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Major irregularity detected at EDF's Gravelines 5 reactor - EDF executive

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PARIS Oct 25 (Reuters) - A major irregularity was detected during the remounting of a steam generator on EDF's 900 MW Gravelines 5 nuclear reactor, a top EDF official told parliament on Tuesday.

EDF Vice President for Nuclear and Thermal Dominique Miniere said that following questions over irregularities at Areva's Creusot plant which have led to several investigations, EDF decided to reexamine the manufacturing and control file on the steam generator that was about to be remounted on Gravelines 5 reactor during the summer following a scheduled maintenance.

"The reexamination showed a major irregularity whose origins were unacceptable," Miniere said.

He added that as the generator was not mounted, the reactor was still on halt while EDF is waiting for the first of a series of new series steam generators that were ordered for another reactor but will be used in Gravelines.

The Gravelines 5 reactor has been halted since April. 9 and was expected to restart production on March 31, 2017. Miniere did not give a new time schedule. (Reporting by Bate Felix ; Editing by Geert De Clercq)