



International Atomic Energy Agency
INFORMATION CIRCULAR

(Unofficial electronic edition)

INF

INFCIRC/549/Add.9
11 November 1998

GENERAL Distr.
ENGLISH¹
Original: RUSSIAN

**Communication Received from Certain Member States
Concerning their Policies Regarding
the Management of Plutonium**

1. The Director General has received a letter, dated 11 September 1998, from Mr. M. Ryzhov, Governor of the Russian Federation in the IAEA Board of Governors, Director of the Department of International Relations of the Ministry of Atomic Energy of the Russian Federation. In keeping with Russia's commitment under the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998 and hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines"), the government of the Russian Federation, in the enclosure of the letter by Mr. Ryzhov of 11 September 1998, in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines, makes available preliminary information on its national holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and estimated quantities of plutonium contained in spent fuel from civil reactors, as at 1 July 1996. In the enclosure of the same letter, the Russian Federation, in accordance with its commitment under the Guidelines, makes available a statement relating to its national strategy in the area of nuclear energy and the nuclear fuel cycle in the Russian Federation.

2. In light of the request expressed by Russia 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 enclosures of the letter of 11 September 1998 are attached for the information of all Member States.

¹ An English translation of the texts has been provided by the Russian Federation

ANNEX B

Annual Figures for Holdings of Civil Unirradiated Plutonium

Totals for the country

As at 1 July 1996

1.	Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	27 200 kg
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.	included in para. 1 total
3.	Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere*.	64 kg
4.	Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere**.	870 kg

* Plutonium in unirradiated MOX fuel at research reactor sites

** Separated plutonium used for research purposes critical assemblies, fuel for research reactors, etc.

ANNEX C

Estimated Amounts of Plutonium Contained in Spent from Civil Reactors

As at 1 July 1996

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites. | up to 40 tonnes |
| 2. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants. | up to 30 tonnes |
| 3. Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere. | included in para. 1 total |

Strategy for the Use of Plutonium Stocks and the Establishment of a Suitable Fuel Cycle in the Russian Federation

Overall strategy for plutonium use

In developing its plutonium management strategy, Russia is proceeding from the following main assumptions:

1. Plutonium, as a nuclear material, has unique energy potential, is nationally owned, and can be put to maximum effective use under Russia's national energy strategy;
2. The ultimate strategic goal is to make full use of plutonium's energy potential, with unused waste and residues being converted to a state that makes their subsequent use for military purposes impossible and ensures their secure ecological isolation.
3. Once approved, plans for plutonium utilization must be implemented in a manner which ensures that it is stored, transported and handled in accordance with the highest national and international standards with respect to nuclear safety, ecology, physical protection, accounting and control.

Russia's national fuel management strategy is to make maximum effective use of its plutonium through the development of appropriate plant and technology, while observing the established international and national safety, non-proliferation and environmental safety standards. Russia's strategy provides for the possibility of collaboration with foreign partners/countries on the basis of all the commitments undertaken under the relevant agreements.

Overall fuel cycle strategy

Russia's nuclear fuel strategy is based on the concept of a closed fuel cycle and the establishment of corresponding production capacity and technology.

Individual components of a closed fuel cycle already exist (spent fuel reprocessing for various types of reactor), but others require specific research and considerable capital investment.

Russia is participating in bi- and multilateral international co-operation on problems of plutonium utilization, in order to take full account of international thinking on the matter and of the experience gained in solving the attendant problems.

Material excess to defence requirements

As announced by the President of Russia (G-8 meeting in Moscow, April 1996), up to 50 tonnes of plutonium released from military stocks in fulfilment of strategic offensive arms limitation treaties will be removed completely from the military sector and placed in special storage at the "Mayak" site. Russia has expressed its willingness to place this material under international control in the framework of the Tripartite Initiative, once suitable arrangements have been made and the control procedures agreed.

Use of excess plutonium

The handling of plutonium excess to defence needs will be carried out in the framework of the overall strategy for the use of plutonium as an energy resource. This achieves two objectives - irreversible conversion of the plutonium to a state preventing its return to the military sector and full utilization of the energy potential of the military plutonium.

The use of excess military plutonium in the form of MOX fuel will provide a natural means of including it in the overall nuclear power fuel cycle. The problems of industrial MOX fuel fabrication are currently being resolved both in national programmes and in the framework of international co-operation.

Complete plutonium inventory

In accordance with the Guidelines on the management of Plutonium, Russia is providing notification of the total amount of civil plutonium, either in separated and fresh form (Annex B) or in the form of irradiated fuel from nuclear power plants and research reactors (Annex C).