

INFORMATION DIGEST

MARCH 6 - 10, 2024



Status of the Ukrainian nuclear power plants and the nuclear industry of Ukraine

- According to the JSC "NNEGC "Energoatom", on March 6-10, 2024 power units of Ukrainian nuclear power plants which are located on the territory controlled by Ukraine worked to meet the needs of the population and the country's economy.
- According to the JSC "NNEGC "Energoatom" due to a surplus of electricity, power units of Ukrainian nuclear power plants have been transferred to operation at a reduced load. Due to the surplus of electricity, which has been observed in the Ukrainian energy system for the second week in a row, several power units of nuclear power plants were transferred to operation at reduced power, and Energoatom [operating company of four operating Ukrainian nuclear power plants] was preparing them for scheduled repairs. The repair campaign in the nuclear industry was planned to begin on March 13. However, the current situation made it possible to start it 5 days earlier, from March 8.
- According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the IAEA teams present at the Khmelnytsky, Rivne and South Ukraine NPPs as well as at the Chernobyl site have reported that nuclear safety and security is being maintained despite the challenging war-time circumstances, including the frequent sound of air raid alarms at some of the facilities. The IAEA experts at Chernobyl rotated earlier this week.

Last week, the IAEA made its 38th delivery of equipment to Ukraine aimed at assisting in maintaining nuclear safety and security. Contamination survey meters and physical protection equipment were delivered to the Eastern Mining and Processing Plant [VostokGOK] and to the Chernobyl NPP site, with support from the contributions made by the United Kingdom and the European Union.

Current situation on Zaporizhzhya NPP

- According to the JSC "NNEGC "Energoatom" on March 6-10, 2024, the Zaporizhzhya NPP received power for its in-house needs from the energy system of Ukraine.
- According to the IAEA, the plant remains without back-up external power after the only remaining 330 kilovolt (kV) line was disconnected more than two weeks ago, on 20 February. As a result, the ZNPP remains dependent on its only functioning 750 kV power line, out of four such lines available before the conflict. The IAEA team was informed that the 330 kV line is not expected to be reconnected for at least another week.



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- According to the SNRIU, the occupation of Zaporizhzhya NPP by Russia, the non-admission of Ukrainian licensed personnel to the industrial site and the blocking of the automated radiation monitoring system (ARMS) at ZNPP have led to a significant delay in receiving information on the state of nuclear and radiation safety at the nuclear power plant by both Ukraine and the international nuclear community.

This was emphasized by SNRIU Chairman, Chief State Inspector for Nuclear and Radiation Safety of Ukraine Oleh Korikov during a meeting with IAEA Deputy Director General, Director of the Department of Nuclear and Physical Security Lidi Evrar in Austria today.

"The presence of a permanent IAEA monitoring mission at Zaporizhzhia NPP is important for Ukraine and the international nuclear community, primarily in terms of informing about the state of nuclear and radiation safety. We all understand that the Agency's experts collect information on the radiation situation at the nuclear power plant virtually manually. Due to the blocking of the Automated Radiation Monitoring System by the Russian invaders, Ukraine is actually deprived of the opportunity to comply with the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident," Korikov said.

- According to the IAEA, at the ZNPP last week, the IAEA experts stationed at the site have continued to hear explosions and other indications of military activity not far away from the facility. Three times this week, they reported hearing several successive explosions within a few minutes, as well as one explosion yesterday evening and multiple explosions this morning, possibly indicating the use of heavy weapons from an area close to the plant.
- On 1 March, the IAEA experts heard an explosion some distance away from the ZNPP. The following morning, the team was informed by the plant that there had been shelling in parkland a few hundred metres away from the city hall administrative building of the town of Enerhodar, where many plant staff live. On arrival at the location, later the same day, the IAEA experts were informed that debris from the alleged munitions used had already been removed. While the team observed some damaged trees and marks on the ground, it was not possible to conclude whether or not shelling had actually occurred.
- The ZNPP informed the IAEA team that it has commenced maintenance activities on reactor unit 1, except for those planned to be performed on safety systems and electrical equipment, which have been postponed until the 330 kV line is reconnected.
- The IAEA experts also continue to collect information on the authorizations of operating staff in the ZNPP's main control rooms. The regional head of ZNPP Nuclear and Radiation Safety Inspections of Rostekhnadzor, the Russian regulatory body, late last month informed the IAEA team during a visit that a total of 143 applications for authorizations of operating personnel had been received, of which 91 authorizations had so far been issued. The ZNPP says it has sufficient staff for the current shutdown status of the plant's six reactors.
- "The staffing situation at the plant remains a vital issue for nuclear safety and security that we will continue to monitor closely," Director General Grossi said.



- During their walkdowns at the site this week, the IAEA team visited the temporary emergency response centre and were informed that the emergency preparedness and response arrangements at the ZNPP continue under a temporary emergency plan, while a new plan is expected to be completed this year. The team was also informed that a major exercise is being planned for late 2024.
- In addition, the IAEA experts visited the ZNPP's electrical and mechanical warehouses to assess the availability of spare parts essential for maintenance, observing some spare parts in each warehouse. The plant informed the team that the site has spare parts for upcoming maintenance and for the reactors in their current shutdown states, adding that the spare parts are provided from the Russian Federation.
- During other walkdowns this week, the team observed the current management of solid radioactive waste at the ZNPP and also went to the turbine halls of reactor units 3 and 5. Once again, access was restricted. The IAEA experts were not able to access the western part of the halls nor the plant equipment on the ground floor of the turbine building of unit 5. The IAEA expert team expects to gain access to these areas soon.

