

## FANC APPROVES RESTART AND CONTINUED OPERATION OF TIHANGE 3

The Federal Agency for Nuclear Control (FANC) gives its green light for the restart of nuclear reactor Tihange 3. After a thorough analysis, the FANC and its technical subsidiary Bel V determined that the reactor meets the conditions for safe restart. Tihange 3 will be restarted in the coming days, according to operator Electrabel's schedule.

The restart follows a maintenance period, which was part of preparations for the continued operation of Tihange 3 until 2035. That extension came after a political decision to deviate from the planned nuclear phase-out to address concerns about our country's energy supply.

### Action plan for enhanced safety

Electrabel was required to submit a comprehensive "Long Term Operation (LTO) dossier" for continued operation, including safety studies and an action plan to further enhance the safety of the youngest reactors. That dossier was submitted in December 2024 for both Doel 4 and Tihange 3. Intensive consultations between FANC and Electrabel had already taken place in recent years, which meant that the proposed action plan already largely met [FANC's expectations](#).

FANC made a thorough analysis of the LTO files for Tihange 3 and Doel 4 in the first half of 2025 and delivered the results to Electrabel in June. In doing so, FANC requested some additional adjustments to the action plan, including additional studies, clarification of certain action points and accelerated implementation of some planned actions. For Tihange 3, the action plan has since been completed and approved.

### Implementation of the Tihange 3 action plan

Tihange 3 was shut down on 5 April 2025 for a so-called "LTO review", a comprehensive monitoring and maintenance period aimed at ensuring the safe long-term operation of the reactor. During that review, part of the action plan was already implemented (e.g. testing, inspections and the preventive replacement of obsolete components).

The FANC and Bel V monitored that work and verified that the reactor meets nuclear safety expectations. After a positive assessment, the FANC yesterday granted permission for the restart. The remaining measures from the action plan will be completed within a three-year period, by September 2028 at the latest. The FANC and Bel V will continue to closely monitor the implementation.

## Current situation for Doel 4

Nuclear reactor Doel 4 is also currently being prepared for continued operation. The reactor was shut down on 30 June 2025 for its LTO review. A restart, as with Tihange 3, requires approval of the action plan and a positive assessment of the actions carried out. The restart of Doel 4 is scheduled by 1 November 2025 at the latest.

## Possible further extension beyond 2035

FANC points out that the preparation for further operation was done under great time pressure, due to late political decisions. This time pressure poses a risk to the optimal preparation of nuclear facilities.

FANC therefore calls for clarity during this legislature on a possible extension of the operation of Doel 4 and Tihange 3 beyond 2035. This would allow the necessary safety analyses and preparatory steps to be started in time.

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