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Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority

Disclaimer of the Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority to the reports published by the Environment Agency Austria concerning the workshop on the Paks II site characteristics and Site Visit Paks II and 28th bilateral meeting Hungary-Austria

The Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority (HAEA) has organized multiple technical-scientific workshops, inviting national and international experts from institutions such as the Environment Agency Austria (EAA), the Supervisory Authority of Regulatory Affairs, and Paks II. Ltd. to address the Austrian counterpart's concerns about the geological and tectonic features of the Paks II. site and to exchange views and reach a consensus on the topic. The report summarizes the observations made by EAA experts during the scientific workshops.

It is important to note that during the site licensing activities, the HAEA thoroughly reviewed the geological survey of the Paks II. site, evaluated all information, evidence and justifications received, requested additional information as was deemed necessary and has comprehensively carried out its tasks to ensure compliance with all applicable Hungarian regulations during its regulatory assessment.

Experts from various disciplines, including geology, geophysics, seismicity, and geotechnics, confirmed this during two workshops dedicated to this topic.

While EAA experts are entitled to their own opinions and interpretations of the underlying Hungarian legislation, it is the HAEA's interpretation of the relevant legal instruments that become mandatory when an organization applies for a site permit in Hungary, as per the Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom amending Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations. The HAEA developed, drafted, proposed, and issued the regulatory requirements. Hungary has established extensive and detailed regulations for nuclear safety, security, and safeguards. These regulations provide a comprehensive framework for these important topics, showcasing Hungary's competence and expertise. While the perspective nature of the regulations may sometimes make it difficult to fully understand the relationships between different regulations, the HAEA's authority is indisputable. It is imperative to consider the regulations as a whole to avoid any potential misinterpretations and ensure nuclear safety.

The HAEA recognizes the utmost importance of fostering strong international relationships with regulatory bodies in neighbouring and other European Union Member States as it is mutually beneficial. The HAEA collaborates with national and international organizations and actively participates in research activities. These organizations include, among others, the International Atomic Energy Agency, Western European Nuclear Regulators Association, OECD Nuclear Energy Agency and the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group. This collaboration ensures that the Hungarian requirements, regulatory guidelines, and the expertise of HAEA inspectors and management remain current with the latest advances in science and technology. The HAEA's competence and independence are evaluated both nationally and internationally, including during International Atomic Energy Agency's IRRS missions. This evaluation ensures that regulatory decisions are carried out properly.