

Information Circular

INFCIRC/549/Add.8/26

Date: 16 November 2023

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication Received from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Concerning Its Policies Regarding the Management of Plutonium

Statements on the Management of Plutonium and of High Enriched Uranium

1. The Secretariat has received a note verbale dated 18 September 2023 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the IAEA in the enclosures of which the Government, 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 holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and the estimated amounts of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel as of 31 December 2022.
2. The Government of the United Kingdom has also made available a statement of its annual figures for holdings of civil high enriched uranium and civil depleted, natural and low enriched uranium in the civil nuclear fuel cycle as of 31 December 2022.
3. In light of the request expressed by the Government of the United Kingdom in its note verbale of 1 December 1997 concerning its policies regarding the management of plutonium (INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998) and in its note verbale of 18 September 2023, the note verbale 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).



United Kingdom
Mission to the UN
Vienna

Note Verbale: 78/23

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations and the International Organisations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to refer to its Note Verbale No 001/97 of 1 December 1997, enclosing Guidelines specifying the policies that the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has decided to apply to the management of plutonium.

In addition, that communication recognised the sensitivity of high-enriched uranium and the need to manage stocks of such material with the same sense of responsibility as the plutonium covered by the Guidelines.

In keeping with the United Kingdom's commitment under the Guidelines to make available annually information on its national holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel, the Government of the United Kingdom encloses with this Note, the figures for the United Kingdom's holdings as at 31 December 2022. These are set out in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines. The Government of the United Kingdom also encloses with this Note a statement of the United Kingdom's national holdings of civil high-enriched uranium and civil depleted, natural and low enriched uranium (DNLEU) in the civil nuclear fuel cycle as at 31 December 2022.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requests the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to circulate this Note and its attachment to all Member States for their information.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



UNITED KINGDOM MISSION
Vienna

18 September 2023

2022 ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL UNIRRADIATED PLUTONIUM**UNITED KINGDOM**

National Totals		As of 31 December 2022	Previous year (2021)
		Rounded to 100 kg plutonium with quantities less than 50 kg reported as such	
		Tonnes	Tonnes
1.	Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants	137	137
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	0.4	0.4
3.	Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere	2.0	2.0
4.	Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.	1.1	1.2
Total		140.8	140.6

Note:

		As of 31 December 2022	Previous year (2021)
(i)	Plutonium included in lines 1-4 above belonging to foreign bodies.	24.1	24.1
(ii)	Plutonium in any of the forms in lines 1-4 above held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above	0	0.0
(iii)	Plutonium included in lines 1-4 above which is in international shipment prior to its arrival in the recipient State.	0	0.0

ESTIMATED AMOUNTS OF PLUTONIUM CONTAINED IN
SPENT CIVIL REACTOR FUEL – UNITED KINGDOM

National Totals		As of 31 December 2022	Previous year (2021)
		Rounded to 1000 kg plutonium with quantities less than 500 kg reported as such	
		Tonnes	Tonnes
1.	Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites	9	8
2.	Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants.	19	18
3.	Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere.	Less than 500kg	Less than 500 kg
Total		28	27

Note:

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

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.

ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL HIGH ENRICHED URANIUM (HEU)*
UNITED KINGDOM

National Totals		As of 31 December 2022	Previous year (2021)
		Kg	Kg
1.	HEU stored at enrichment plants	Less than 1 kg	Less than 1 kg
2.	HEU at fabricating plants or at other reprocessing facilities	440	420
3.	HEU at civil reactor sites	Less than 1 kg	Less than 1 kg
4.	HEU at locations other than civil reactor sites, enrichment fabricating and reprocessing plants (e.g. laboratories, research centres)	114	178
5.	Irradiated HEU at civil reactor sites	5	5
6.	Irradiated HEU at locations other than civil reactor sites	131	132
	Total	691	734

*The definition of high enriched uranium (HEU) is uranium enriched to 20% or more in uranium 235

ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL DEPLETED, NATURAL AND LOW ENRICHED URANIUM (DNLEU) IN THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE – UNITED KINGDOM

National Total	As of 31 December 2022	Previous year (2021)
Rounded to the nearest 100 Tonnes		
DNLEU	127979	122756