Dear Mr. Likhachev,

We write to you today to ensure that you take all possible actions to prevent the world’s first purpose built floating nuclear power plant, the Akademik Lomonosov, failing to fulfil basic standards of nuclear safety and environmental sustainability.

Today, the Akademik Lomonosov will be towed into the port of Murmansk. It’s arrival will be celebrated by Rosatom in a public ceremony on the 19th of May. It is to be loaded with fuel and tested in Murmansk, before it will start it’s voyage next year to the port of Pevek in Chukotka, where it is to operate for 12 years. After this operation cycle, it is to be returned to Murmansk for refuelling and maintenance for a next cycle of operation.

Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe, Greenpeace Nordic, the Socio-Ecological Union and Ecodefense have been following the development of the Akademik Lomonosov with great concern. We welcomed the recent decision not to load and test the barge’s two nuclear reactors in St. Petersburg, but this decision only shifted our concerns in time and space, it did not alleviate them.

In order to prevent the Akademik Lomonosov failing to fulfil basic standards of nuclear safety and environmental sustainability, we ask you as CEO of Rosatom, as well as the acting Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, the Chairperson of Rostechnadzor, and the Arctic Council, to facilitate the following:
1. A full and unrestricted regulatory oversight by the Russian nuclear regulator Rostechnadzor with peer-review by the nuclear regulators from other Arctic countries before the reactors of the Akademik Lomonosov will be loaded with fuel and tested, as well as during these operations, the further transport to and from Pevek, its operation, its decommissioning and its waste management.

2. A transboundary Arctic Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before the reactors of the Akademik Lomonosov will be loaded with fuel and tested, concerning these operations, the further transport to and from Pevek, its operation, its decommissioning and its waste management.

We ask you respectfully to do everything in your possibilities to have these conditions fulfilled. Indeed, in order to meet the concerns of many people living in the countries around the Arctic and Europe, we ask you not to start loading and testing before these conditions are met. The pristine nature of the Arctic and the health of all involved workers and Arctic inhabitants demand nothing less than adherence to the highest standards of nuclear safety and environmental sustainability.

Remaining available for further discussion,

Sincerely,

Ir. Jan Haverkamp
expert consultant nuclear energy and energy policy
Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe

Vitaly Servetnik
co-chair
Russia-wide public organisation “Social Ecological Union” / Friends of the Earth Russia

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