Current situation on Chernobyl NPP and in the Exclusion Zone

- On March 6-10, 2024, the radiation situation at the ChNPP site was without changes. The monitored parameters of the equipment were within the boundaries set by the technological regulations. Operating personnel continues to ensure nuclear and radiation safety.

War in Ukraine

- On March 10, 2024, is the 746 day of the resistance Ukraine to the Russian military invasion.
- According to the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine [AFU], during last week the Ukrainian military repelled enemy attacks in the Avdiivka, Kupiansk, Lyman, Bakhmut, Novopavlivka, Orihiv, and Kherson directions.
- **Combat actions in the East.** Russian forces carried out the largest number of assaults on the Novopavlivka and Avdiivka fronts in Donetsk region. On the Lyman front, where aircraft-supported Russian forces attempted to break through the Ukrainian defences, they deployed mortars and artillery to attack around 20 civilian settlements. On the Bakhmut front, Ukrainian forces repelled Russian assaults to the east of Chasiv Yar (Donetsk Oblast), where the Russians made attempts to improve their tactical positions.
- On March 10, Russian forces attacked the city of Myrnohrad which is located on the territory controlled by Ukraine in Donetsk region with S-300 missiles. They hit a residential neighborhood of the city. Consequences of the strike: 11 injured, 17 high-rise buildings and 27 cars damaged.
- Russian forces did not undertake assault operations on the Kupiansk front [Kharkiv region], but they deployed mortars and artillery to attack more than 10 settlements. On the night of March 8, Russians shelled the city of Chuhuiiv, Kharkiv region. As a result, five people were injured, including a three-year-old child.
- **Situation in the North.** The operational situation in the Volyn and Polesia



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directions remains without significant changes. Russia maintains a military presence in the border areas, conducts sabotage activities to prevent the deployment of Ukrainian troops to threatened areas, and increases the density of minefields along the state border in the Belgorod region of the Russian Federation. On March 7, Russians shelling of the city of Sumy killed 2 people and injured 26.

- **Situation in the South.** Russian military constantly attacks the positions of Ukrainian defenders in the Orikhiv direction in Zaporizhzhya region. About 20 settlements came under artillery and mortar fire.
- In the Kherson direction, the Russians fired artillery and mortar shells also at more than 20 settlements in the Kherson and Mykolaiv region. Ukrainian soldiers continue to expand their foothold on the left bank of the Dnipro River. Daily counter-battery fighting continues in the operational area of the Southern Defence Forces. Although the Russian army did not conduct any assault operations during the current day, they did carry out artillery and mortar attacks. At the same time, the occupiers are actively conducting aerial reconnaissance, continuing to exert pressure with artillery, and using a large number of attack drones of various types. For the first time in ten days, they dared to send a guided aerial bomb from a tactical aircraft, hitting a five-storey residential building in the centre of Kherson. A 7-year-old child was injured.
- At night on March 11, Russians attacked Ukraine once again, using 25 Shahed UAVs. The Ukrainian air defence forces destroyed 15 attack UAVs. Particularly, the occupiers again carried out a massive drone attack in Odesa region. Air Defence Forces destroyed 10 "shaheds" there. An infrastructure facility was hit. A civilian infrastructure facility and residential buildings also were damaged in the city of Kharkiv as a result of an attack by Russian drone strikes.
- Russians attacked Nikopol district [Zaporizhzhya region] with 11 kamikaze drones and twice with artillery: two high-rise buildings, infrastructure facility and power equipment damaged.
- On the night of March 10, the Russian occupiers fired 4 S-300 anti-aircraft guided missiles at Kharkiv and Donetsk regions and 39 Shahed-type attack UAVs (areas of drone launches - Cape Chauda, Crimea, Primorsko-Akhtarsk - Russia). As a result of combat operations, 35 "Shaheds" were shot down in the Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Dnipro, Cherkasy, Odesa, Kherson, Khmelnytskyi, Vinnytsia, Kyiv, and Zhytomyr regions.
- On the night of March 8, Russia attacked the south and east of Ukraine, using one S-300 anti-aircraft guided missile, two Kh-59 guided air missiles and 37 "Shahed" type UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicle launch area - Balaklava, Crimea). Combat work continued in the Kirovohrad, Odesa, Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Kharkiv regions.
- The Ukrainian Armed Forces have created a new type of troops - the Unmanned Systems Forces. They will be responsible for the use of drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles in the war against Russia. This was stated by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Colonel Vadym Sukharevskyi. The plan is to build capacity and doctrinally influence these units to harmonise analysis and train pilots and commanders of these units to be able to use drones. Also, a unified system will be created to train UAV pilots, where future specialists will learn the skills of flying drones.





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The price of freedom that Ukraine pays every day. There is a burial place of Ukrainian defenders in the pictures. Photo: Yakiv Lyashenko



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DEAR COLLEAGUES

THE UKRAINIAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY IS ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES, HELPING OUR COLLEAGUES FROM NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, REFUGEES FROM THE ZAPORIZHZHIA NPP, AS WELL AS OUR MEMBERS WHO JOINED THE ARMED FORCES TO DEFENDED OUR COUNTRY.

SUPPORT THE ANS-ENS UKRAINIAN NUCLEAR WORKERS HUMANITARIAN FUND

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR ANY HELP AND SUPPORT!

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PRESENTATION ABOUT VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

