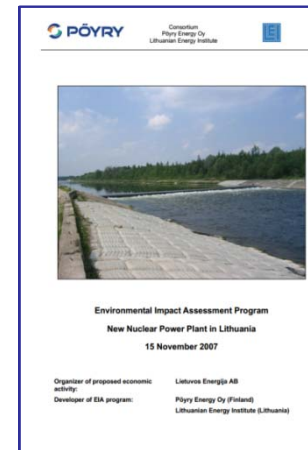
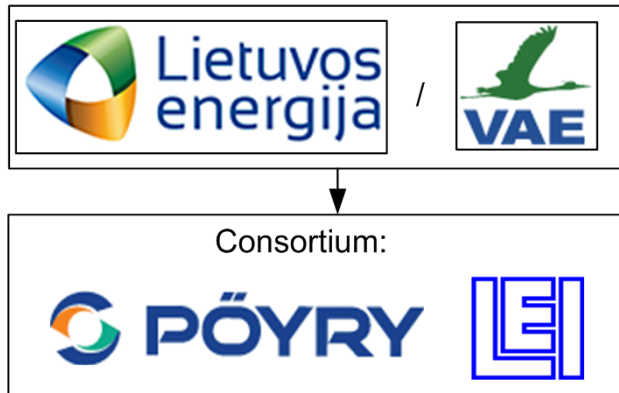
## 2. New Visaginas NPP

Time schedule of commercial and public activities





# 3. Environment Impact Assessment



- 01-2007–04-2009
- EIA program and report
- Coordination with relevant parties (institutions) and municipalities
- International coordination (Austria, Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Sweden), IAEA mission
- Public hearings:
  - Visaginas, Zarasai, Ignalina, Vilnius
  - Latvia, Estonia, Belarus



# 3. Environment Impact Assessment

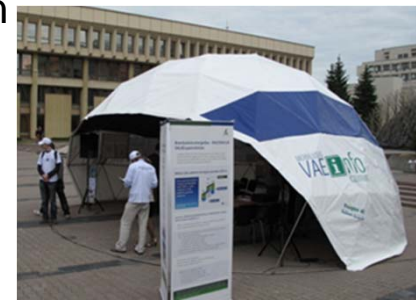
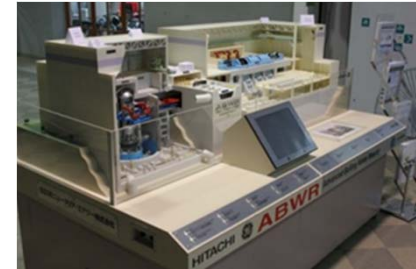
## The residents' survey

- The survey was carried out on 8–13 March 2008.
- Face-to-face interview, using pre-arranged questionnaires
- Interviewed 518 residents aged 18 and older of the town of Visaginas and surrounding areas in the range of 20 km.
- Objective was to find out the attitude of the residents living nearby the current Ignalina NPP to the socio-economic impact of the new Visaginas NPP.
- Results of the survey:
  - The residents of Visaginas town and surrounding areas thought that **the new NPP would have positive potential impact** on the aspects of the socioeconomic environment.
  - Half of the residents **lack information or are not informed at all about the new NPP project**, they want to get more information about the planned works.



## 4. Activities for promotion

- Web page with project information ([www.vae.lt](http://www.vae.lt)).
- Interactive model of ABWR reactor
- On 6th March 2012 the introduction of the VAE project for the students and academic in the KTU.
- On 7th Jun 2012 the mobile info-center was launched by VAE to spread information for public about the Visaginas NPP in Lithuanian 23 cities for 4 months. This project was supported by volunteers.
- International conference “Preparation for the construction of Visaginas Nuclear Power Plant” intended for suppliers and contractors was held in 3 – 14 September, 2012, Vilnius.
- Video CD;
- Flyers;
- Advertisements on TV.



