



International Atomic Energy Agency

# INFORMATION CIRCULAR

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## **COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONCERNING ITS POLICIES REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF PLUTONIUM**

1. The Secretariat has received a letter dated 9 May 2002 from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the IAEA in which the Government of the United States in keeping with its commitment under the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998 and hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines"), and in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines, makes available an annual statement of its national holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel, as of 31 December 2000.

2. In the light of the request expressed by the United States in its note verbale of 1 December 1997, concerning its policies regarding the management of plutonium (INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998), the texts of the enclosure of the letter of 9 May 2002 are attached for the information of all Member States.

**ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS  
OF CIVIL UNIRRADIATED PLUTONIUM**

**(Annex B, International Plutonium Management Guidelines)**

National Totals

As of 31 December 2000  
[Previous year's figures in brackets]  
Rounded to 100 kg plutonium  
Quantities <50kg reported as such

1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	<u>0</u>	[ <u>0</u> ]
2. Unirradiated separated plutonium in the course of manufacture or fabrication and plutonium contained in unirradiated semi-fabricated or unfinished products at fuel or other fabricating plants or elsewhere.	<u>&lt;0.05 MT</u>	[ <u>&lt;0.05 MT</u> ]
3. Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere.	<u>4.6 MT</u>	[ <u>4.6 MT</u> ]
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.	<u>40.4 MT</u>	[ <u>40.4 MT</u> ]
(i) Plutonium in lines 1-4 belonging to foreign bodies.	<u>0</u>	[ <u>0</u> ]
(ii) Plutonium in lines 1-4 held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above.	<u>0</u>	[ <u>0</u> ]
(iii) Plutonium in lines 1-4 which is in international shipment prior to its arrival in the recipient State.	<u>0</u>	[ <u>0</u> ]

Note:

Lines 3 and 4 together list 45 metric tons of separated plutonium that has been declared as excess to national security needs. This, in addition to 7.5 metric tons of the plutonium included on line 3 of Annex C below, constitute the total of 52.5 metric tons of government owned plutonium that the United States has declared as excess to national security needs.

**ESTIMATED AMOUNTS OF PLUTONIUM  
CONTAINED IN SPENT CIVIL REACTOR FUEL**

**(Annex C, International Plutonium Management Guidelines)**

National Totals

As of 31 December 2000  
[Previous year's figures in brackets]  
Rounded to 1000 kg plutonium  
Quantities <500kg reported as such

1. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites.	<u>343 MT</u>	[ <u>319 MT</u> ]
2. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants.	<u>0</u>	[ <u>0</u> ]
3. Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere.	<u>12 MT</u>	[ <u>15 MT</u> ]

Notes:

Correction: previously, materials reported in line 3 were estimated at 15 metric tons. It has been subsequently determined that certain materials were counted twice because of overlaps between two data sources. That error has been corrected in this report and the reduction in estimated material in line 3 does not reflect an actual change in material inventory.

Line 3 includes 7.5 metric tons of government owned plutonium estimated to be remaining in spent fuel that has been declared as excess to national security needs. This, in addition to 45 metric tons of separated plutonium reported in lines 3 and 4 in Annex B above, constitute the total of 52.5 metric tons of government owned plutonium that the United States has declared as excess to national security needs.