

population's purchasing power. Depending on the stabilization of the economic and political situation in the country, growing GDP, and government actions increasing household purchasing power, Naftogaz would be able to shift to a market-based approach to pricing and reduce the impact of risk.

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THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT, THE BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER IN THE WORLD

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The Chernobyl disaster is a technogenic environmental and humanitarian disaster caused by two thermal explosions and the subsequent destruction of the fourth unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant located in Ukraine (the former USSR) on the night of April 26, 1986.

The destruction was explosive, the reactor was completely destroyed and a large amount of radioactive substances fell into the environment. Three hundred emissions of Hiroshima occurred. This event and the official reaction to it, demonstrated by Moscow, were one of the reasons for the collapse of the USSR.

The disaster is considered to be the largest in the history of nuclear energy both in terms of the number of victims and losses, as well as economic losses.

A radioactive cloud from the accident flew over the European part of the USSR, a large part of Europe, the eastern part of the USA. Approximately 60% of the radioactive substances have settled in Belarus. About 200,000 people were evacuated from pollution zones.

The Chernobyl accident became an event of great socio-political significance for the USSR and the world. This left a certain imprint on the investigation. The approach to the interpretation of the facts and circumstances of the accident has changed over time. However, there is still no consensus.

Initially, the government tried to hide the scale of the tragedy, but after reports from Sweden, where radioactive particles brought from the eastern part of the USSR were found at the Forsmark nuclear power plant, and estimates of the volume of infection, the evacuation of about 130,000 residents of the Kiev region from contaminated areas began. About 600,000 people, especially the liquidators of the disaster, experienced a radioactive damage. Around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, a 30-kilometer exclusion zone has been created.

The Chernobyl accident caused concern in the West. They feared that the wind would carry radiation dust to their countries. Foreigners, despite all the obstacles, tried to find out the truth of what happened. "For the input and official data obtained in the KGB of the USSR, there were constant attempts by workers of diplomatic and other missions of the United States, France and Canada in Moscow, correspondents and other foreigners to obtain information in connection with the Chernobyl accident", the KGB reported the party's leadership on April 30th, 1986. In another report, July 18th, the head of the KGB states that the Western special services use correspondents accredited in Moscow to collect information about Chernobyl. "Special services of the United States, England, Germany, France and Canada use correspondents accredited in Moscow to collect information. People who come to Kiev as tourists, for example, employees of foreign news agencies, television companies, publishing houses ("BBC", "New York Times", "Zuddochey Zeitung", "Spiegel", "Figaro", "Suar", etc.) tried to get information about measures to eliminate the accident and the mood of the residents, why they visited markets, shops, interviewed Soviet citizens."

Consequences of the accident:

1. An intense fire lasted for 10 days, the total release of radioactive materials into the environment amounted to about 14 ex-becquerels (about 380 million curies).

2. More than 200 thousand square kilometers were exposed to radioactive contamination, 70% of which in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia.

3. The city of Pripyat was evacuated, as well as the population of the 10-kilometer zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. In total, in May 1986, about 116 thousand people were resettled from 188 settlements in the 30-kilometer exclusion zone around the station (according to other sources, about 350 thousand).

Radioactive contamination partially went to other countries. In particular, we are talking about Norway, Finland and Sweden.

The exact number of victims of the accident has not yet been named. The approximate data is about 4 thousand people who died from radiation exposure at the time of the accident. According to Greenpeace, the total death toll from the Chernobyl disaster could be 90 thousand people.

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