## 5. The referendum

### Parliament decision for the referendum

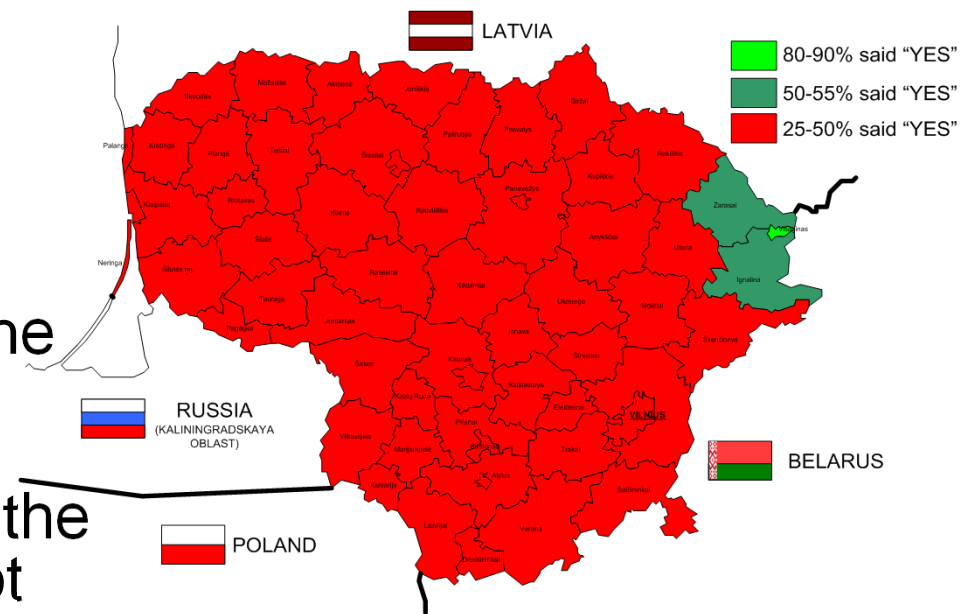
- Parliament made a decision to hold an advisory referendum on the construction of the new power plant, 16 July 2012.
  - regarding potential considerable financial obligations.
  - necessity to evaluate security guarantees of atomic energy.
  - the right of the citizens to directly make decisions related to issues important to the state.
- Referendum date **14 October 2012**, along with the Parliamentary elections.
- Referendum statement: „**I support the construction of the new nuclear power plant in the Republic of Lithuania.**“

# 5. The referendum

The conclusions on the referendum results

- Sufficient participation: 52%
  - FOR – 35 %;
  - AGAINST – 65%.
- Positive attitude in the municipalities close to the new NPP.
- According to Article 8 of Referendum Law, the Parliament should make the decision within **1 month after the referendum**; therefore, the decision on the referendum results has not yet been made.

“I support the construction of the new nuclear power plant in the Republic of Lithuania”



## 6. The stakeholders

- **Government** (leading politic parties and opposition). The competition between the biggest political parties was very high. Therefore, in the 2013 the consensus was found by the sign a comprehensive national agreement on energy by ensuring maximum depolitization of energy sector.
- **VAE** – responsible organization for development of the new NPP Project.
- **Local media** - generally, the media favors the Government's position on nuclear energetic issues. Concerning the issue of a new NPP, the media remained neutral, spoke for or against because positions of the leading parties differed as well.



## 6. The stakeholders

- **European Commission's** opinion (June 08, 2012) is favorable for the Visaginas NPP project.
- **Business.** Expected share of involvement of domestic companies in the Visaginas NPP project is up to 30% from whole project cost. The Lithuanian companies participating in the project implementation will have to accumulate approximately 1.74 bn EUR of the 4.9bn EUR required for the construction of Visaginas NPP.
- **NGO** was active during EIA procedure and during agitation period of referendum. The opinion was strong against new NPP.



