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Opinion of the nature conservation authority on the **“New SMR Power Plant at the Temelín site - update”** project

The South Bohemian Regional Authority, Department of the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (hereinafter the “Regional Authority”), as the competent administrative authority pursuant to Section 67(1)(g) of Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on Regions (Establishment of Regions), as amended, and pursuant to Section 77a(4)(o) of Act No. 114/1992 Coll., on Nature and Landscape Protection, as amended (hereinafter the “Act”), having assessed the **“New SMR Power Plant at the Temelín site – update”** project in response to the application received on July 31, 2026, submitted by ČEZ, a.s., Duhová 1444/2, 140 53 Praha 4, Company ID 45274649, represented by Ing. Silvana Jirotková, Director of the SMR Development Strategy Department (hereinafter the “applicant”), hereby issues the following opinion pursuant to Section 45i(1) of the Act:

The above project **cannot, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, have a significant effect** on the qualifying features or integrity of any Sites of Community Importance or Special Protection Areas within the jurisdiction of the South Bohemian Regional Authority.

Justification:

The project comprises the construction and operation of a new SMR NPP at the Temelín site, consisting of one generating unit together with the associated structures and technology systems used to generate and evacuate electricity and to ensure the safe operation of the nuclear facility. The project is located south of the existing Temelín NPP.

A “Natura 2000 Screening Report” prepared by Mgr. Vladimír Melichar in June 2026 was submitted for the project. The document was prepared as a specialist supporting document for the EIA Documentation and is based on current project design documents, the project notification, site plans, expert documentation concerning Natura 2000 sites, field surveys conducted in 2024–2026, and data from the Nature Conservation Species Occurrence Database.

On October 29, 2024, the Regional Authority had already issued Opinion Ref. No. KUJCK 126556/2024 pursuant to Section 45i(1) of the Act for the “New SMR Power Plant at the Temelín site” project, ruling out any significant effect of the project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, on the favorable conservation status of the qualifying features or the integrity of Sites of Community Importance and Special Protection Areas within the Regional Authority's jurisdiction.

The project has now been updated, and new documentation has been submitted to the Regional Authority in order to reflect the project's current design and examine its potential effects on Natura 2000 sites. Compared with the documentation on which the Regional Authority's 2024 opinion was based, the technical design and parameters of the project and its associated structures and infrastructure have in particular been updated and specified in greater detail.

Compared with the previous documentation, the anticipated long-term concurrent operation of SMR ETE with the existing Units 1 and 2 of Temelín NPP and the planned New NPP ETE has also been specified in greater detail. The implementation option assumes the concurrent operation of the 500 MWe SMR ETE, the $2 \times 1,700$ MWe New NPP ETE, and the existing $2 \times 1,086$ MWe Units 1 and 2 of Temelín NPP.

The updated documentation also assesses the project's potential indirect and long-range effects in greater detail, particularly in relation to the water regime, wastewater and stormwater discharges, radiological effects, and landscape permeability. In view of the current project design and the results of field surveys, the potential impact on large-mammal habitat in the northern part of the area of interest and the associated potential effect on the Eurasian lynx were also assessed in greater detail.

The potential effect on the greylag goose, a qualifying feature of the Českobudějovické rybníky SPA, was also examined in greater detail because the 2025 field survey confirmed that the species used the construction facility area. In this context, the potential risk of collision with conductors and ground wires in the power evacuation corridor was also assessed.

With respect to the Natura 2000 network, the updated documentation assessed the project's potential direct, indirect, and long-range effects, including potential cumulative effects arising from the project's concurrent operation with other nuclear power plants at the Temelín site.

