

SERR 2018: SOGIN ILLUSTRATES THE "NEW LIFE" OF THE MATERIALS PRODUCED BY THE DISMANTLING OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

96% of the iron, copper and plastic making up the rotor and the turbine alternator of the Garigliano nuclear power plant have been recovered for recycling

Sessa Aurunca, 22nd november 2018 – Circular economy for nuclear decommissioning was the theme of the event that took place last Tuesday at the Garigliano (Caserta) Nuclear Power Plant. The meeting has been organized by Sogin on the occasion of the X edition of the European Week for Waste Reduction (SERR). The purpose was to illustrate how the decommissioning of nuclear installations can be engineered and accomplished in order to allow recovery and recycling of the resulting materials.

The meeting started with a speech of Sogin's CEO, Luca Desiata, who described the strategy implemented for reducing the environmental impact of nuclear decommissioning, which is based on three guidelines: minimization of the amount of radioactive waste; separation, reuse and recycling of materials and implementation of policies aimed at improving the environmental performance.

An example of this sustainable approach is provided by the recovery and reuse of the materials resulting from the dismantling of the rotor and the turbine alternator of the Garigliano plant.

All the material derived from the dismantling of rotor and alternator will be moved from the site. 96% of the 400 tons dismantled will be transferred to recovery and processing centers, for instance to metal foundries, in order to be returned to the production cycle.

These activities, started in 2016, are a part of the program for dismantling the turbine, which is the heaviest thermal cycle component of the Garigliano plant with a total weight of 1,800 tons.

"Sogin joins the European Week for Waste Reduction – said Luca Desiata, CEO of Sogin – with the aim of enhancing its commitment to reduce the environmental impact of nuclear plants decommissioning. In the collective imagination these activities are often associated with the sole production of radioactive waste. As in the case of the Garigliano turbine, most of the dismantled material is recovered and recycled. An example of circular economy – Desiata concluded - that Sogin is integrating in the planning of all the decommissioning activities".