

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency

1. On 13 September 2024, the Secretariat received a Note Verbale from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the Agency.
2. As requested, the Note Verbale is herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations
in Vienna

Wallnerstrasse 4,
1010, Vienna,
Republic of Austria

(+431) 479 7172,
pm_io@mfa.gov.ua

Nº4131/35-197-124089

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to communicate the following.

In recent weeks, Russia has continued its attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, posing significant risks to the safety and security of Ukrainian nuclear power plants.

Recently, Russian "Shahed" strike drones were spotted near Ukrainian nuclear power plants, increasing concerns over the safety of these critical facilities.

On the night of 5-6 September 2024, between 22:46 (EEST) and 00:10 (EEST), 12 "Shahed-136" drones were detected in the Voznesensk and Pervomaisk districts (Mykolaiv region). Their flight path was directed towards the industrial site of the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant, with one drone flying as close as 1 kilometre away from the facility. One of the drones crashed within 1 kilometre from the South Ukraine NPP near the village of Volia in Pervomaisk district.

The proximity of drone flights and falling debris near Ukrainian nuclear power plants pose a significant risk to the open switchgear and essential substations connected to the plant's power lines, as well as to the overall safety of the facility. The loss of external connections between a nuclear power plant and the national power grid could result in a total blackout at the station, which would then trigger the activation of emergency diesel generators – the last line of defence for the plant.

Russia is deliberately flying its drones over and near Ukrainian nuclear power plants, further increasing the threat to these critical facilities. This tactic increases the danger posed by its attacks, as it has serious implications for nuclear safety.

Secretariat
International Atomic Energy Agency
Vienna

By using drones near these sensitive areas, Russia is in flagrant violation of the first of the five concrete principles established by the IAEA Director General, raising serious concerns about the safety of not only the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, but also other nuclear power plants across Ukraine.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine kindly requests the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency to promptly circulate this Note Verbale as an Information Circular to all IAEA Member States.

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 13 September 2024