

ALGERIA

1. LOCATION AND CAPABILITY OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

Between 1960 and 1965, Algeria was the testing ground for French nuclear weapons. Altogether, 14 nuclear weapons tests were conducted at two Algerian sites. In the early 1980s, Algeria officially launched its nuclear program and established the Commissariat for New Energy to further developments in nuclear energy production.

<http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/algeria>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/algeria/index.html>

In March 2005, Noureddine Bendjaballah, commissioner for Algeria's Atomic Energy Commission, announced that Algeria intends to sign the IAEA Additional Protocol. This would enable the IAEA to carry out inspections of the two Algerian research reactors.

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2005/3/22/8D9E1616-4579-4792-A7D5-FE4D5D74973C.html

Power Reactors-0

Research Reactors

Operational: 2

Planned: 0

<http://www.iaea.or.at/worldatom/rrdb/>

Uranium Mines

There are no active uranium mines in Algeria. However, an estimated 56,000 tons of uranium has been found in deposits in provinces west of Hoggar and on the border between Algeria and Niger. Uranium rich areas were identified in Eglab, Ougarta, southern Tassili (Tin-Seririne basin), Tamart-N-Iblis and Timouzeline sectors, Tesnou zone (northwest) and north of Timgaouine before 2001, after which there has been almost no exploration or prospecting. <http://www.sipri.org/contents/expcon/cnsc3alg.html>

<http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/reports/ser/uranium/uranium.asp>

Reprocessing

Since the early 1990s there have been suspicions of Algeria keeping a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant next to the Es Salam reactor in Ain Oussera, where plutonium usable for weapons possibly could have been separated from the reactor's spent fuel. In 2001, satellite photographs of the facility were analyzed and buildings that could be part of a reprocessing program were identified, including a hot cell laboratory, an isotope production facility, and a suspected reprocessing plant.

<http://projects.sipri.se/nuclear/cnsc4alg.htm>

2. FISSILE MATERIAL HOLDINGS

Cumulative Plutonium Discharges from Civilian Power Reactors

The 15-megawatt Es Salam reactor has the theoretical capacity to produce as much as 3 kilograms of weapon-grade plutonium a year.

http://www.thebulletin.org/article.php?art_ofn=mj01albright

3. NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

Research Centers

CERIST: Centre de Recherche sur l'Information Scientifique et Technique

<http://www.radwaste.org/research.htm>

Nuclear Cooperation

Argentina: Algeria purchased an Argentine-designed research reactor with 20% enriched U-235 fuel In

1985. Algeria was involved in negotiations with Argentina regarding the purchase of pressurized heavy water reactor. <http://projects.sipri.se/nuclear/cnscslalg.htm>

China: China has been Algeria's main supplier of nuclear technology. A secret accord was signed between the countries in 1983. In 1991, the Chinese-assisted construction of a nuclear complex including a heavy water reactor with ability to produce military grade plutonium, and hot cell and radioisotope laboratories was uncovered.

IAEA proceeded with inspections of the facilities and found little proof of a weapons program. Algeria subsequently acceded to the NPT and signed the CTBT.

<http://www.isis-online.org/publications/algeria/elpais.html>

Niger: Algeria purchased 150 tons of uranium concentrate from Niger in 1984.

<http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/algeria>

4. INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS

Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, 11 July 2003

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 12 January 1995

Outer Space Treaty, 27 January 1992

Sea Bed Arms Control Treaty, 27 January 1992

Treaty of Pelindaba, 11 February 1998

Algeria has not signed the IAEA Additional Protocol.

Multilateral Groups

Conference on Disarmament

5. POSITIONS TAKEN IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ON VARIOUS ISSUES OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Negative security assurances: "Non-Nuclear Weapon States have the right to benefit, unconditionally, from guarantees against the use or threat of use, in all circumstances, of nuclear weapons. My delegation firmly believes that security assurances are right of non-nuclear weapon States, consecrated in paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the UN Charter, and by paragraph 12 of the preamble to the NPT, regarding the threat or the use of force... Security assurances constitute an essential element in the nuclear non-proliferation regime and they help to address the inequalities and the insufficiencies of the NPT." - **Statement during the Cluster 1 debate of the Third Preparatory Committee of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, May 2004.** <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/prepcom04/algeriaCL1.pdf>

Proliferation: "The existence of arsenals and the vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons violates the spirit and the letter (of the NPT)." - *(unofficial translation)* **Statement by Ambassador Baali to the Third Preparatory Committee of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, 26 April 2005.** <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/prepcom04/algeria26.pdf>

Disarmament: "The nuclear States have specific obligations and the first responsibility in the domain of nuclear disarmament. This was confirmed unequivocally by the International Court of Justice in their advisory opinion of July 1996."- **Statement by Ambassador Idriss Jazaïry to the Conference on Disarmament, 27 January 2005.** <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/speeches05/Jan27Algeria.pdf>