Based on the available documentation, the assessment examined which qualifying features could be affected by the project in the following Sites of Community Importance (hereinafter "SCIs"): SCI CZ0313106 Lužnice and Nežárka, SCI CZ0310020 Velký and Malý Kamýk, SCI CZ0314126 Hlubocké obory, SCI CZ0310019 Zelendárky, SCI CZ0313116 Radomilická mokřina, and SCI CZ0310629 Blana; and Special Protection Areas (hereinafter "SPAs"): SPA CZ0311037 Českobudějovické rybníky and SPA CZ0311036 Hlubocké obory. The assessment also covered the habitat of specially protected large-mammal species relevant to SCI CZ0314124 Blanský les, SCI CZ0314123 Boletice, and SCI CZ0314024 Šumava. Particular consideration was given to the nature of the project; all its effects, inputs, and outputs; and, in particular, the presence of qualifying features at the project site and any potential impact on migration potential.

Lužnice and Nežárka SCI

The SCI is approximately 4 km from the northern boundary of the project site. A project output relevant to aquatic ecosystems is the discharge of wastewater, which will, however, be discharged into the Vltava River rather than the Lužnice or Nežárka River. The hermit beetle (*Osmoderma eremita*) is a saproxylic beetle associated with old, sun-exposed deciduous trees, while the European weatherfish (*Misgurnus fossilis*), thick-shelled river mussel (*Unio crassus*), and Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*) are species associated with aquatic habitats. Given the nature of the project, the wastewater-management method, and the distance between the project and the SCI, no effects on the qualifying features of this SCI are expected.

Velký and Malý Kamýk SCI

The SCI is approximately 4.6 km from the northwestern boundary of the project site. Its qualifying feature is natural habitat type 9110, *Luzulo-Fagetum* beech forests. Given the nature and location of the project and its distance from the SCI, no potentially significant effect that could affect this habitat was identified.

Hlubocké obory SCI

The qualifying features of Hlubocké obory SCI comprise insect species of Community interest associated primarily with old wood and deciduous forests, together with green shield-moss (*Dicranum viride*). Given the ecological requirements of these species, the nature of the project, and the distance of approximately 6 km from the project, no potentially significant effect that could affect the qualifying features of this SCI was identified.

Zelendárky SCI

Zelendárky SCI consists of a system of 10 fishponds. Given the nature of the project and the distance of approximately 6.7 km from the project, no potentially significant effect that could affect the aquatic habitats and qualifying features of this SCI was identified.

Radomilická mokřina SCI

The qualifying feature of Radomilická mokřina SCI is the European fire-bellied toad (*Bombina bombina*) and its habitat. Given the nature of the project and the distance of approximately 7.3 km from the project, no potentially significant effect that could affect the qualifying feature of this SCI was identified.

Blana SCI

Blana SCI comprises valuable aquatic and wetland habitats formed in depressions left by clay extraction. Given the nature of the project and the distance of approximately 8.4 km from the project, no potentially significant effect that could affect the qualifying features of this SCI was identified.

Blanský les SCI, Boletice SCI, and Šumava SCI

For these SCIs, the assessment focused primarily on the potential impact on landscape permeability for large mammals. One of the qualifying features of the affected SCIs is the Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*). The project area forms part of this species' range, and habitat of specially protected large-mammal species passes through the northern part of the project area, specifically Area F2.

If this area were used during the construction of SMR ETE, its habitat function could be restricted and landscape permeability for large mammals could be affected. For this reason, the potential effect on the Eurasian lynx was assessed in particular. Given their distance from the project and the nature of the potential effects, effects on the other qualifying features of these SCIs are not expected.

For the Eurasian lynx, the assessment focused primarily on the potential effect of the project on landscape permeability and on any restriction of large-mammal movement resulting from changes in land use and the presence of new construction and operating structures. The updated screening identifies only a minor adverse effect. Given the extent and nature of the anticipated impact, however, no risk of a significant effect on the populations of these species or of significant impairment of the integrity of the affected Natura 2000 sites was identified.

Českokobudějovické rybníky SPA

One of the qualifying features of the Českokobudějovické rybníky SPA is the greylag goose (*Anser anser*). Greylag geese disperse into the surrounding area to forage, often traveling considerable distances. Use of the project area for grazing and resting was confirmed by the 2025 field survey, when a flock of geese was observed directly in construction facility Area H.

