

Information Circular

INFCIRC/1294

Date: 29 May 2025

General Distribution

Original: English

Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 28 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.

According to information released by Greenpeace on 27 May 2025, the occupation authorities of the Russian Federation have commenced the construction of a new high voltage transmission line on the temporarily occupied territories of the Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions. The line, being built along the northern coast of the Sea of Azov, reportedly aims to connect the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), currently under unlawful Russian military occupation, directly to the power grid of the Russian Federation. Transmission towers have already been installed along a significant section of the intended route, and construction activities are ongoing.

These actions represent a blatant violation of international law and an infringement on Ukraine's sovereignty. All nuclear facilities in Ukraine, including the ZNPP, fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU). No authorization, technical evaluation, or licensing has been issued by the SNRIU for any such infrastructural or operational modifications.

The construction of this transmission line is a clear indication of the Russian Federation's intent to initiate an unauthorized restart of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant – a facility that remains the sovereign property of Ukraine. Any operation of the ZNPP without explicit authorization of the Ukrainian nuclear regulator is illegal and poses a direct and unacceptable threat to nuclear safety.

This risk is further amplified by the evident intention of the Russian side to disconnect the ZNPP from the Ukrainian power grid upon completion of the new transmission line.

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency

Vienna

Such a disconnection would sever the plant's access to its only legitimate and previously authorized sources of off-site power: the 750 kV "Dniprovsk" and the 330 kV "Ferrosplavna-1" lines. These lines remain critical to sustaining the plant's own operational needs. Notably, both have been repeatedly damaged as a result of Russian military actions, including targeted shelling. These attacks have resulted in several complete power blackouts at the ZNPP, necessitating the activation of emergency diesel generators to maintain essential safety functions.

Any deliberate disconnection from these Ukrainian power lines – under conditions of ongoing military occupation, lack of qualified personnel, and absence of independent regulatory control – would significantly increase the risk of blackout scenarios and critically undermine the integrity of reactor safety systems.

Moreover, any modifications to nuclear infrastructure conducted without independent assessment and without the involvement of the national regulator are in direct violation of IAEA safety standards, particularly those related to modifications of nuclear installations. The absence of technical transparency, the absence lack of licensed and experienced personnel, and the continued militarization of the ZNPP site have further contributed to a degraded safety environment. These conditions pose systemic risks not only to Ukraine but also to the region and beyond.

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.

