

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication dated 28 June 2023 received from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. The Secretariat has received a Note Verbale dated 28 June 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



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The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to communicate the information about the actions of the Russian occupiers at the Ukrainian Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant during 23 May – 26 June 2023.

On 6 June 2023, at 02:50 a.m. (EET), as a result of detonation from inside of the machine room of the Kakhovska HPP by the Russian occupiers, the dam of the hydroelectric power station was completely destroyed. The plant itself cannot be restored.

The consequence of these actions was a rapid drop in the water level in the Kakhovka reservoir, which poses an additional threat to the temporarily occupied Zaporizhzhia NPP in terms of feeding splash pools and the plant's cooling pond.

In addition, the loss of the main design power source effectively blocks the ability of the plant to operate at capacity.

Due to the impossibility of eliminating the identified violations of nuclear and radiation safety requirements, on 8 June 2023, the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine issued an order to limit the operation of power unit No. 5 of the Zaporizhzhia NPP to a “cold shutdown” reactor state. Currently, the Russian occupiers do not allow the Ukrainian personnel of the Zaporizhzhia NPP to fulfil the specified order.

As of 08:00 a.m. (EET) on 26 June 2023, a slight decrease in the water level in the cooling pond was recorded. At present, it is 16.58 meters. This is enough to meet the needs of the plant. In addition, there are other sources of feeding the cooling pond: mobile pumping units that can be deployed as needed, as well as the possible use of underground wells.

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

According to the estimates of SE “NNEGC “Energoatom”, the risk of large-scale sabotage or terrorist acts by the Russian occupiers at the plant remains high: along with the mining by the Russian occupiers of the perimeter of the plant and the coastal part where it joins the Kakhovka reservoir, which occurred in August 2022, there is a possibility that the Russian occupiers also recently mined the shut-off valve that blocks the flow of water from the cooling pond to the reservoir. If it is blown up, the water in the pond will remain at its lower level of 12.8 meters.

In addition, the situation with the actual mining of the engine rooms of the first, second and fourth power units of the Zaporizhzhia NPP, where the Russian occupiers have placed several dozen units of military equipment with ammunition and explosives, remains extremely threatening.

Of a particular danger is the probability of detonation of Russian explosives in the immediate vicinity of the large volumes of lubricant and hydrogen stored there and the working equipment of power units, which can lead to the destruction of supporting structures and coatings in a matter of minutes, as well as large-scale destruction of engine rooms of power units and possible spread of fire in the reactor compartment. In addition, there is a high risk of Russia committing a terrorist act using nuclear materials stored at the Zaporizhzhia NPP site.

The Russian occupiers continue to increase the pressure on the Ukrainian personnel of the Zaporizhzhia NPP and do not allow workers of regular shifts, who are scheduled to inspect the power units every week, to enter the controlled territory of the plant. Those workers who tried to fulfil their duty were attacked and injured.

Also, the Russian occupiers have significantly stepped up the search for those Ukrainian employees of the plant who refuse to cooperate and sign contracts with Rosatom. The Russian occupiers resort to intimidation, search the private residences of plant employees, forbid them to contact anyone in the regions under Ukraine’s control, and threaten to confiscate property.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to promptly circulate this Note Verbale as Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 28 June 2023