

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 17 May 2013

Federal Agency for Nuclear Control approves safe restart of Doel 3 and Tihange 2 Electrabel initiates preparation work to restart both units

17 May – The Federal Agency for Nuclear Control has announced its decision that the Doel 3 and Tihange 2 reactors can restart safely.

Following the discovery last summer of hydrogen flakes in the material of the Doel 3 and Tihange 2 reactor vessels, Electrabel carried out an extremely profound series of tests and analyses. The company called upon an interdisciplinary team of internal experts, experts from Laborelec and Tractebel Engineering, and external national and international experts, including SCK-CEN and academics.

The results of these tests were submitted to the Agency on 15 April this year for Tihange 2 and on 26 April for Doel 3. These complete the findings already submitted on 5 December 2012 and confirm their conclusions: the indications that were found are hydrogen flakes. These arose during the forging stage of the vessels and are stable. The structural integrity and load bearing capacity of the vessels are not affected and meet all the safety criteria.

Following the decision of the Federal Agency of Nuclear Control, Electrabel will immediately initiate preparation work to restart both units. These preparations will take two to three weeks and will be closely monitored by the control authorities.

Electrabel will have specific attention to maintain the highest safety level for its operations.

It has been decided to carry out a new inspection of the Doel 3 and Tihange 2 reactor vessels, same to the one in the summer of 2012, at the end of the first fuel cycle.

PRESS ELECTRABEL

Geetha Keyaert (nl)
☎ +32 2 518 65 04

Anne-Sophie Hugé (fr)
☎ +32 2 518 60 20

press@electrabel.com

www.electrabel.com

*Ce communiqué de presse est
aussi disponible en français.
Dit persbericht is ook
beschikbaar in het Nederlands.*