

# Information Circular

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**General Distribution**

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## Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 12 March 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**  
to the International Organizations  
in Vienna

Wallnerstrasse 4,  
1010, Vienna,  
Republic of Austria

(+431) 479 7172,  
pm\_io@mfa.gov.ua

Nº4131/35-197-28294

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.

Last week marked three years since the Russian Federation's illegal occupation of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), the largest nuclear power plant in Europe.

The occupation began with a violent armed assault by Russian forces on 4 March 2022, involving intense shelling and direct attacks on the plant's infrastructure. The assault resulted in damage to administrative buildings, a training centre, and auxiliary facilities, while fires broke out on-site, and shell fragments impacted critical components – posing an immediate and severe risk of a nuclear accident. Under duress, Ukrainian personnel were forced to continue operating the plant while Russian forces seized control, blatantly disregarding international safety protocols.

Over the past three years of occupation, nuclear safety and security at the ZNPP have deteriorated dramatically due to persistent militarization, lack of proper maintenance, and coercion of personnel.

The militarization of the ZNPP continues, with Russian military personnel, heavy weaponry, armoured vehicles, and ammunition stored on-site. This has been repeatedly documented in images and videos shared by Russian servicemen on social media, further confirming their illegal presence at the plant.

Critical infrastructure has suffered severe degradation due to a lack of proper servicing and technical oversight. Essential systems, including reactor cooling mechanisms, backup power lines, and radiation monitoring networks, have

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been compromised. Spare parts required for safe operation remain in critically short supply, while military actions have directly damaged several key safety components.

The plant's physical integrity remains at risk, with repeated shelling incidents causing structural weakening in non-reactor buildings and increasing the threat to stored spent nuclear fuel.

The workforce has been significantly depleted, with experienced Ukrainian personnel forced to leave under threats, coercion, and repression. The occupying forces have sought to replace them with personnel from Russian nuclear power plants, who lack expertise in operating ZNPP's specific equipment and systems, further exacerbating safety risks.

Furthermore, the ongoing military activities around the ZNPP, including explosions and disruptions to off-site power supplies, continue to jeopardize the plant's stability, increasing the risk of a catastrophic nuclear incident.

Beyond the immediate threats to nuclear safety, the occupation of Enerhodar, the host city of the ZNPP, has led to widespread displacement of the local population. Russian occupying forces have relocated Russian military personnel and their families to the city, forcibly replacing Ukrainian residents who have been deported, pressured to leave, or forced to flee due to escalating repression. This deliberate demographic engineering further undermines the stability of the local workforce needed to safely operate the plant.

In an attempt to conceal its criminal actions, the Russian Federation continues to systematically restrict the activities of the IAEA's International Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhia (ISAMZ), obstructing independent and objective assessments of the plant's safety and security. Despite repeated calls from the international community, Moscow justifies these limitations with baseless claims, severely hindering the Agency's ability to conduct independent and objective assessments of nuclear safety and security on-site.

Additionally, Russian occupying forces held IAEA personnel hostage for over two months, preventing them from conducting their scheduled rotation – a clear attempt to exert pressure on the Agency's experts and manipulate its findings.

Despite the alarming deterioration of nuclear safety conditions, the Russian leadership at the occupied ZNPP has announced plans to restart reactors and bring them to operational power levels. Such intentions – given the severely degraded safety conditions, the ongoing military occupation, and the lack of proper maintenance – pose an extreme risk of a



nuclear catastrophe with devastating consequences for the entire region and the future of nuclear energy.

Ukraine reiterates its urgent call for:

- Unrestricted access for IAEA experts to perform independent safety assessments and ensure compliance with international nuclear safety and security standards;
- The immediate withdrawal of Russian military personnel and equipment from the ZNPP; and
- The restoration of full operational control of the ZNPP to Ukraine as its legal operator.

The Permanent Mission kindly requests the Secretariat of the IAEA to 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.



Vienna, 11 March 2025

