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## “NUCLEAR SAFETY IN UKRAINE” – SURVEY

### Ukrainians fear a serious accident at country’s nuclear power plants

The Gorshenin Institute held a telephone public opinion poll regarding nuclear safety in Ukraine on 15 and 16 March 2011. A total of 1,000 respondents aged over 18 were selected randomly in all regional centres of Ukraine, in Kiev and Sevastopol. Quotas were established based on respondents’ age, sex and area of residence. Sample error does not exceed 3.2%.

According to the results of this national survey Gorshenin Institute experts came to the following conclusions:

#### **Most Ukrainians believe nuclear power plants are environmentally unsafe.**

**Thus, 40.8 per cent of those polled believe nuclear power plants are definitely hazardous and 25.4 per cent think they are rather hazardous.** Another 11.3 per cent of the respondents said nuclear power plants are environmentally safe and 15.8 per cent believe the plants are rather safe. A total of 6.7 per cent of those polled gave no answer to the question.

**A total of 70.2 per cent of the polled Ukrainians fear a possible accident at the country’s nuclear power plants. Of that number, 41.8 per cent are definitely afraid of an accident and another 28.4 per cent say they rather fear nuclear accidents.** Meanwhile, 8.1 per cent of the respondents have no fears of this kind of threat at all and 13.2 per cent said they rather have no fear of it. A total of 8.5 per cent of those polled gave no answer to the question.

**More than a half of Ukrainians (54.9 per cent) consider the events at Japanese nuclear power plants may adversely affect their personal health or health of their relatives and friends.** Thus, 32.3 per cent of the respondents say they have fears of the effect on health and another 22.6 per cent say they are rather afraid of the health effect; 15.1 per cent say they rather have no fear and 23.2 per cent of those polled are not afraid of the effect on health at all. A total of 6.8 per cent of those polled gave no answer to the question.

**Most of the respondents believe Ukraine’s energy policy shall be based on utilizing alternative energy sources (38.7 per cent of those polled) and oil and gas deposits located inside the country (28.8 per cent).** Another 17.4 per cent of the respondents indicate their support to the development of the coal mining industry and 13.6 per cent – to hydro stations. It is only 5.2 per cent of the respondents who support construction of new nuclear power plants in Ukraine. A total of 19.6 per cent of those polled gave no answer to the question.

### Appendix

#### **What do you think of environmental safety of the Ukrainian nuclear power plants?**

- Definitely unsafe – 40.8%
- Rather unsafe – 25.4%
- Rather safe – 15.8%
- Definitely safe – 11.3%
- No answer – 6.7%

#### **Do you have fears of a serious accident at one of the Ukrainian nuclear power plants?**

- Definitely yes – 41.8%
- Rather yes – 28.4%
- Rather no – 13.2%
- Definitely no – 8.1%

- No answer – 8.5%

**Are you afraid that the accidents at Japanese nuclear power plants may affect your personal health or health of your relatives and friends?**

- Afraid very much – 32.3%
- Rather afraid – 22.6%
- Rather not afraid – 15.1%
- Not afraid at all – 23.2%
- No answer – 6.8%

**What do you think the Ukrainian energy policy shall be based on?**

*(two answers maximum, please)*

- Development of alternative sources of energy (including alternative fuel) – 38.7%
- Development of local deposits of oil and gas – 28.8%
- Development of coal mining – 17.4%
- Hydro power plants – 13.6%
- Construction of new nuclear power plants – 5.2%
- No answer – 19.6%