



International Atomic Energy Agency

# INFORMATION CIRCULAR

---

INF

INFCIRC/549/Add.6/2  
December 1999

GENERAL Distr.  
Original: ENGLISH

## **COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM CERTAIN MEMBER STATES CONCERNING THEIR POLICIES REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF PLUTONIUM**

1. The Director General has received a letter, dated 23 November 1999, from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the IAEA. In keeping with the United States' commitment under the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998 and hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines"), the government of the United States of America, in the enclosure of the letter, and in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines, makes available an annual statement of its national holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel, as of 31 December 1998.

2. In light of the request expressed by the United States in its note verbale of 1 December 1997, concerning its policies regarding the management of plutonium (INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998), the texts of the enclosure of the letter of 23 November 1999 are attached for the information of all Member States.

## ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL UNIRRADIATED PLUTONIUM

### (Annex B, International Plutonium Management Guidelines)

#### National Totals

As of December 31, 1998  
[Previous year's figures in brackets.]  
Rounded to 100 kg plutonium  
Quantities <500 kg reported as such

1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	<u>0</u>	[ <u>0</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>&lt;0.05 MT</u>	[ <u>&lt;0.05 MT</u> ]
3. Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere.	<u>4.6 MT</u>	[ <u>4.6 MT</u> ]
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.	<u>40.4 MT</u>	[ <u>40.4 MT</u> ]
(i) Plutonium in lines 1-4 belonging to foreign bodies.	<u>0</u>	[ <u>0</u> ]
(ii) Plutonium in lines 1-4 held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above.	<u>0</u>	[ <u>0</u> ]
(iii) Plutonium in lines 1-4 which is in international shipment prior to its arrival in the recipient State	<u>0</u>	[ <u>0</u> ]

Lines 3 and 4 together list 45 tons of separated plutonium that had originally been produced or acquired as part of our national defense effort. Along with 7.5 tons of the 15 ton total listed on line 3 of Annex C below, this constitutes the total 52.5 tons of plutonium that the United States has declared excess to defense needs.<sup>1</sup> Since it is no longer “military” and will never again be used in nuclear weapons, that material is listed here.<sup>2</sup> There exists no separated plutonium in the U.S. other than that which was produced or acquired in the past for defense-related purposes.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Bilateral agreements between the United States and Russia have called for the removal of approximately 50 tons of plutonium from each state's nuclear weapons programs.

<sup>2</sup> It does not result from civilian production; as a matter of policy, the U.S. does not engage in reprocessing on a commercial scale for nuclear power production purposes. However, Article 3 of the guidelines expressly calls for “other plutonium after it has been designated by the Government concerned as no longer required for defense purposes” to be included in Annex B.

<sup>3</sup> This material is and shall remain subject to the strictest U.S. physical security and control.

# ESTIMATED AMOUNTS OF PLUTONIUM CONTAINED IN SPENT CIVIL REACTOR FUEL<sup>4</sup>

(Annex C, International Plutonium Management Guidelines)

## National Totals

As of December 31, 1998  
[Previous year's figures  
in brackets.]  
Rounded to 100 kg plutonium  
Quantities <500 kg reported as such

1. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites.	<u>312 MT</u>	[ <u>287 MT</u> ]
2. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants.	<u>0</u>	[ <u>0</u> ]
3. Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere. <sup>5</sup>	<u>15 MT</u>	[ <u>15 MT</u> ]

---

<sup>4</sup> The estimated amounts reflect the total, elemental weight of plutonium calculated to be residual in spent fuel. This irradiated plutonium remains unseparated.

<sup>5</sup> This includes 7.5 MT of plutonium estimated to be remaining in spent fuel which was never reprocessed to extract the plutonium. Again, together with the amounts specified in lines 3 and 4 in Annex B above, this quantity constitutes the total amount of plutonium that has been declared excess to defense needs. Another 7.5 tons reflects estimated content in SNF discharged from U.S. government-owned reactors.