

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 23 September 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
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in Vienna

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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 following.

The Russian Federation continues its aggressive actions that pose a direct threat to Ukraine's nuclear security. The primary objective of these actions is to cause a complete blackout of Ukraine's nuclear power plants. To achieve this, Russia systematically sends strike drones, as well as cruise and ballistic missiles to attack Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

In particular, from 22:21 (EEST) on 12 September 2024 to 00:52 (EEST) on 13 September 2024, seven Shahed-136 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) were observed flying over or close to the industrial site of the South Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plant (SUNPP).

Another group of strike drones was recorded between 21:50 (EEST) on 18 September 2024 and 01:37 (EEST) on 19 September 2024. A total of 22 Shahed-136 unmanned aerial vehicles were observed flying in the Voznesensk and Pervomaisk districts (Mykolaiv region), with some flying directly over the industrial site of the SUNPP, while others flying within the sanitary protection zone of the plant.

The overflight and crash of UAVs near Ukrainian nuclear power plants significantly increase the risk of disruption of external connections between the nuclear power plants and the national power grid. Such incidents could lead to a complete blackout at nuclear facilities, which would necessitate the activation of emergency diesel generators, serving as the last line of defence to ensure the safety of the plants.

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna

The secure off-site power supply from the grid for all nuclear sites is one of the Seven Indispensable Pillars for ensuring nuclear safety and security during an armed conflict outlined by IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi at a special meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors on 2 March 2022.

By using UAVs near or above these sensitive areas, Russia is in flagrant violation of these Pillars, raising serious concerns for the safety of nuclear power plants across Ukraine. The Permanent Mission of Ukraine kindly requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to promptly circulate this Note Verbale as an 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 Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 23 September 2024