

## Safety culture at the Ignalina NPP

The mission of the SE INPP is the safe and effective implementation of a unique project for the decommissioning of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant with two RBMK-type reactors, the safe management of radioactive waste, and the non-imposition of an unreasonable burden of radioactive waste management on future generations.

Accordingly, safety is given the highest priority in the organization. Safe operation is ensured by legal, organizational and technical means, as well as by the development of employee competence and the *safety culture* at the enterprise.

In order to establish, assess, and maintain the safety culture, the Ignalina NPP, following the IAEA recommendations, applies five generally recognized features characterizing a strong safety culture:

- 1) safety is a universally recognised value;
- 2) transparent attitude of the management to safety;
- 3) responsibility for safety is clearly defined;
- 4) safety is an integral part of all activities;
- 5) safety assurance is achieved through training.

Each of these features has a number of attributes. For example, the safety culture characteristic



“responsibility for safety is clearly defined” is described by attributes such as “a high level of compliance with rules and procedures” and “involvement in safety is evident at all organizational levels and for all personnel”. These attributes serve as benchmarks for what a strong safety culture in an organization should look like when assessed and further improved. Improving the safety culture at the Ignalina NPP is an ongoing process that requires long-term commitment and effort to succeed. An effective way to manage this process is to conduct periodic safety culture assessments and implement the recommendations resulting from these assessments. The results of the assessments are presented to the top management

of the enterprise, heads of departments, VATESI and are always publicly available on the internal website of the Ignalina NPP.

Regular safety culture assessments are carried out:

- using safety culture indicators;
- conducting self-assessment of the activities of the enterprise’s organizational units;
- conducting a survey of personnel.

The safe operation of the Ignalina NPP is formalized through an integrated management system following the requirements of the regulatory basis of the Republic of Lithuania in the field of quality assurance and safety of NF. However, safe work also depends on the actions and behaviour of individuals and groups. At the same time, these actions and behaviour are influenced by the safety culture of the enterprise. The Ignalina NPP management system establishes and maintains a strong safety culture by forming a common understanding of the key aspects of the safety culture within the enterprise through the conducting of training, application of a differentiated approach, regular briefings, application of own experience and the experience of other companies in the field of nuclear power, application of the STARK self-control methodology, etc.

Safety culture is announced as one of the core values at the Ignalina NPP. A favourable environment is created at the enterprise that provides employees with appropriate working conditions, allows employees to submit suggestions for improving operations and safety, and the safety culture is in a state of constant development and improvement.