## 6. The stakeholders

- **Public** was divided, but the opinion depends on the media and on the action of the politics. According to the pools made in 2012-2014 the major public does not support the new NPP project.
- **Academic** was divided as public. Some academic supported the new NPP project, some strongly criticize this project.
- **Public in Visaginas town.** The great majority of inhabitants supported the new NPP project.



## 7. After the referendum

### VAE and Government

- VAE was promoting some activities to gain public and business acceptance but the results of the referendum demonstrated that it was not enough dialog and discussions between promoters and sceptics.
- In 2013 at the Government's rised the initiative for Lithuanian parliamentary political parties to sign a national agreement on energy by ensuring maximum depolitization of energy sector and securing the implementation of long-term strategic goals in energy sector.

# 7. After the referendum

Ministry of Energy

## Priority activities of Ministry of Energy

**I**

**Negotiations**  
with the  
investor on  
how to reduce  
the budget of  
the Visaginas  
NPP project.

**II**

Continuation of  
the  
**negotiations**  
with Latvia and  
Estonia as  
partners of the  
project.

**III**

**Discussion**  
with public for  
acceptance of  
the project.



# 7. After the referendum

Academic



- Tokyo Institute of Technology and Hitachi Ltd. in cooperation with Kaunas University of Technology held six training courses for students (academic), specialists and other participants in topics like nuclear safety, ABWR reactor technology and etc. in period 2013-2016.

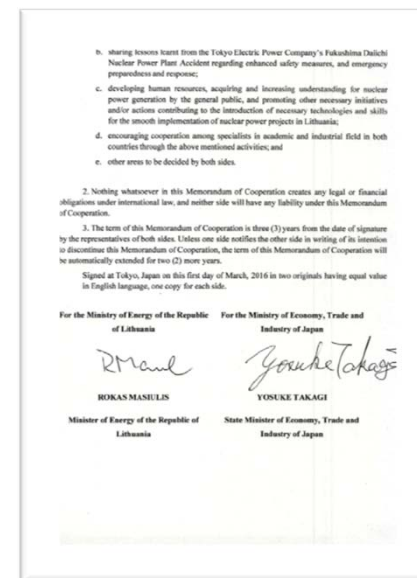
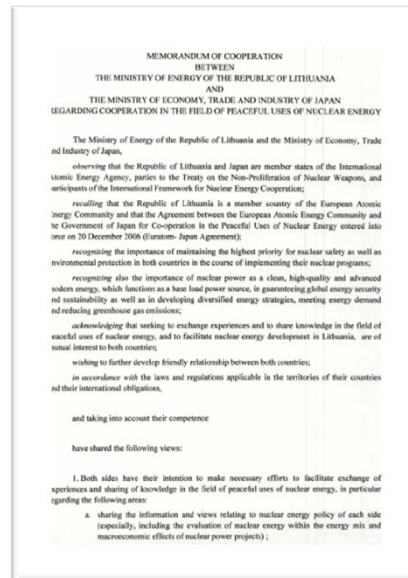


June 1-3, 2016

# 7. After the referendum

## Memorandum

- In March 2016 the **Memorandum of cooperation between the Ministry of Energy of Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of economy, trade and industry of Japan** regarding cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy was signed.
- Both sides have their intention to make necessary efforts to facilitate exchange of experiences and sharing of knowledge in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.



Ministry of Energy  
of the Republic of Lithuania

June 1-3, 2016

## 8. General conclusions

- Not enough debates about energy strategy and the risks of nuclear power
  - Project cost is too high.
  - The psychological parallel between the reactors types: Ignalina NPP – Chernobyl NPP (RBMK), Fukushima NPP – new Visaginas NPP (GE-Hitachi).
  - If the project of the new Visaginas NPP is implemented, the potential for national energy resources (biomass, sun energy, wind energy) will decrease.
  - Delay of Ignalina NPP decommissioning increase the project cost. The same situation might happen with the new Visaginas NPP.
  - The strategy to get support for nuclear was mud-slinging. Everyone critical of nuclear power is basically accused of being an agent for Russia.
  - .....



- Thank you for your attention

