

# Information Circular

**INFCIRC/549/Add.6/19**

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**General Distribution**

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## Communication Received from the United States of America Concerning its Policies Regarding the Management of Plutonium

1. The Secretariat has received a note verbale dated 23 September 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the IAEA in the enclosures of which the Government of the United States of America, 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 its 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 the United States of America 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 23 September 2016 and the enclosures therewith 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).

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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the United States to International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and, in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (INFCIRC/549), has the honor to send the Director General the figures for holdings of separated and irradiated plutonium in the United States as of 31 December 2015.

The Permanent Mission of United States avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.

United States Mission to International Organizations in Vienna

September 23, 2016,

Vienna, Austria.



Attachments:

Annual Figures for Holdings of Civil Unirradiated Plutonium  
Estimated Amounts of Plutonium Contained in Spent Civil Reactor Fuel

DIPLOMATIC NOTE

**ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS  
OF CIVIL UNIRRADIATED PLUTONIUM**

(Annex B, International Plutonium Management Guidelines)

National Totals:	As of 31 December 2015 [Previous year's figures in brackets] Rounded to 100 kg plutonium Quantities <50 kg reported as such		
1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.		0	[0]
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.		<0.05 MT	[<0.05 MT]
3. Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere.		4.6 MT	[4.6 MT]
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.		44.4 MT	[44.4 MT]
(i) Plutonium in lines 1-4 belonging to foreign bodies.		0	[0]
(ii) Plutonium in lines 1-4 held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above.		0	[0]
(iii) Plutonium in lines 1-4 which is in international shipment prior to its arrival in the recipient State.		0	[0]

Note:

Lines 3 and 4 together list 49.0 metric tons of separated plutonium that has been declared as excess to national security needs. This, in addition to 7.8 metric tons of the plutonium included on lines 1 and 3 of Annex C, 4.5 metric tons that has been disposed to waste after termination of safeguards, and 0.2 metric tons lost to radioactive decay (both after September 1994), constitute the total of 61.5 metric tons of government owned plutonium that the United States has declared as excess to national security needs.

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

(Annex C, International Plutonium Management Guidelines)

National Totals:	As of 31 December 2015 [Previous year's figures in brackets] Rounded to 1000 kg plutonium Quantities <500 kg reported as such	
1. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites.	644 MT	[625 MT]
2. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants.	0	[0]
3. Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere.	12 MT	[12 MT]

Note:

Line 1 includes 0.1 metric tons of formerly government owned plutonium that was transferred to civil reactors and subsequently irradiated. Line 3 includes 7.7 metric tons of government owned plutonium estimated to be remaining in spent fuel that has been declared as excess to national security needs. These, in addition to 49.0 metric tons of separated plutonium reported in lines 3 and 4 in Annex, 4.5 metric tons that has been disposed to waste after termination of safeguards, and 0.2 metric tons lost to radioactive decay, constitute the total of 61.5 metric tons of government owned plutonium that the United States has declared as excess to national security needs.