

*Translated from Russian*

## **Information on implementation by the Republic of Belarus of General Assembly resolution 63/60 on “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”**

Significant changes have occurred in the Republic of Belarus with regard to the enhancement of national nuclear and radiation safety legislation and regulatory infrastructure. The changes attest to the fact that Belarus’ obligations under the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism are being met.

In August 2008, the Act of the Republic of Belarus on the use of nuclear energy (henceforth referred to as the Act) entered into force.

Pursuant to article 7 of the Act, in order to implement State regulation of activities to guarantee safety in the use of nuclear energy, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus is engaging in the following activities within its competence:

- State oversight of nuclear and radiation safety as well as the physical protection for sites where nuclear energy is used;
- monitoring of legal compliance in the area of nuclear and radiation safety;
- maintenance of a unified State system of accounting and control of ionizing radiation sources and a State system of nuclear materials accounting and control;
- organization of expert safety assessments of nuclear facilities and/or storage sites as well as of their blueprints, including with the involvement of independent experts.

Article 22 of the Act fixes the goal of ensuring the physical protection of sites where nuclear energy is used through:

- prevention of unauthorized entry onto the grounds of a nuclear facility and/or storage site, prevention of unauthorized access to nuclear materials, spent nuclear materials and/or operational nuclear waste, their theft or damage to them;
- timely detection, prevention and suppression of security threats to sites where nuclear energy is used, including terrorist or sabotage threats;
- detection and return of nuclear materials, spent nuclear materials and/or operational radioactive waste which have disappeared or been stolen.

Article 23 of the Act establishes that:

- measures to ensure the physical protection of a nuclear facility and/or storage site shall be planned for at all stages of design, construction, commissioning, operation, limitation of operating specifications, operating time-limit extension, decommissioning and also during handling of nuclear materials, spent nuclear materials and/or operational radioactive waste;

- physical protection of sites where nuclear energy is used shall be provided by the organizations operating them and by federal Government bodies within their competence;
- State oversight of the physical protection of sites where nuclear energy is used shall be carried out by authorized State nuclear energy safety regulatory bodies according to the procedure established by the Government of Belarus;
- the operation of a nuclear facility and/or storage site as well as any work involving the use of nuclear materials or handling of spent nuclear materials and/or operational radioactive waste in any form and at any stage of handling shall be prohibited unless the necessary measures are taken to meet physical protection requirements.

The elaboration of a Belarus Council of Ministers decision on approval of the regulations for the physical protection of sites where nuclear energy is used and State oversight of such physical protection is set for June 2009, in accordance with the plan of work of the federal government bodies on implementing the Act of Belarus on the use of nuclear energy, approved on 22 September 2008 by the First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus, Vladimir Semashko.

Under Presidential decree No. 565 of 12 November 2007 on certain measures related to the construction of nuclear power stations, a regulatory body, the Department of Nuclear and Radiation Safety of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Belarus, has been established, and the regulations governing the Department have been approved.

Pursuant to those regulations, its main tasks are as follows:

- State oversight in the maintenance of nuclear and radiation safety;
- monitoring of legal compliance in the area of nuclear and radiation safety.

The Department carries out State oversight of plants, sites and facilities that produce radioactive waste or decontaminate such waste, issues licences for the transport, storage, processing and disposal of waste and for the transport and storage of spent fuel and carries out State accounting of nuclear and radioactive materials (radioactive waste).

As authorized, the Department:

- analyzes law enforcement experience in the field of nuclear energy use and nuclear and radiation safety and elaborates proposals to improve it;
- is involved in the granting of special permits (licences) to organizations and individual entrepreneurs by the Ministry of Emergency Situations, in accordance with established procedure, for activities involving ionizing radiation sources, radioactive waste, nuclear materials, radiation protection devices and technical equipment for nuclear materials and ionizing radiation sources;
- sets requirements for the content of documents confirming the provision of nuclear and radiation safety for nuclear facilities, radiation sources, nuclear material storage sites, ionizing radiation sources and activity related to ionizing radiation sources, nuclear materials, radiation protection devices and technical equipment for nuclear materials and ionizing radiation sources;

