

NETHERLANDS

1. LOCATION, AMOUNT AND DETAILS OF U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPLOYMENT/STORAGE

Nuclear Weapons Storage Sites

Location	No. of Vaults	Maximum Capacity	No. of deployed weapons
Volkel Air Base	11	44	20
TOTAL			20

These levels have been consistent since 1986.

<http://www.nrdc.org/nuclear/euro/euro.pdf>

2. LOCATION AND CAPABILITY OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

The Netherlands does not actively promote nuclear energy though it is involved in research activities. Nuclear policy is primarily regulated and influenced by the Ministry of Economic Affairs.
<http://www.antenna.nl/nukeatlas/atlas/nl.html>

Power Reactors

Operational: 1

Shut down: 1

Decommissioned: 0

Planned: 0

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

Research Reactors

Operational: 3

Shut down: 0

Decommissioned: 2

Planned: 0

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

The Netherlands plans to shut its sole nuclear power plant, Borssele, in 2013 unless parliament decides otherwise.

Currently, the Borssele reactor, built in 1973 with an anticipated lifespan of 40 years, produces 4-5% of Dutch electricity.

Uranium Enrichment and Reprocessing

Almelo, the lone enrichment facility in the Netherlands, is owned and operated by URENCO, a joint Dutch-German-British company.

Reprocessing takes place elsewhere in the EU, namely France and UK.

3. FISSILE MATERIAL HOLDINGS

Unirradiated Civil Plutonium

In country: 0

In other countries: 2 tons

Total: 2 tons

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

Separated Civil Plutonium

end 2002: 2 tons

2010 (projected): 3 tons

2015 (projected): 3 tons

2020 (projected): 3 tons

Radioactive waste disposal

The Dutch government's radioactive waste policy was outlined in 1984. This policy has two main components, with a third added in 1993:

1) the storage of all radioactive wastes at one surface facility for the next 50 to 100 years;

- 2) the research into final disposal in deep geological formations;
- 3) final disposal must take place in such a way that waste is retrievable for a “lengthy” period of time.

Low-level waste: Central Organization for Radioactive Waste (COVRA) constructed and operates facilities for the treatment and storage of low and intermediate level radioactive wastes at Borsele.

High-level waste: COVRA is constructing a facility (HABOG) for the storage of high level wastes at the same location.

In the period from 1984 to 1993, in the framework of the Program for Disposal on Land (OPLA), research into final disposal focused on rock salt formations. A repository design was developed which was based upon deep vertical bore holes from the galleries. The principal conclusion of the OPLA program was that final disposal in rock salt was technically feasible. The government also recognizes that the technical and societal complexity of the waste disposal requires international cooperation.

4. NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

Research Programs

AMOLF/FOM: Institute for Atomic & Molecular Physics

ECN: Energieonderzoek Centrum Nederland

FELIX

FOM: Fundamenteel Onderzoek der Materie

Interfacultair Reactor Instituut

National Inst for Nuclear Physics

NWO: Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek / Organization for Scientific Research

TNO: Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast-Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek

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

Nuclear Cooperation

Most of Dutch nuclear cooperation goes through URENCO, a joint German-Dutch-British venture established in the early 1970s. URENCO works with the manufacture and marketing of centrifuges and associated pipe work; provision of technical design services in connection with the construction of uranium enrichment facilities; research into new enrichment technologies; and the manufacture of precision-engineered components for the aerospace industry in the Netherlands (Aerospace) and the manufacture of carbon fibre designed products in Germany (Composites).

URENCO operates the Almelo enrichment facility in Netherlands as well as Capenhurst in the UK and Gronau in Germany.

<http://www.urencocom/index.php?id=202&pagename=Urenco+Group>

5. INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS

Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit

Antarctic Treaty, 30 March 1967

APM Convention, 12 April 1999

Biological Weapons Convention, 10 April 1972

Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, 18 June 1987

Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, 23 March 1999

Chemical Weapons Convention, 30 June 1995

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 2 May 1975

Outer Space Treaty, 10 October 1969

Sea Bed Treaty, 14 January 1976

Netherlands ratified the 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

Proliferation Security Initiative

Zangger Committee

Wassenaar Arrangement

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

Non-compliance: "...there is still too much indifference about growing clandestine nuclear activity and blatant non-compliance by some parties to the Treaty. In fact, over the past ten years more than two hundred incidents involving illicit trafficking in nuclear materials have been documented. Therefore, if in the long run we want to maintain global political support for the NPT bargain, and discourage countries that might want to acquire nuclear weapons from doing so, and discourage countries that might want to acquire nuclear weapons from doing so, both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states will have to keep their end of that bargain."

Thirteen Steps: "For the Netherlands, the benchmark for progress towards nuclear disarmament is the Thirteen Steps approach we agreed in 2000. While some of those steps have been overtaken by events, like those relating to START and the ABM Treaty, many of the Thirteen Steps have lost none of their relevance...It is clear that the Thirteen Steps will have to be updated. That will be a major challenge for the Review Conference- to say the least- given that the consensus on some of those steps has eroded, and that they cannot simply be replaced with something different."

Reporting: "Although the nuclear weapon states have provided a good deal of information, I think the world expects them to be even more open about their nuclear capabilities, wherever their national security allows. We urge the nuclear weapon states to report regularly on their aggregate number of warheads, delivery systems and stocks of fissile materials. Transparency provides the basis for measuring progress in nuclear disarmament and for building confidence that will enable the NPT to remain the guardian of non-proliferation and peaceful uses."

Proliferation: "One of the greatest threats to international peace and security today is the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The international community must effectively address this challenge.... treaty regimes and export control arrangements are in place to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. These instruments, however, have not succeeded in putting a complete stop to proliferation. Additional measures are necessary, in particular to combat the risk of terrorist organizations gaining access to those weapons and delivery systems. In this context, the EU welcomes the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1540, which is fully in line with the EU strategy." -**Statement by Dr. Bernard Bot, Minister of Foreign Affairs to the 59th session of the General Assembly, 21 September 2004.**
<http://www.un.org/webcast/ga/59/neteng040921.pdf>

Statements are by Dr. Bernard Bot, Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Conference on Disarmament, 15 March 2005 unless otherwise noted, available at <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/speeches05/Mar15Netherlands.pdf>