

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Agency

1. On 5 March 2024, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale, together with an attachment, from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale and its attachment are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.

- The uranium metal arising from declared conversion experiments conducted at the JHL (IRL-), received at the Uranium Conversion Facility, UCF (IRK-), has been frequently reported by the operator and verified by the Agency since 2003, for which the relevant 90(a) and 90(b) statements have been subsequently provided with satisfaction each year. Furthermore, this material has been under the Agency's continuous C/S measures during it was retained at JHL (IRL-) facility and it was still sealed while it was transferred to the UCF (IRK-). Moreover, since there has not been any activity performed on this sealed material, its contents could not obviously be changed.
- Based on the technical evaluation of the facility's operator concerning the associated large error by using the assay of U-236, evaluation of the amount of uranium content in the dissolved waste material by this method used by the Agency was NOT an accurate measure because of large associated uncertainties on the U-236 measurement and also ignoring process procedure for dissolving dirty waste material in large tanks.
- In Iran's letter dated 9 August 2023, it was stressed that the mentioned discrepancy emerged at IRK- facility due to irregular process of recovering uranium from the waste material so called "dirty waste" containing various kinds of unknown elements as impurities. Basically, from technical perspective, such differences in this recovery process is predictable and unavoidable. In addition, it shall not lead to any request for changing in the accounting reports of the origin facility (IRL-).
- However, during technical discussions between the Agency and Iran in Vienna on 8 November 2023, a presentation regarding detailed accountancy calculation in IRK- for dirty waste dissolving based on solid technical evidence was provided, which is not reflected properly in this report (i.e. GOV/2024/8). In addition, the Islamic Republic of Iran agreed on conducting additional verification activities at UCF in the near future in order to resolve this technical issue.
- The Agency further verification activities in this regard were conducted from 21 to 22 November 2023, 03 to 04 December 2023 and on 20 December 2023. During these follow-up activities at IRK-, the operator demonstrated details of accountancy calculations for U-Metal dirty waste recovery.

