

Information Circular

INFCIRC/549/Add.3/11

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General Distribution
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Communication received from Belgium concerning its policies regarding the management of Plutonium

1. The Secretariat has received a note verbale dated 27 September 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the IAEA in the enclosures of which the Government, in keeping with Belgium's commitment under the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549¹ 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 2010. In addition, a declaration according to Article 14 of the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium is enclosed to the note verbale.
2. In light of the request expressed by Belgium 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 27 September 2011 and the enclosures thereto are attached for the information of all Member States.

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

Embassy and Permanent Mission of Belgium

Ref: 11/01768

Attachments: 3

The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the IAEA presents its compliments to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to refer to Belgium's annual commitment pursuant to the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (INFCIRC/549).

In accordance with this commitment, the Permanent Mission attaches hereto information on plutonium holdings on Belgian territory as of 31 December 2010:

- Annex B of the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium covering holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium in Belgium;
- Annex C of the Guidelines relating to estimated amounts of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel;
- A declaration on Belgium's nuclear policy regarding the extension of the lifetime of the Doel and Tihange reactors, as well as the Belgian government's decision to carry out stress tests on all of Belgium's nuclear power plants (in consequence of the Fukushima nuclear accident).

The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the IAEA avails itself of this opportunity to assure the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 27 September 2011

[stamp of the Belgian Embassy]

Mr Y. Amano
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

2010

ANNEX B

Guidelines for management of plutonium

Annual figures for holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium

BELGIUM

	As of 31 Dec. 2010 (Previous year's figures in Brackets) Rounded to 100 kg plutonium	
1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	0 kg	(0kg)
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.	p.m.	(p.m.)
3. Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere.	p.m.	(p.m.)
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.	p.m.	(p.m.)

<p>Note :</p> <p>(i) Plutonium included in lines 1-4 above belonging to foreign bodies.</p>	0 kg	(0 kg)
<p>(ii) Plutonium in any of the forms in lines 1-4 above held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above.</p>	0 kg	(0 kg)
<p>(iii) Plutonium in international shipment for which the Government of Belgium still retains Safeguards responsibility is included in the appropriate lines above. The Government with jurisdiction over the owner of the plutonium is responsible for resolving any residual difficulties.</p>	0 kg	(0 kg)
<p>(iv) It is open to Governments to add any further information or explanation which they believe helpful</p>	p.m. means less than 50 kg	p.m. means less than 50 kg

2010

ANNEX C

**Estimated Amounts of Plutonium Contained in Spent civil
Reactor Fuel**

National totals

	As of 31 Dec. 2010 (Previous year's figures in Brackets) Rounded to 1000 kg plutonium	
1) Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites	34.000 kg	(33.000 kg)
2) Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants	0 kg	(0 kg)
3) Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere	p.m.	(p.m.)

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 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.

**Declaration according to article 14 of the guidelines
for the management of plutonium**

(2010)

With respect to the Belgian declaration joined to the communication of the year 2009, the following has to be added:

"The confirmation of the prolongation of the lifetime of the three oldest reactors (Doel 1, Doel 2 and Tihange 1) has still to be done by an appropriate change in the present legislation. However, due to the Fukushima accident, all Belgian nuclear power plants have to undergo a stress test to examine their resistance against external and man-made events". Until the results of these stress tests are known, the Belgian government has decided to put the prolongation decision on hold. When the results are available, it will be decided whether the prolongation will be maintained or cancelled."

The other points in the Belgian declaration of 2009 remain completely valid.