- organizes expert safety assessments of nuclear facilities, nuclear energy sites, radiation sources and storage sites, including with the involvement of independent experts, as well as expert assessments of their design and design and construction documentation;
- within the limits of its competency, organizes and carries out State oversight of:
  - compliance with licensing requirements and conditions for use of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation sources by licensees;
  - handling of radioactive waste and spent nuclear material, their recovery and disposal;
  - physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, radiation sources and storage sites;
  - planning of protection projects to guarantee the safety of personnel and the public in case of nuclear and radiation accidents;
  - compliance with requirements of regulatory acts and technical regulatory acts on ensuring nuclear and radiation safety during design (construction), manufacture, storage, assembly, operation and decommissioning of nuclear facility equipment and systems, nuclear power sites, radiation sources and storage sites;
- maintenance of the State nuclear material accounting and control system and the unified State system of accounting and control of ionizing radiation sources and storage sites;
- determines requirements regarding the content of and procedures for submitting information to the Department of Nuclear and Radiation Safety on disruptions in the operation of radiation sites, nuclear facilities and nuclear energy sites;
- determines procedures for investigating circumstances and causes of disruptions in the operation of radiation sites, nuclear facilities, nuclear energy sites and carries out such investigations;
- organizes the development of requirements and conditions to prevent the possibility of terrorist acts being committed at radiation sites, nuclear facilities, nuclear energy sites and storage sites;
- carries out monitoring of
  - compliance with the requirements of norms and rules for nuclear energy use;
  - fulfilment of Belarus' international obligations for ensuring nuclear and radiation safety in the use of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation sources;
  - implementation of measures to increase accident prevention and the safe functioning of radiation sites, nuclear facilities and nuclear energy sites.

The obligations of Belarus within the framework of the Non-Proliferation Treaty safeguards agreement are being fully met. The safekeeping of nuclear material and storage conditions as well as the state of physical protection for nuclear material and facilities are guaranteed. In November 2005, the Republic of Belarus

acceded to the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the Republic of Belarus and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The Republic of Belarus is fully implementing the provisions of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

The following regulatory acts governing monitoring of the movement of nuclear materials across the customs frontier of the Republic of Belarus are in effect:

- Presidential decree No. 660 of 2 December 2008 on changes and additions to Presidential decree No. 460 of 17 July 2006 on measures of State regulation of the import and export of specific goods (types of work, services), as regards measures by the State to regulate import and export based on the non-economic nature of nuclear materials, equipment, special non-nuclear materials and relevant technologies which may be used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons;
- Decision No. 5/23 of the Belarus State Military-Industrial Committee and the State Customs Committee of 1 April 2009 on changes and additions to decision No. 15/137 of the State Military-Industrial Committee and the State Customs Committee of 28 December 2007 containing an updated list of nuclear materials, equipment, special non-nuclear materials and relevant technologies which may be used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

International cooperation includes the following:

- an Agreement has been signed between the Governments of Belarus and the People's Republic of China on cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy;
- an Agreement between the Governments of Belarus and the Russian Federation on cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is at the signing stage.

In order to develop coordinated actions by Government bodies in detecting orphan ionizing radiation sources and nuclear materials during transport of fresh and spent nuclear fuel, regional International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) training courses were held to counteract illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials (from 4 to 6 September 2007 in Brest), with specialists from the agencies and units of the Ministry of Emergency Situations.

To prevent acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and materials and technologies related to their manufacture, the Armed Forces of Belarus carry out the following measures:

- an annual inventory of ionizing radiation sources;
- monthly monitoring of the safety of ionizing radiation sources;
- ongoing monitoring of the radiation, chemical and biological conditions in areas where military units are deployed;
- pursuant to Council of Ministry decision No. 1230 of 4 November 2005 on allocating funds from the national budget to prevent and eliminate the

consequences of natural and man-made emergencies, 30,356 kg of radioactive waste was recovered according to established procedure;

- as part of the national project with IAEA international technical assistance on “Reduction of the radiation-environmental threat of radioactive waste dumping sites in former military deployment areas”, in 2008, the Kolosovo radioactive waste dumping site was shut down.

In fulfilment of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 63/60, the following work is being done by the Sosny Joint Institute for Power and Nuclear Research, a State scientific institution:

- as part of an International Science and Technology Centre project, the physical protection of hazardous nuclear sites is being upgraded to prevent unauthorized access to nuclear materials;
  - hiring requirements for personnel working with nuclear materials have been tightened;
  - the perimeter enclosure at Sosny has been reinforced;
  - the question of increasing the guard force and upgrading the technical defence capability in duty areas is being examined.
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