Discommissioning nuclear power stations : The experience of Brennilis

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The nuclear power station of Brennilis is located in France, in the bottom of Britany, the land of witches and trolls, near the Saint Michel lake and the little church of Saint Michel of Braspart. It was built in 1965 and is the oldiest nuclear power plant in France, it produced electricity from 1967 to 1985. This nuclear power station was very specific, because, in France, the only one using heavy water for cooling. It was also a very little power plant which produced only 75 megawatts (in front of current nuclear reactors of 900 or 1500 megawatts). In 1985 the French governement decided to stop production because of new nuclear power plants which did'nt use heavy water any longer but pressurized water, and made a plan to organize the discommissioning.

It was programmed in three times:

- Step one : remove heavy radioactive material in reactor and in warehouses to stock it.
- Step two : remove devices around the reactor (heast exchanger and warehouses)
- Step three : dismantle the reactor

The first step began in 1997 and was quickly realised, removing the radioactive material in the reactor, the warehouse to stock it and the warehouse for irradiated nuclear fuel.

The second step was stopped in 2005, in a first time it was said that it was better to wait radioactive decrease in devices in and around the reactor. In 2007 the government changed its mind, saying that it was better discommissioning quickly to avoid the loose of memory by workers. Many workers are still working in the nuclear

station. For Brennilis there was another reason: groundwater under the station and so a risk of reaching the apron. This water is pumpep permanently and drained off to the lake.

In 2008 the French government created the CLI (Local Commission for Information) to inform public while following works. For Brennilis the commission was created in 2009, it depends of the County Council of Finistere, is compounded of 42 persons, the chairman is now the vice-president of CC29, there are many elected representatives (county, town), many ecologic representatives, and many others, like the medical council of the county, veterinary council, chemist council, representatives for commerce, agriculture, fire brigade, trade unions, workers. As for me, I was the representative of the medical council of the department 29. I was choised because of my experience in nuclear science and weapons as medical doctor in the army for 40 years.

Since the beginning the commission decided to have two workgroups, one for the technic topics and another one for information, each group worked privately, presented its works to the commission, and all decisions were validated by a general vote. I accepted the responsibility of the first group whose name was: Studies and Expertise Assessements (SEA)

In June 2009 each member of the commission received a cd-rom from EDF (Electricity of France), it was the file for discommissioning the nuclear power station of Brennilis, about 1300 pages of hard scientist words. Nobody was really able to have relevant advise about this file, as for me I spended two monthes of hallidays. Then in September2009 we had a meeting of the workgroup SEA to think about the best way to manage the deal: inform simply and completely as well as possible the population about the discommissioning. To help us we decided to call specialists of the topic , asking them what was good or bad in the file , what was important , what was forgotten. The group wrote a bill of specifications and sent it to a few specialized associations in nuclear science. Only one answered, the association ACRO (Association for the Control of Radioactivity in West). A few monthes later this association produced a report which was validated by the commission. In this report it was said that the discommissionning was well managed on the condition that thirteen identified points were solved.

In the same time the prefect of the County gave a negative advise for the discommissioning after a public consultation.

Finally Europ validated the project on condition that the thirteen identified points were solved. But it was only to finalise the step two, that is to say traitement of the heat exchangers and the warehouse for stocking wastes. The French government

validated, decree in July 2011. The ASN (Authority for Nuclear Security) validated in its turn and IRSN (Institute for Radioprotection and Nuclear Security) had to define rules about nuclear wastes and effluents, liquids, solids and gases. Works could start again the step 2 but we had to wait for the step 3, for a new decree.

Then the question was: what is the best way to follow the process of discommissioning?

Once more we searched a partner which explain to us the process and help us to have a real monitoring on it. We called our association ACRO and had a deal with it : first define topics of interest and second follow them. For two years we had many meetings in the working group, all works were presented and validated in commission, every meeting was registered in the data base of CG29 and available on the web site. Everybody may use this website.

We decided to have a few forms with points of interest, places where we might knew the radiocactivity and a panel reporting the planning of works.

So finally we had 10 points of interest where it seemed important to analyse radioactivity ,these 10 points are 10 forms (of 2 to 5 pages), one for each item :

- Gamma ray in surrounding
- air
- raining water
- vegetation
- pumped groundwater under the apron
- underground water
- water in surface
- sediment of aquatic vegetables
- drinking water
- cultures and food

Each item is analysed in the same way:

- 1- Chronology (time since shutdown of the nuclear station)
- 2- Organization of controls (places for samples)
- 3- Known events during this time
- 4- Radiations or radioactive element (which element must be studied)
- 5- Reference values (standards of measurements)
- 6- Unusual values
- 7- Threshold (allowed maximum)

- 8- Histogram of measurements
- 9- Remarks

To day all measurements are correct . Radioactive wastes are transported in storage place in the East of France, there are weakly radioactive materials.

In the panel we can see all items which are not only linked to radioactivity : regulatory surveillance (texts, inspections), issues (radioprotection of the workers), current works, wastes (radioactive and not radioactive), effluents, transportation of wastes.

This step two is now finished. We had to cut heat convectors, treat warehouses.

