

Information Circular

INFCIRC/549/Add.3/17

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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 19 April 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the IAEA in the enclosures of which the Government of Belgium, in keeping with its 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 its holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and the estimated amounts of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel as of 31 December 2017. A declaration concerning the nuclear policy situation in Belgium was also enclosed with the note verbal.
2. In light of the request expressed by the Government of 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 19 April 2018 and the enclosures therewith 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).

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The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the International Atomic Energy Agency presents its compliments to the IAEA Director General 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 2017:

- 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 concerning the nuclear policy situation in Belgium.

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

[stamp] (signed)

Vienna, 19 April 2018

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Mr Y. Amano
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Vienna

Guidelines for management of plutonium
Annual figures for holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium

BELGIUM

National totals

As of 31 Dec. 2017

	(Previous year's figures in Brackets)	
	Rounded to 100 kg <u>plutonium</u>	
1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	0 kg	(0 kg)
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 <u>elsewhere</u> .	p.m.	(p.m.)
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.	p.m.	(p.m.)

<p>Note :</p> <p>(i) <u>Plutonium included in lines 1-4 above belonging to foreign bodies.</u></p>	<p>0 kg</p>	<p>(0 kg) (*)</p>
<p>(ii) <u>Plutonium in any of the forms in lines 1-4 above held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above.</u></p>	<p>0 kg</p>	<p>(0 kg)</p>
<p>(iii) <u>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.</u></p>	<p>0 kg</p>	<p>(0 kg)</p>
<p>(iv) <u>It is open to Governments to add any further information or explanation which they believe helpful</u></p>	<p>p.m. does not necessarily mean zero; it means less than 50 kg</p>	<p>(p.m.) does not necessarily mean zero; it means less than 50 kg</p>

(*) Correction of the 2016 declaration (“ p.m. ” becomes “ 0 ”)

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

BELGIUM

National totals

As of 31 Dec. 2017

	(Previous year's figures in Brackets)	
	Rounded to 1000 kg <u>plutonium</u>	
1) Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor <u>sites</u>	42.000 kg	(41.000 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.)

p.m. does not necessarily mean zero; it means less than 500 kg

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

(2017)

In 2013 and 2015, the Belgian Government confirmed its decision of 2003 with respect to the phase-out of nuclear energy in Belgium:

- the principle of deactivating the nuclear reactors after 40 years of commercial electricity production is maintained;
- an exception on the previous point is introduced for three reactors, namely Tihange 1, Doel 1 & 2 which are allowed to operate 10 years longer;
- this gives the following closure calendar for the different nuclear reactors:
 - Doel 1: 15 February 2025
 - Doel 2: 1 December 2025
 - Doel 3: 1 October 2022
 - Doel 4: 1 July 2025
 - Tihange 1: 1 October 2025
 - Tihange 2: 1 February 2023
 - Tihange 3: 1 September 2025