

Information Circular

INFCIRC/1225

Date: 1 July 2024

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 28 June 2024, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale 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.



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations
in Vienna

Wallnerstrasse 4,
1010, Vienna,
Republic of Austria

(+431) 479 7172,
pm_io@mfa.gov.ua

№4131/35-197- 88528

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 following.

On 02 March 2022, at the meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors, convened to address the safety, security and safeguards implications of the situation in Ukraine, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi outlined seven indispensable pillars of nuclear safety and security. The Seven Pillars are as follows:

1. The physical integrity of the facilities – whether reactors, fuel ponds, or radioactive waste stores – must be maintained.
2. All safety and security systems and equipment must be fully functional at all times.
3. The operating staff must be able to fulfil their safety and security duties and have the capacity to make decisions free of undue pressure.
4. There must be a secure off-site power supply from the grid for all nuclear sites.
5. There must be uninterrupted logistical supply chains and transportation to and from the sites.
6. There must be effective on-site and off-site radiation monitoring systems and emergency preparedness and response measures.
7. There must be reliable communications with the regulator and others.

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

Pillar seven emphasises the importance of maintaining reliable communication with the national regulatory authority, in the case of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) – the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU). This communication ensures regulatory oversight and swift response to any nuclear safety and security issues.

In his reports, the Director General has chronicled a deterioration in the communication situation at the ZNPP.

The situation worsened with the increase in the number of Russian personnel at the ZNPP site and announced changes in command. Since 04 March 2022, there have been no Ukrainian regulatory inspections of the facilities on the ZNPP site, and by November 2022, communication between the plant and the SNRIU had significantly deteriorated (GOV/2022/66, para 53).

As of May 2023, the IAEA ISAMZ confirmed that there had been no official communication between the ZNPP and the SNRIU since November 2022. The ISAMZ teams encountered challenges with connecting to mobile telephone networks and constant internet disruptions, which further complicated communication (GOV/2023/30, para 55).

The current situation remains difficult. As of the latest report by the Director General, official communication between the ZNPP and the SNRIU has not been restored. The ZNPP continues to contact the Ukrainian electricity grid operator on matters related to the off-site power supply (GOV/2024/30, para 80).

The root cause of this communication breakdown is the Russian aggression and occupation of Ukraine's ZNPP. The Russian presence and control over the ZNPP directly led to the disruption of communication lines with the SNRIU.

The establishment of the IAEA mission to the ZNPP at the request of Ukraine was a critical step in addressing these issues. The mission aims to monitor the actual situation, conduct regular observations and establish a communication channel for direct technical discussions and advice.

However, despite these efforts, Russian actions have consistently violated the pillar of reliable communication. The ZNPP remains isolated from the Ukrainian regulatory authority, which seriously impacts its nuclear safety and security.

The lack of reliable communication, caused solely by the Russian aggression and occupation of Ukraine's ZNPP, is profoundly threatening and endangering the plant. It prevents the SNRIU from conducting inspections, enforcing regulations, and promptly responding to any safety concerns.

This isolation increases the risk of accidents and diminishes the capacity to effectively manage emergencies. As the ZNPP continues to operate under these conditions, the potential for a catastrophic nuclear incident increases, posing severe risks to Ukraine, the wider region, and beyond.

It is essential to restore and maintain open and reliable channels of communication between the ZNPP and the SNRIU to ensure compliance with the highest standards of nuclear safety and security. The solution to this issue is contingent upon addressing the root cause: ending the Russian occupation and restoring Ukrainian control over the ZNPP.

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

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



Vienna, 28 June 2024