SLOVAKIA

Fifth reactor added to nuclear fleet

The Unit 3 reactor at Slovakia's Mochovce nuclear power facility has completed the commissioning process, becoming a fullfledged member of the country's nuclear fleet, plant owner Slovenské Elektrárne announced in October.

The reactor finished a 144-hour demonstration run at full power on October 14. According to the utility, the six-day operation demonstrated compliance with the design parameters of the new unit and proved that it is capable of safe operation.



Slovakia's Mochovce nuclear plant, located about 62 miles east of Bratislava, the nation's capital. (Photo: Slovenské Elektrárne)

Slovenské Elektrárne began the 440-MWe reactor's first fuel load in September of last year—after receiving the previous month a final authorization for commissioning from the Slovak Nuclear Regulatory Authority and completed the job three days later. Initial criticality was achieved last October, and the unit was connected to the grid this January. Mochovce-3 should cover nearly 13 percent of the total electricity consumption in Slovakia and prevent the release of some 5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, Slovenské Elektrárne said.

With the unit now on line, the Mochovce plant can boast three VVER-440/V213 reactors in operation, with Unit 4 still to come in 2025. Mochovce-1 and -2, also VVER-440/ V213 reactors, have been in operation since 1998 and 2000, respectively. Slovakia's other nuclear plant, Bohunice, operates a pair of VVER-440/V213s as well.

"The third unit is an important pillar of our efforts to ensure a stable and secure electricity supply to Slovakia," said Branislav Strýček, chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer of Slovenské Elektrárne.

