

BULGARIA

1. LOCATION AND CAPABILITY OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

Bulgaria's nuclear program began in 1966 with commercial nuclear facilities agreements with the Soviet Union. In 2003, some 38% of the electricity came from nuclear power, the reactors requiring 340 tons of uranium.

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/reactors.htm>; <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf87.htm>

Shutdown dates for two reactors were set for 2006, as part of the negotiations on Bulgaria's accession to the European Union. The Bulgarian government is now aiming to renegotiate the agreed 2006 shutdown and gain a reprieve until the licences expire (2011 & 2013).

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf87.htm>

Power Reactors

Operational: 4

Shut down: 2

Decommissioned: 0

Planned: 0

<http://www.iaea.or.at/programmes/a2/>

Research Reactors

Operational: 0

Shut down: 1

Decommissioned: 0

Planned: 0

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

Bulgaria has no enrichment and reprocessing facilities; all fuel cycle services are provided by Russia.

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf87.htm>

2. FISSILE MATERIAL HOLDINGS

Unirradiated Civil Plutonium- 0 (end of 2003)

Irradiated Civil Plutonium- 8.8 tons (end of 2003)

http://www.isis-online.org/global_stocks/plutonium_watch2004.html

Radioactive waste disposal

Low- and intermediate- level waste: Operation of a new facility at the Kozloduy nuclear power plant for the processing and conditioning low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste started in February 2001. In January 2002, the Bulgarian government also approved the use of a new radioactive waste treatment, conditioning and storage complex at Kozloduy. The complex includes a radioactive waste treatment workshop, a conditioned waste storage facility and a service unit.

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/waste/report2002/chapter4.htm>

High-level waste: Since Bulgaria has no facility for disposing high-level waste, spent fuel rods are disposed in Russia. The plan for safe management of the nuclear fuel cycle at Kozloduy includes increasing the capacity of existing spent fuel wet storage facilities, and constructing a new dry storage; first stage is expected to be commissioned in 2006.

http://www.bnsa.bas.bg/documents/JC_pdf/English/JC_NR_Eng.pdf

3. NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

Research Programs

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy (Sofia)

Nuclear Cooperation

EU: Memorandum of Understanding calling for an agreement on early closure dates of Kozloduy units 3 and 4. The European Commission has insisted on closure before 2006, but there has been a Bulgarian proposal for the units to be allowed to operate after 2006, if an EU peer review concludes that they are

safe enough for further operation. An IAEA expert mission in June 2002 reported on significant safety improvement.

EU, Russia, US: Modernization of units 5 and 6 at Kozloduy by the European Consortium Kozloduy (created in 1996 by Framatome, Siemens and Atomenergosexport of Russia) and Westinghouse.

<http://www.foratom.org/Content/Default.asp?PageID=704>

Russia: Interest in constructing the second nuclear power plant in Belene by the Danube River. However, Bulgaria's National Electricity Transmission Company chose Parsons E&C Europe Limited for an architect. The contract has a term of ten years.

<http://novinite.com>

4. INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS

Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit

APM Convention, 4 September 1998

Biological Weapons Convention, 2 August 1972

Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, 15 October 1982

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, 29 September 1999

Chemical Weapons Convention, 10 August 1994

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 5 September 1969

Open Skies Treaty, 15 April 1994

Outer Space Treaty, 28 January 1967

Sea Bed Treaty, 16 April 1971

Bulgaria ratified the IAEA Additional Protocol 10 October 2000.

Multilateral Groups

Conference on Disarmament

Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation

Nuclear Suppliers Group

Wassenaar Arrangement

Zangger Committee

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

Arms control: "The need for effective arms control measures remains urgent. The US-Russian agreement on strategic nuclear arms is a landmark in the history of disarmament negotiations. Bulgaria welcomes the ongoing security dialogue between them, as well as the establishment of a new framework of inter-relation between NATO and the Russian Federation, which benefits the global political atmosphere."

Export controls: "We have adopted one of the most stringent laws on export control over arms trade and have taken decisive steps to improve enforcement in all its aspects."

Non-proliferation: "We support the comprehensive and integrated approach of the United Nations to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Further strengthening of the non-proliferation regime is imperative if we are to prevent the use of such weapons for terrorist purposes, for international blackmail and disturbing and threatening the world peace."

All excerpts are taken from a statement by President Georgi Parvanov to the 57th session of the General Assembly, 12 September 2002 available at:

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com02/disarmref57.html>