

**13 May 2011**

**Information on the possible impact of the Fukushima accidents on current nuclear energy policy of the Slovak Republic**

**Basic Data on Nuclear energy in Slovakia**

The total electricity production in Slovakia in 2010 was 27720GWh, with a 53% share of electricity produced by nuclear power plants, 20% share of electricity produced by hydro power plants and 18% of electricity produced by thermal power plants. The electricity production increased in comparison with the year 2009 by 6,3%, which represents a yearly increase of 1646 GWh (the electricity production in 2009 was 26074 GWh).

Nuclear energy represents an important component of the energy mix in Slovakia and is a safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly and economically viable source of energy. Taking into account the fact that Slovakia imports more than 90% of its primary energy sources, nuclear energy represents a long term component in having stability in the field of energy security. The production of electricity from nuclear energy is also considered from the climate change point of view as ecological, since it has no direct impact on the greenhouse gas emission production.

**After “Fukushima”**

Slovakia has been monitoring the development in Japan very closely. We have currently 2 active nuclear power plants – Jaslovské Bohunice Unit 2 and Mochovce Unit 1,2. Both power plants are not located in the seismically active areas and the construction of each part of the power plants is projected for quakes of multiple times higher intensity than those that were recorded on the territory of Slovakia during the last 100 years.

With regard to the emergency situation in the Fukushima power plant in Japan, the Slovakian government on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 took note of the document “The State of nuclear safety and security in the Slovak Republic with regard to the actual event in Japan” which analyzed the seismic endurance that are operated in Slovakia, the possibilities to divert residual heat from the reactor active zone and the controlled disposal of hydrogen. The results of the analysis which were presented at the meeting of the government demonstrated that the requirements for power plant that are in operation in Slovakia fully take into account the identified external as well as internal risks and measures for securing the needed level of nuclear safety and security. The pressurized water reactors used in Slovakia have a much more elaborated and two times bigger cooling system than the nuclear power plants in Fukushima. Therefore, Slovakia is in a better situation regarding nuclear security than Japan.

Nuclear energy was in the Energy Security Strategy of the Slovak Republic until 2030 defined as the main guarantee of energy security in the electricity sector and clearly highlighted as a priority. The development of production capacities is based on the equality between different types of production sources and the balance of the fuel mix, therefore nuclear energy will form the basis for the production of electricity also in the future as an important component for maintaining security of supply and sustainable development.

The Slovak Republic is ready to take part in international activities related to the emergency situation in Japan. Slovakia enforces strict criteria of nuclear safety and therefore we are convinced that a reasonable technical discussion in the EU must take place, in particular in the ENSREG group. Nuclear security and safety standards and criteria should be established based on this discussion and should be taken into account in the preparation of stress tests. The national regulatory authorities also play an important role in this process.

The Slovak republic uses nuclear energy in its energy mix and the question of nuclear safety and security is of a high priority. The security of nuclear facilities from the aspect of seismic endurance is closely monitored, as well as from other possible threats. The results of the monitoring are regularly reviewed based on the newest knowledge gained by research in this field. Measures are continuously taken to improve nuclear security and safety and Slovakia will also in the future act in line with the aim to improve them.