

Austria

1. Location and Capability of Nuclear Facilities

Austria does not operate any nuclear power plant. As a result of a 1978-referendum rejecting the beginning of operation of a nuclear power plant at Zwentendorf, the Austrian parliament prohibited the use of nuclear fission for energy supply 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

Research Reactors

Operational-2 (Sar-Graz-Argonaut; Triga II Vienna –Triga Mark II)

Shut Down – 1 (Astra-Pool)

Decommissioned – 0

Under Construction – 0

Planned – 0

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

2. Fissile Material Holdings

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 HLW resulting from the activities of the research reactors are returned to the United States under a framework agreement concerning nuclear fuel from 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 (shut down 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 operated until 2012.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/euratom/index_en.html

3. Nuclear Activities and Cooperation

Nuclear Research Centers:

Atominstitut of the Austrian Universities

Austrian Research Centre
Seibersdorf
VERA - Vienna Environmental Research Accelerator
Graz Reactor Institute.
<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

4. International Non-Proliferation 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 Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), 13 March 1998
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 27 June 1969
The Outer Space Treaty, 26 February 1968
Partial Test Ban Treaty, 17 July 1964
The Seabed Treaty, 10 August 1972

Austria signed the Additional Protocol, 22 September 1998.

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 Concerning Nuclear Disarmament

Multilateralism and disarmament: “Seven years after opening the CTBT for signature, it is time for those states which have not signed and ratified the Treaty to do so without conditions and without further delay. [...] In this respect, the CTBT has an essential role to play as it curbs the qualitative nuclear arms race and stops the decades-long deadly spiral of developing evermore sophisticated and hence more destructive nuclear weapons. Despite the difficulties in the ratification process and the uncertainty about the entry into force of the CTBT, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to the treaty. We must continue to work hard on those countries which still harbor doubts about the treaty’s verification capabilities and usefulness in the new international security environment or which link the ratification of the CTBT with the resolution of the Middle East conflict.”
- **Mrs. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs addressing the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, 3 September 2003.**

Weapons of Mass Destruction: “Another hard threat to international security is the proliferation of arms, in particular the spread of weapons of mass destruction. What is needed is obvious: the strengthening and universalization of existing disarmament and non-proliferation control as well as of export control regimes.”- **Mrs. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, 58th Session of the General Assembly, September 25, 2003.**