

Information Circular

INFCIRC/1288

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General Distribution

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 8 May 2025, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
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in Vienna

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The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to communicate the following.

On 7 May 2025, at 11:42, the 330 kV Ferosplavna-1 overhead power line – one of the key backup external power lines for the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) – was disconnected as a result of Russian shelling launched from the territory of the temporarily occupied Zaporizhzhia region.

This deliberate attack has left the ZNPP once again dangerously dependent on a single remaining 750 kV external power line, the Dniprovska line, significantly heightening the risk of a complete loss of off-site power. Such actions by the Russian Federation constitute a blatant violation of the fourth of the IAEA Director General's five concrete principles for the protection of the ZNPP, as well as the fourth of the seven Indispensable Pillars of nuclear safety and security.

The loss of off-site power is among the most critical threats to nuclear safety. Without stable external electricity, the cooling of reactor cores and spent fuel pools must rely solely on emergency diesel generators. These generators, although capable of temporarily sustaining safety functions, are not designed for long-term or repeated operation. Their use depends on the availability of fuel, spare parts, and the continuous presence of skilled technical personnel.

The disconnection of the Ferosplavna-1 line severely undermines the necessary redundancy and diversification of power supplies, which are considered standard safety requirements for nuclear power plants. The increasing reliance on a single supply line makes the ZNPP acutely vulnerable to a total blackout, a scenario in which the time window to prevent core damage may be reduced to just a few hours.

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna

Ukrainian power engineers will take all necessary measures to restore the Ferosplavna-1 line as soon as the security situation allows. However, the ability to restore safe operating conditions is continually threatened by Russia's ongoing military presence and targeted attacks on critical infrastructure.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to promptly circulate this Note Verbale as an Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



May 2025