

PRESS RELEASE

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LATINA, SOGIN COMPLETES THE DISMANTLING OF THE BOILER SHIELDS OF THE REACTOR BUILDING

Latina, 20 October 2020 – Sogin has completed today the demolition of the shields of the steam generators (boilers) of the Latina nuclear power plant reactor building. This activity, which actually started the reactor building dismantling, concludes an important step for the decommissioning of the plant.

The shields were the six reinforced concrete structures that insulated from the outside the upper pipes, which connected the six boilers to the reactor building. Each shield was made up of two parts: an upper horizontal element, connected to the reactor building, weighing about 145 tons and a lower vertical element, coming out of the boilers, weighing about 50 tons.

For their removal, Sogin adopted a controlled demolition technique which involved cutting, by means of a diamond disc, at about 50 meters above the ground. Once cut, each block, weighing approximately 2 tons, was moved to the ground by a specially installed tower crane. Afterwards, the individual blocks have been transferred to an equipped area, in order to separate the iron from the concrete.

This engineering solution ensured maximum safety in the execution of the works and a minimal impact for the structures.

The activity produced a total of approximately 1,200 tons of material which, after appropriate radiometric checks, will be removed from the site and sent for recovery, as a part of the circular economy strategy pursued by Sogin.

The whole dismantling of the Latina plant will produce approximately 319 thousend tons of materials. Most of these, approximately 297 thousand tons (93%), mostly composed of metal and concrete, will be sent for recovery.

The Latina nuclear power plant, with a GCR-Magnox graphite gas reactor, was the first to be built in Italy and belongs to the first generation of nuclear plants. Built by Eni in early 1958, it began to produce energy after just 5 years, in May 1963, with an electric power of 210 MWe which made it, at the time of entry into operation, the bigger nuclear power plant in Europe. It was stopped in 1987 after the referendum. In its life it has produced a total of 26 billion kWh of electricity.