

Mexico

1. Location and capability of nuclear facilities

Mexico has one nuclear power plant with two reactors in operation, providing approximately 5% of its energy. Its first reactor began operating in 1989. There are no plans regarding new units or new plants, as the initial costs for such projects are much higher than those connected with plants for natural gas. However, outside corporations including General Electric have begun an analysis on the possibility of upgrades for the existing reactors, which could begin in 2009 or 2010.

The government supports expansion of nuclear energy, though alternative sources of energy, such as geothermal. Solar and wind energy have been heavily promoted for rural areas isolated from the electrical grid. http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2003/CNPP_Webpage/PDF/2002/Documents/Documents/Mexico%202002.pdf; <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/reactors.html>; <http://www.uic.com.au/nip106.htm>

Power Reactors

Operational: 2

Shut down: 0

Decommissioned: 0

Planned: 0

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

Research Reactors

Operational: 3

Shut down: 0

Decommissioned: 1

Planned: 0

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

Uranium Mines

There are no operating uranium mines in Mexico, nor any plans for producing uranium. However, 2,000 tons of uranium reserves have been found throughout the country, and uranium exploration is being performed by various corporations.

<http://www.wise-uranium.org/upsam.html#MX>; http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2003/CNPP_Webpage/PDF/2002/Documents/Documents/Mexico%202002.pdf

2. Fissile Material Holdings

Separated Civil Plutonium- 2.4 tons (end 2003)

http://www.isis-online.org/global_stocks/end2003/plutonium_watch2005.pdf

Highly Enriched Uranium: 0.012 tons (end of 2003)

Supplier- US

http://www.isis-online.org/global_stocks/end2003/civil_heu_watch2005.pdf

Radioactive waste disposal

Low- and intermediate-level waste: An operational repository managed by the National Nuclear Research Institute (ININ) for all low- and intermediate-level wastes produced in medical and industrial facilities, is expected to be closed in the near future due to the population growth in the vicinity. This repository will be replaced with a “triple barrier” permanent one in the future. The Laguna Verde Plant operates another interim low- and intermediate-level waste repository to handle waste coming from the plant.

High-level waste: The high-level waste from the Laguna Verde Plant is stored at the plant in the reactor's pools until agreement on a permanent facility can be reached. http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2003/CNPP_Webpage/PDF/2002/Documents/Documents/Mexico%202002.pdf

3. Nuclear Activities

Research Centers

ININ: The National Institute of Nuclear Research

Instituto de Investigaciones Electricas, Cuernavaca

Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Mexico City
Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados
Comision Federal de Electricidad, Mexico City
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Nucleares, Mexico City
Comision Nacional de Seguridad Nuclear y Salvaguardas, Mexico City
Instituto Nacional de Ingestigaciones Nucleares, Escandon
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Nucleares, Salazar
Laguna Verde Nuclear Power Plant, Veracruz
http://www.iaea.org/inis/ws/research_institutes/mexico.html; <http://www.radwaste.org/research.htm>

Nuclear Cooperation

Spain: Some training for the Laguna Verde plant was held in Spain, though training is now done locally.

France: Mexico has a long-term contract with France to convert concentrated hexafluoride to useable hexafluoride.

US: The main components of the Laguna Verde plant were acquired abroad, mainly from the US. The US Department of Energy provides all necessary enrichment processes for the Mexican nuclear plant. Fuel fabrication is done by General Electric. A variety of other corporations, including Siemens, are involved in fuel assemblies at Laguna Verde. http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2003/CNPP_Webpage/PDF/2002/Documents/Documents/Mexico%202002.pdf

Australia: Mexico and Australia signed a bilateral agreement for cooperation in nuclear energy and the transfer of nuclear material in February 1992. <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/treaties/1992/32.html>

Canada: There is a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between the two countries since 1995, and reinstated in 2006. Under the Agreement, the possibility exists for the exchange of information, the transfer of nuclear material, equipment, technology, and technical assistance training.

<http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/media/speeches/mexico.cfm>

4. International Non-proliferation Efforts

Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit

APM Convention, 9 June 1998
Biological Weapons Convention, 8 April 1974
Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, 11 February 1982
Chemical Weapons Convention, 29 August 1994
Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, 5 October, 1999
Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 4 April 1988
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 21 January 1969
Outer Space Treaty, 31 January 1969
Seabed Treaty, 23 March 1984
Treaty of Tlatelolco, 20 September 1967
Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, July 1989.
http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/liability_status.pdf

Mexico signed the IAEA Additional Protocol on 29 March 2004 but has not yet ratified.

Multilateral Groups

Conference on Disarmament

5. Positions Taken in International Fora on Various Issues of Nuclear Disarmament

Disarmament: "The peoples of the United Nations are well aware of the fact that the breaches of peace and security and our setbacks in our search for greater development are a consequence of an insufficient international dialogue and cooperation. We are also aware that the root-cause of much of the setbacks -- such as those record in the field of disarmament as well as those that take the form of aggression against other people or against the environment— is the lack of, or the lost of respect among nations. These are times of great challenges. Our peoples today face challenges such as those posed by longstanding international conflicts that persist in tandem with the emergence of new threats to international peace and security." - **Statement by H.E. Mr. Vicente Fox, at the General Debate of the 61st Session of the General Assembly, September 19, 2006.**

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com06/disarminindex06.html#mexico>

Fissile Materials: "My delegation is of the view that the negotiation of a fissile material treaty would be an important step forward towards our goal of achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons. However, in order to meet this objective the instrument would need to have certain characteristics. First of all it should have an effective verification mechanism that would ensure compliance, and secondly, it should cover existing stocks. We agree with the assessment that the only achievement of an instrument that does not have a verification mechanism would be to lay down a rule that might or might not be respected. We consider that the aim of the efforts called for by a multilateral negotiating exercise should be a little more ambitious. Failing this, it would be of only limited value." - **Statement by Ambassador Pablo Macedo to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 19th May, 2006.**

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/cd/speeches06/index2.html>