



MEDIA RELEASE

**National Nuclear Regulator PO Box 7106, Centurion 0046
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12 January 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nuclear Vessel Licence granted after enforcement of safety regulatory requirements by the National Nuclear Regulator, Centurion (12 January 2009) –

The National Nuclear Regulator has granted a Nuclear Vessel Licence - NVL 005 - to the South African Navy who made the application on behalf of the Russian Federation Navy for the nuclear propelled military vessel Pyotr Veliky to enter the port of Cape Town from 12 - 15 January 2009.

“This is a great example of how seriously the National Nuclear Regulator views nuclear licence applications relating to nuclear propelled vessels visiting South Africa, “ said Guy Clapison, acting Chief Executive Officer of the National Nuclear Regulator.” In this case, we believe our expertise in assessing the nuclear vessel licences and our commitment to enforcement of Nuclear Safety has assisted us to make the right decision.”



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The National Nuclear Regulator received an application from the South African Navy office on 04 December 2008 for a Nuclear Vessel Licence for the Russian Nuclear Powered military vessel Pyotr Veliky to enter the Cape Town harbour from 9-15 January 2009. The licence application was assessed and a finding of non compliance to some NNR regulatory requirements in terms of the section 21 of the National Nuclear Regulator Act (Act No 47 of 1999) was established. As a result of this the National Nuclear Regulator issued a letter of refusal to grant the licence to the SA Navy on 02 January 2009.

The following issues were identified as outstanding in the application received on 05 December 2008;

- 1) The publication of the application in the Government Gazette was made on 12 December 2008 therefore the 30 days period for the public to make representations , as required by Section 21(4) of the NNR Act, will extend beyond the requested timeframes dictated by the date for entry of the vessel on 9 January 2009.



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- 2) A certified Safety Assessment in connection with the docking of the vessel in South African territorial waters had not been provided by an independent Russian regulatory Authority as required by the procedure provided to the SA Navy;
- 3) The statement in the diplomatic note dealing with the strict liability for any nuclear damage, as required by the National Nuclear Regulator Act No. 47 of 1999, did not meet the provisions of the legislation;
- 4) The application had not been supplemented with a comprehensive Emergency Plan in the event of a nuclear accident ;

Subsequently, the South African Navy in conjunction with the Russian Federation Navy submitted documentation in response to the abovementioned issues to the National Nuclear Regulator on 09 January 2009.



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The additional documentation presented was reviewed and the National Nuclear Regulator was satisfied that the application was in compliance with the requirements of the National Nuclear Regulator. Furthermore, the National Nuclear Regulator did not receive any public representations which could impact on the decision to grant the Nuclear Vessel Licence to the applicant.

Therefore the Nuclear Vessel Licence - NVL 005 – was granted today to the South African Navy on behalf of the Russian Federation Navy for the nuclear propelled military vessel Pyotr Veliky to visit the port of Cape Town from 12 - 15 January 2009.

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More about the National Nuclear Regulator

The National Nuclear Regulator is a Public entity and is governed by legislation, in particular the National Nuclear Regulator Act. No. 47 of 1999, South Africa.

Since its inception in 2000 the National Nuclear Regulator continues to evolve and grow as a world class entity responsible for developing and enforcing safety standards and regulatory practices for the safe use and handling of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Vision

To be a leading impartial authority for the regulation of the safe use and handling of nuclear and radioactive materials.

Mission

To provide an effective and efficient national regulatory framework for the protection of persons, property and the environment against nuclear damage through:

- Application of safety standards and regulatory practices and;
- Human resources and transformation practices best suited to the nuclear regulatory needs of the nation.

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