

# AUSTRIA

## 1. LOCATION AND CAPABILITY OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

Austria does not operate any nuclear power plants. As a result of a referendum in 1978 rejecting the beginning of operation of a nuclear power plant at Zwentendorf, the Austrian parliament prohibited the use of nuclear energy in the country. The Chernobyl accident in 1986 further reinforced the Austrian antagonism to nuclear power, shared by both political parties and the public at large, and since then Austrians' opposition to nuclear power plants in neighboring countries has also increased.  
<http://www.foratom.org/Content/Default.asp?PageID=632>  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index_en.html)

### Research Reactors

Operational: 2

Shut down: 1

Decommissioned: 0

Planned: 0

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

### Power Reactors- 0

## 2. FISSILE MATERIAL HOLDINGS

### Radioactive waste disposal

As there are no nuclear power plants in Austria, there is no need for intermediate or final storage capacities in the country for high-level radioactive waste. The small quantities of high-level waste resulting from the activities of the research reactors are returned to the United States under a framework agreement concerning nuclear fuel of US origin. Most radioactive waste produced in Austria is collected and treated at the Austrian Research Centre, Seibersdorf (ARCS), where the ASTRA research reactor was located. According to the country's legislation the costs of radioactive waste management have to be borne by the producer and thus a fee has to be paid for the treatment of radioactive waste at the time of delivery to ARCS.

The remaining spent fuel from the ASTRA research reactor after the shut down of it in July 1999 was transferred to Savannah River, US, in 2001 for final storage. All radioactive material will be removed from the reactor building, which will be used as an intermediate storage for conditioned radioactive waste, scheduled to be operational until 2012.  
[http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index_en.html)

## 3. NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

### Research Programs

Austrian Academy of Sciences

Atominstitut of the Austrian Universities

Austrian Research Centre, Seibersdorf

VERA: Vienna Environmental Research Accelerator

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

The TRIGA Mark II research reactor, which is operated by the Atominstitut of the Austrian Universities, is the closest research reactor to the IAEA headquarters and is therefore recurrently used by IAEA staff for the development and testing of safeguards instruments.

### Nuclear Cooperation

As Austria does not use nuclear power, its international cooperation efforts are focused on other forms of energy. Within the European Union, Austria has cooperated in several efforts in the area of energy policy, including the SAVE II-program (a directive on energy efficiency), the Altener II-program (a

directive on the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market), the directive on the single market in natural gas, and the SYNERGY-program (cooperation with non-member countries in the energy sector), among others. [http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index_en.html)

#### 4. INTERNATIONAL NONPROLIFERATION EFFORTS

##### Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit

APM Convention, 29 June 1998  
Biological Weapons Convention, 10 August 1973  
Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, 14 March 1983  
Chemical Weapons Convention, 17 August 1995  
Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, 13 March 1998  
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 27 June 1969  
Outer Space Treaty, 26 February 1968  
The Seabed Treaty, 10 August 1972

Austria ratified the IAEA Additional Protocol 30 April 2004.

##### Multilateral Groups

Conference on Disarmament  
Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation  
Missile Technology Control Regime  
Nuclear Suppliers Group  
Wassenaar Arrangement  
Zangger Committee

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

*Export Controls:* "Export controls play an important role in nuclear non-proliferation. Nuclear cooperation involving the transfer of nuclear goods or technology can only take place if and when the exporting state is convinced that the conditions in the recipient country provide sufficient assurance that the nuclear items supplied would not be diverted from peaceful uses to non-peaceful purposes." - **Statement by Mrs. Christine Göstl to the Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference, 29 April 2004**  
<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/prepcom04/austriaCL2.pdf>

*Verification:* "Among the key measures identified to combat the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to detect undeclared nuclear activities, is, of course, the strengthening of the verification capabilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by means of strengthening its safeguards system. Hence, the conclusion of comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols as well as the swift implementation of the so-called 'integrated safeguards system' are indispensable instruments for the IAEA to be able to verify compliance of States Parties to the NPT." - **Explanation of Vote on draft resolution 58/L.53 "A path to the total elimination of nuclear weapons," 15 October 2003.**  
<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/lcom/lcom03/voting/L53AustriaEoV.pdf>

*Thirteen Steps:* " We also regret that some NPT Parties play down the significance of the 13 steps, maintaining that some are only long-term goals or that some have been overtaken by events. Let me stress once again that each of the 13 concrete steps has been the subject of intensive negotiations up to and throughout the 2000 Review Conference and that all NPT parties have at the time agreed to all of them. This does, of course, not mean that minor adjustments are excluded if these contribute

to strengthening the respective step. The 13 steps are, however, not a plate from which nuclear weapon states can freely choose. All of the 13 steps are important and should have the full support of all NPT parties.”- **Statement by Mr. Robert Zischg, Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation to the Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference, 30 April-3 May 2004** (emphasis in original text).

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/prepcom04/AustriaCL1.pdf>