Individual birds may collide with conductors and ground wires in the SMR ETE power evacuation corridor. Although the planned power evacuation route runs alongside an existing line, collisions cannot be ruled out entirely. According to the assessment, however, no regular migration route was identified, and the anticipated increase in collision risk does not constitute a significant effect on the greylag goose population or the integrity of the SPA.

Hlubocké obory SPA

The qualifying features of Hlubocké obory SPA are the populations of the middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*) and collared flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*), together with their habitats.

Given the biology of both species, the nature of the project, and the SPA's distance from the project of approximately 6 km, no potentially significant effect that could affect the qualifying features of this SPA was identified.

In terms of potential effects on the Natura 2000 network, the updated screening therefore identified SCI CZ0314124 Blanský les, SCI CZ0314123 Boletice, and SCI CZ0314024 Šumava as potentially affected, in particular due to the potential impact on landscape permeability for large mammals. For SPA CZ0311037 Českobudějovické rybníky, the greylag goose was identified as a potentially affected qualifying feature. No potentially significant effect of the project was identified for the other sites and qualifying features assessed.

The “New Nuclear Power Plant at the Temelín site” project received a favorable EIA opinion, Ref. Nos. 2561/ENV/13 and 2562/ENV/13, dated January 18, 2013 (hereinafter also the “EIA opinion”). Its validity was extended in 2020 under Ref. No. MZP/2019/10/10492, and an application for a further extension is currently pending.

With respect to the potential for significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, the South Bohemian Regional Authority, Department of the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, issued Opinions Ref. No. KUJCK 21514/2008 OZZL/2-Tr dated July 10, 2008, and Ref. No. KUJCK 118314/2019 dated September 18, 2019, for the project. Both opinions ruled out any significant effect of the project on the favorable conservation status of the qualifying features or the integrity of Sites of Community Importance and Special Protection Areas.

The Regional Authority subsequently issued Opinion Ref. No. KUJCK 126556/2024 for the project on October 29, 2024, likewise ruling out any significant effect of the project, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, on the favorable conservation status of the qualifying features or the integrity of Sites of Community Importance and Special Protection Areas within the Regional Authority's jurisdiction. The currently submitted Natura 2000 Screening Report also refers to this opinion.

The currently submitted project follows on from the previously assessed project design, and its update consists primarily of refining the design solution, technical parameters, and associated infrastructure, and updating the expert documentation and site data. The updated screening also examined potential indirect and long-range effects in greater detail and took account of the results of more recent field surveys, particularly in relation to large mammals and the greylag goose.

Even after considering the project's updated parameters, the anticipated concurrent construction and operation of the project with the existing and planned nuclear power plants at the Temelín site, and the results of current field surveys, no effect was identified that could significantly affect the qualifying features or integrity of Natura 2000 sites. Potential effects on the Eurasian lynx and greylag goose were assessed as minor adverse effects; however, given their nature, extent, and intensity, they do not pose a risk of a significant effect on the populations of these species or a significant effect on the integrity of the affected sites. No potentially significant effect was identified for any of the other qualifying features assessed.

Based on the submitted application, the current project design documents, and the submitted Natura 2000 Screening Report, and having regard to the nature and location of the project, the ecological requirements of the qualifying features of the affected sites, and the potential for separate and cumulative effects, the Regional Authority concluded that the “New SMR Power Plant at the Temelín site - update” project cannot, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, have a significant effect on the qualifying features or integrity of any Sites of Community Importance or Special Protection Areas within the jurisdiction of the South Bohemian Regional Authority.

In view of the above, the nature conservation authority has ruled out any significant effect of the project on the favorable conservation status of the qualifying features or the integrity of Sites of Community Importance and Special Protection Areas within the jurisdiction of the South Bohemian Regional Authority.

Ing. Milan Vlášek
head of unit

Electronic signature: August 14, 2026
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Valid until: October 29, 2028, 08:58 +01:00