

ENVIRONMENTALISTS TO APPEAL NUCLEAR COURT VERDICT IN LITHUANIA

Vilnius, 14 October 2009 – Greenpeace, the Lithuanian environmental organisation Atgaja, the Latvian Green Movement and CEE Bankwatch announced that they will appeal today's verdict of the Vilnius district administrative court in Lithuania, that approves the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for new nuclear reactors near the towns of Visaginas and Ignalina.

According to the environmental organisations, the court failed to take into account that an Environmental Impact Assessment is meant to justify the impacts from a project. For that, the organisations argued, it has to consider all relevant data to enable a comparison with viable alternatives. The Visaginas EIA did not contain sufficient information on the environmental impacts of nuclear fuel production, nuclear waste or a large accident. It also failed to compare the proposed nuclear plants to any other energy alternatives.

Jan Haverkamp, nuclear energy expert of Greenpeace, reacted: *“This is a disappointing outcome. The court is defending the right of the nuclear industry to conceal the truth from the public about potential risks associated with their proposed projects. We will appeal this decision.”*

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