

Information Circular

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General Distribution
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Communication from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the Agency

1. On 31 January 2024, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПРИ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯХ
В ВЕНЕ



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The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to provide some comments on the IAEA Update 207 dated January 19, 2024.

The mines located between the outer and inner perimeters of the Zaporozhskaya NPP (ZNPP) do not pose any threat to the personnel of the plant and the experts of the IAEA Secretariat present at the station. This is a closed “buffer” zone, access to which is restricted. The presence of mines in it is due to the need to deter potential Ukrainian saboteurs. This, in particular, corresponds to the fourth of the “five principles” to ensure the nuclear safety and security of the ZNPP, presented by the IAEA Director General on May 30, 2023 at the UN Security Council. It states that all structures, systems and components essential to the safe and secure operation of the ZNPP should be protected from attacks or acts of sabotage. The protective measures taken at the plant are adequate to the existing threats.

Moreover, laying mines to protect the perimeter of a nuclear power plant is an acceptable practice that does not contradict any IAEA recommendations. This method can be used even in cases when the nuclear facility is not located in the zone of an armed conflict.

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
Vienna

In accordance with the fundamental principle of the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Nuclear Facilities, “the responsibility for the establishment, implementation and maintenance of a physical protection regime within a State rests entirely with that State”. In this regard, we intend to continue to do everything necessary and possible to ensure and strengthen the nuclear safety and security of the ZNPP in accordance with national legislation and our existing obligations arising from the relevant international legal instruments to which our state is a party.

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation requests the Secretariat to circulate this information among all IAEA Member States as soon as possible.

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IAEA Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, "31" January 2024