

# Mochovce Unit 3 Nuclear Project Timeline of Slovak Regulator ÚJD issuing Commissioning Permits and Slovenské elektrárne SE claiming project readiness despite serious technical problems

Over the course of several years, the Slovak nuclear regulator Úrad jadrového dozoru Slovenskej republiky (ÚJD) has issued a series of preliminary and final authorisations for the commissioning of the Mochovce nuclear plant unit 3.

These authorisations for commissioning the unit by the nuclear authority were issued despite the fact that severe technical problems at Mochovce unit 3, that were discovered by contractors or third parties or the operator Slovenské elektrárne, were and still are not resolved, due to faulty construction work, non-compliant components, other technical problems or faked documentation.

Over the course of this period, the CEO of the permit holder Slovenské elektrárne, Branislav Strýček, has repeatedly claimed that the project is completed and the reactor ready for fuel loading and commissioning, despite this not being the case.

Date	ÚJD decisions		Deficiencies identified
2018		Czech Nuclear company ČEZ informs Czech Republic Nuclear Regulatory Authority SÚJB that it has discovered non-compliant pipeline components, SÚJB begins checks	
4.– 5.3.2019		Czech Republic Nuclear Regulatory Authority SÚJB informs ÚJD about non-compliance of pipeline components in the contractor chain	
6.5.2019		SE CEO Branislav Strýček on commissioning unit 3: “Our assumption is March 2020, the more optimistic variant is November 2019”. According to him the unit will be ready to load fuel at the beginning of summer 2019.	

Date	ÚJD decisions		Deficiencies identified
18.– 19.6.2019		Czech Republic Nuclear Regulatory Authority SÚJB informs international partner organisations including ÚJD at the 26th Annual Meeting of WWER Regulators Forum about non-compliance of pipeline components in the contractor chain	
18.11.– 5.12.2019		IAEA Pre-OSART mission Mochovce 3, 4	22 deficiencies identified, resulting in 14 recommendations and 8 suggestions
15.2.2020	ÚJD publishes the draft “basis for the decision” “DECISION No. XXX / 2020”	“It is clear from the list of supervised programs that a substantial part of Unit 3 tests have been performed under inactive test conditions. ÚJD SR assumes that as of the date of issue of the <i>envisaged future decision on the case Slovenské elektrárne, a.s.</i> will provide for complete testing”	draft decision issued despite many text passages not finished, large number of tests not completed
18.2.2020		SE CEO Branislav Strýček “in the best case at the beginning of the summer we will be able to load fuel into the third unit, in the worst case it will be at the end of 2020”	
3.3.2020		Raid of National Criminal Agency (NAKA) at the Mochovce site	Several criminal investigations related to corruption, poor quality construction work and forgery of documentation
early 2020		A contractor identifies non-compliant pipeline components during an internal post-assembly inspection	Subsequent audit conducted by the supplier leads Slovenské elektrárne to verify the remaining part of the delivery by this company, under ÚJD supervision

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4.5.2020	ÚJD publishes “Opinion” on the identified exchange of material in components used in the construction	“For the most important components, an inspection of each individual piece will be carried out. For the less important ones, a percentage-based random sample of each delivery will be checked”	
2.9.2020	ÚJD publishes information on the current state of inspections	“ÚJD SR states that the verification of the materials of the piping components installed on the unit 3 has been completed within the originally specified scope, based on the approved methodological procedure. All components classified in the highest safety classes in terms of their impact on nuclear safety have already been inspected.”	
22.1.2021	ÚJD publishes the “Amended/New Draft of the Decision” “DECISION No. xxx / 2021” for Commissioning	“ÚJD SR has performed, using the form of an inspection in Mochovce, continues evaluation of previous revisions of Final Report of Unit 3, performed evaluation of changes in the current revision of Final Report of Unit 3 in comparison with previous revisions and states that the Final Report of Unit 3 is in compliance”	amended draft decision issued despite still not all tests completed
26.1.2021	ÚJD publishes “Preliminary results of quality inspections of pipeline components”	“it remains to complete a relatively small scope of inspections”	
23.4.2021	ÚJD publishes the “Final Report on the evaluation of materials / metallurgical components”	“The process of material inspections and evaluation of the results of these inspections at Unit 3 of Mochovce NPP was completed in April 2021.”	

Date	ÚJD decisions		Deficiencies identified
13.5.2021	ÚJD issues the “First Degree Decision ÚJD 156/2021” authorizing the Commissioning, i.e. actual start-up procedure	“ÚJD SR performed inspections on the basis of suggestions that were gradually sent to it by other state administration authorities. These suggestions concerned the scope of documentation demonstrating compliance with the design's requirements for piping components quality, risk of corrosion of piping materials, storage and installation of signaling and power cables, reliability of emergency diesel generators, integrity of pressurizer electric heaters and some other areas. All these complaints were thoroughly examined and, if they proved to be justified, the necessary corrective actions were taken.”	
13.5.2021		SE CEO Branislav Strýček “Today, the third unit is technically fully operational and we will start loading the first nuclear fuel into the reactor immediately after the permit comes into force.”	
5– 10.9.2021		Follow-up IAEA Pre-OSART mission Mochovce 3, 4 at request of ÚJD	several findings from 2019 mission not implemented, including “improve the promotion of high standards in staff behaviours and plant conditions to ensure personnel safety”, “maintenance work practices”, “coordination and internal communication for planning and execution of commissioning activities”
16.9.2021			During pre-startup tests, corrosion is discovered in the primary circuit, substantial cleaning work has to be performed
September 2021			Several parts of the barriers against a small aircraft impact, that are part of recommendations by the European Commission, are still not installed. This is not challenged by ÚJD.

Date	ÚJD decisions		Deficiencies identified
25.1.2022	<p>ÚJD issues the draft second-degree decision for Commissioning “DECISION No /2022 P” that upholds ÚJD decision No. 156/2021</p>	<p>“Due to the high statistical significance (size) of the set of measured pipe parts by the XRF method (in the second stage of measurements according to MSE (more than 3,400 piping components)), it can be <b>assumed with absolute certainty</b> that other steel grades in the analysis do not need to be considered.” [emphasize added]</p>	