For more informations and among all to see forms of survey and panel you can see the web site of DC29:

https://www.finistere.fr, type "CLI" in search box, then a click in "CLI de Brennilis – le suivi partagé".

I added below the n°4, radioactivity in the air.

In addition I must say that the commission went and saw another nuclear plants. So we saw Nuclear power station of Chinon on the river Loire, we visited a nuclear submarine in Brest, nuclear power station of Chooz. Members of commission are always invited for exercises and inspections in the Nuclear power station of Brennilis. So we had in the two last years a public meeting to explain management and answer to the questions of the population about discommissioning.

Now is time for the third step , dismantling of the reactor. We are waiting for the file from EDF and the decree of the French government to continue. Then the Commission will decide the way of management of this last step whose conclusion is to return to grass. We hope to work in the same way with the Council County and EDF for transparency and public information.





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renane annoue. On notare que las retambées conséculives à l'accident de fukualime (Japon), n'ent pas entraînées une élévation signi ce index durant la période en question (mans-aveil 2013). A contrario, l'accident de tehernobyl (en 1988) a donné indice de 990.000 µBq/m2 (au plus) le 05/05-1988.

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Seuil réglementaire

Advances and a decision réglementaire n°2031-00-0020 de l'ASN, en dete du 02/09-2032, impose que l'accivité bôte globale pour les adresais d'arigine erificiente, en mayerne quotifierne, n'exolide par 0,01 Ba/m³ (soit 10:00 µBa/m³) à la station d'anaméte ASI solucid ente la lourg de termina (d. presențiere 107-885-83). Cette même désion staple qu'ere est dégessament de la veluer de 2000 staj^m, une analyze plus fine est réalisée pour identifier les éventuels reales/benerales.

Brile (d. jennie 2012) – urvien 3 en dele de 20-06/20 Dereminien Laurie Chajermalien, augele de Chalaistien mulitaire de Case des munis d'Arrie

4A 04.α Le Cs-137 et Co-60 dans les aérosols Paramètre(s) Depuis le 1" janvier 2013, une mesure mersuelle per spectromètrie ge des installations nucléaires afin de complèter la surveillance des poussières atmosphériques. métric gamma cat domandée aux e La mesure s'effectue directement par spectromètric gamma sur le regroupement mensuel des filtres quotidiens utilisés pour la collecte des aérosols. Cette méthode permet d'identifier et quantifier les radionucléides émetteurs gamma artificiels et naturels potentiellement présents sur les filtres durant le mois de surveillance. pochiaement, prosina sur la nucle durant la maia da survisiones. La résultat pour la Co-157 et la Co-60 sont exprimés en μδφ / m³ (3μ = 1 micro = 0,000001 δφ). La poformanes análytiques pour estis mesure conta casanticilement liées au système de prélèvement d'air utilisé (débit de prélèvement). Celles-ei peuvent ainai s'étendre de 0,1 à quelques disaines de μδφ/m³. Référence(s) Dens l'atmosphère les éléments rediractifs pouvent être présent sous forme particulaire et se fiver sur les Dera Tächnaphire isa ülementa redisectifa pouvent ätte präcent sour forme periodikie ette fineraur les pousières en supportion (décourse), Permi cui, le estium-137 et l'Indiacture privilegié de l'Audution de la redisectivité artificielle dans l'aire tas casais d'armes nucléaires puis l'accident de Tehernobyl ont entrainés une élévation importante de se concentration dans l'aire narace, de l'ardre de 10 000 µBq/m⁴ en mé 1066. Ce niceau e straite prograssivement d'immi du ce le torang pour a tétorinte qualque d'alterne de la 4000 µBq/m⁴ en mé 1066. Ce niceau e straite prograssivement d'immi du ce l'accident de rukunhime e entrainé en trance, une élévation momentante janqu'à 300 µBq/m⁴ mesurés le 33 men 2011 /df. 1700/. Concennante la ¹⁶⁰cui, l'a va ga de « houit de fand environmentai » pour cardionadités comme pour Ca-137. Se présence dens l'environnement est donc essentiellement liée sur installations nucléaires. nstata dreasés (cf. rubrique Référence(s)) et afin de tenir compte des difficultés métrologiques, on es toute valeur significative supé ricure à 10 µ80/m⁸ est inhabitue Seuil Áglementeire Il n'y a pas de prescription particulière pour ce paramètre Observation(s) 100,0 valeurs non significatives valeurs hebd significatives 20µ8q/m 50,0 сш/бел 1,0 111 Aucun relauitet disponible pour période d'octob décembre 2015 Commentaine

Pour l'année 2013, aucune valeur inhabituelle n'est notée concernant le Ca-137 et Co-80 dans l'air à Brennia. Toutofois, des valeurs sont manquantes en juillet 2015 et sur la période d'octobre à décembre 2013.

Balle 65 (parts 2012) - version 2 en dete de 28-08/00 Desemboles Louis d'Information augusts de l'autoristican austistica de Sous des monte d'Arche



Pour l'année 2023, audune valeur initialistic e cist rester devecement le briture atmospherique a Bennée. Belle 64 jonnée 2023, annue 1 de la brit de d'Adylia Energiane Lassi d'Adyliancia august de l'adolatica e partie de de de sente d'Ende