

Message from the 6th Department of the KGB of the USSR and the 2nd Department of the KGB of the Ukrainian SSR on the radiation situation at the Chernobyl NPP

October 11, 1986

Secret

Regarding the situation at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant

The radiation situation at the nuclear power plant and in the surrounding area remains unchanged. The dynamics of changes in radiation levels in the 30-kilometer zone and adjacent areas show that the contaminated area of 8,040 km² with various dose rates has decreased to 600 km², which is 7.5% of the original.

Based on the current radiation situation, data on the content of long-lived radioisotopes, and the criteria for radioactive contamination that would allow re-evacuation of the population (permissible contamination levels of cesium-137 less than 555,000,000,000 Bq/km² [555 GBq/km²], strontium-90 less than 111,000,000,000 Bq/km² [111 GBq/km²], plutonium-239, 240 less than 3,700,000,000 Bq/km² [3.7 GBq/km²], and the total radiation dose to the population in the first year after re-evacuation of less than 100 mSv), specialists from the USSR Ministry of Health have expressed the opinion that it is possible to return residents to 16 settlements within the 30-km zone and to 26 settlements in the Belorussian SSR.

Radiation levels in these areas are 0.5-5.0 µSv/hr. A decision on re-evacuation of the population has not yet been made.

Work to mothball Unit 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant continues.

The installation of the beam support structures, the metal structures for the reactor hall roof, and the protective wall with buttresses has been largely completed. Their installation is currently being delayed due to technical difficulties that arose during the concreting of one of the upper supports above the reactor.

Power Unit No.1 continues stable operation at 70% capacity. Studies of the reactor's physical and dynamic characteristics were successful and demonstrated the feasibility of increasing the reactor's design capacity to 90%.

Preparations for the launch of Unit 2, previously scheduled for October 20 of this year, are proceeding without significant issues. Specialists from NIKIET, GAEN, and the plant's management have decided to continue core formation by installing 30 additional absorbers and 120 new fuel assemblies to further enhance the safety of Unit 2's reactor.

In this regard, the launch date for Unit 2 has been postponed to late October or early November. This decision has been approved by the Government Commission.

In accordance with the Government Commission's decision, the Ministry of Medium Machine Building and the Ministry of Atomic Energy have developed additional proposals for a number of research and development projects to improve the safety of RBMK reactors.

The project includes the development of an emergency protection system based on two independent operating principles, a design for a unified, modernized reactor control and protection system, accelerated deployment of emergency protection absorbing elements

within 1–2 seconds, the development and implementation of a diagnostic monitoring system for welds and metal in pipelines and manifolds, and the creation of a full-scale simulator for a nuclear power plant unit with an RBMK reactor with real-time process modelling.

The implementation of these proposals will involve the Scientific Research Institute of Power Engineering, the Kurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy, the Ministry of Medium Machine Building, and several organizations from the Ministry of Atomic Energy, the Ministry of Instrument Making, and the Ministry of Electronic Industry.

The data we presented regarding serious deficiencies in sanitary and hygienic regulations at public catering and accommodation establishments within the 30-km zone were reviewed by the Government Commission, which decided to address them.

The situation in the Chernobyl zone is normal and is under our control.

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