

## Information Circular

**INFCIRC/549/Add.1/19**

Date: 19 August 2016

**General Distribution**

Original: English

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# Communication Received from Japan Concerning Its Policies Regarding the Management of Plutonium

1. The Secretariat has received a note verbale dated 28 July 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Japan to the IAEA in the enclosures of which the Government of Japan, in keeping with its commitment under the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549<sup>1</sup> of 16 March 1998 and hereinafter referred to as the “Guidelines”), and in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines, has made available annual figures for holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and the estimated amounts of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel as of 31 December 2015.
2. In light of the request expressed by the Government of Japan in its note verbale of 1 December 1997 concerning its policies regarding the management of plutonium (INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998), the note verbale of 28 July 2016 and its enclosures are attached for the information of all Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> A modification to this document was issued on 17 August 2009 (INFCIRC/549/Mod.1).

2016-08-01 15:12 0042 ARMS

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Ref. No.: JPM/NV- 146 - 2016

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour, on behalf of the Government of Japan, to refer to its Note Verbale of 1 December 1997 (Ref. No.: JPM/NV-185-97), enclosing Guidelines specifying the policies that the Government of Japan has decided to apply to the management of plutonium.

In keeping with Japan's commitment under these Guidelines, the Government of Japan encloses with this Note an annual statement of its national holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel. The figures in this statement show Japan's holdings as of 31 December 2015 and are set out in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines.

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

The Government of Japan requests the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to circulate this note and its attachments, to all Member States for their information.

28 July 2016  
Vienna  
To the Director General of the  
International Atomic Energy Agency



## ANNEX B

## ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL UNIRRADIATED PLUTONIUM

National Totals

as of 31 Dec. 2015.  
 (Previous year's  
 figures in brackets)  
 Rounded to 100kg  
 plutonium with  
 quantities less than  
 50kg reported as such

[ tonnes Pu ]

1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	<u>4.1</u>	( <u>4.3</u> )
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.	<u>3.1</u>	( <u>3.0</u> )
3. Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere.	<u>3.1</u>	( <u>3.1</u> )
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere	<u>0.4</u>	( <u>0.4</u> )

## Note:

(i) Plutonium included in lines 1-4 above belonging to foreign bodies. 0 ( 0 )

(ii) Plutonium in any of the forms in lines 1-4 above held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above. 37.1 ( 37.0 )

(iii) Plutonium not included in lines 1-4 above which is in international shipment prior to its arrival in the recipient State. 0 ( 0 )

Additional reference information

Here are some developments related to the status of separated plutonium for civil use in Japan after the end of 2015. (1) At Takahama Unit 3 reactor of the KEPCO, unirradiated MOX fuel with 720kg of separated plutonium, was loaded in December 2015. The reactor went online in January 2016 and the MOX fuel was irradiated. (2) At Takahama Unit 4 reactor, unirradiated MOX fuel with 184kg plutonium, was loaded and irradiated in February 2016. (3) The 331kg separated plutonium fuel, was completely removed from the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)'s Fast Critical Assembly (FCA) in its Tokai Research and Development Center and shipped to the United States. The action followed the Japan-US joint pledge announced at the time of the 2014 Hague Nuclear Security Summit. The three events that took place in or after January 2016 will be reflected in the publication for 2016.

## ANNEX C

**ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF PLUTONIUM CONTAINED IN SPENT CIVIL  
REACTOR FUEL**

National Totals

as of 31 Dec. 2015.  
(Previous year's  
figures in brackets)  
Rounded to 1000kg  
plutonium with  
quantities less than  
500kg reported as such

		[ tonnes Pu ]
1. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites.	136	( 134 )
2. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants.	27	( 27 )
3. Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere.	<u>less than 500kgPu</u>	( <u>less than 500kgPu</u> )

## Note:

i) The treatment of material sent for direct disposal will need further consideration when specific plans for direct disposal have taken concrete form.

## ii) Definitions:

- Line 1: covers estimated amounts of plutonium contained in fuel discharged from civil reactors
- Line 2: covers estimated amounts of plutonium contained in fuel received at reprocessing plants but not yet reprocessed.