

## **Belarus: Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Developments**

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### **6/10/2003: REPORT ON CESIUM SEIZURES**

In the first five months of 2003, the Belarusian State Security Committee (KGB) seized two containers of cesium-137, *Vechernyy Minsk* reported on 10 June 2003. KGB Chairman Leonid Yerin noted the seizures in a report to Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko on seizures of illegal materials made by the security agency between January and May 2003. The report did not disclose any details about the two containers, but they are probably the same ones that were reported on by RIA Novosti on 13 February 2003. (For details, see abstract [20030190](#) in the [NIS Nuclear Trafficking](#) database.)

["Doklad predsedatelya KGB Aleksandru Lukashenko," *Vechernyy Minsk*, 10 June 2003; in Integrum Techno, <http://www.integrum.ru>.] {Entered 12/12/2003 CC}

### **10/28/97: BELARUS WILL CREATE A STRATEGY TO MANAGE ITS NUCLEAR WASTE**

Chairman of the Industrial Atomic Energy Inspectorate Vladimir Yatsevich told Interfax that Belarus is currently planning a national strategy to manage its radioactive waste. Belarus currently accumulates nearly eight metric tons of radioactive waste each year from various industries, scientific laboratories, and medical research departments. The Sosny Institute of Power Engineering Problems is the only specialized facility in Belarus which stores radioactive waste, and as of 28 October 1997, its disposal facilities were at 85 percent capacity (it can hold a total of 1660 cubic meters of waste). The government has proposed nearly 2 billion Belarusian rubles (about \$67,000) to upgrade the facility. A special project has been planned with the IAEA to upgrade the storage facility according to international standards. In addition to Sosny, there are 77 other sites in Belarus which have been accumulating about 30,000 metric tons of waste annually from the Chornobyl accident cleanup.

[Interfax, 28 October 1997; in "Belarus Develops Strategy To Handle Radioactive Waste," FBIS-TEN-97-301.] {entered 2/9/98 djw}

### **8/96: SOVIET NUCLEAR WASTE SITE DISCOVERED**

The Belarusian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection located an undocumented waste site at a former Soviet military base in the Kolasava settlement of the Stawbtsowski region. The officials found radioactively contaminated equipment, but did not find any paperwork concerning how effectively the waste was buried. The Belarusian Ministry of Defense plans to build a new site for the waste at an approximate cost of 30 million rubles. It is unclear if Russia will help finance the project.

[RADIO MINSK NETWORK, 8/6/96, in "Nuclear Waste Site Discovered at Former Military Base," FBIS-TEN-96-009.] {Entered 2/13/97, Mew}

### **3/20/96: IPEP COORDINATING NUCLEAR WASTE PROJECT**

The Institute of Power Engineering Problems is currently coordinating a project between Belarus, the IAEA, and Sweden to deal with all radioactive waste, including that from a future nuclear power station. Under the auspices of this project, money is being disbursed for equipment, training, travel, and for consultations by Western experts. The program will be completed by 12/96.

[CISNP Discussions With Belarusian nuclear official, 3/20/96.]

### **11/95: SEVENTY-THREE RADIOACTIVE STORAGE SITES IN BELARUS**

There are 73 storage sites in eight administrative regions for radioactive waste associated with the Chornobyl disaster. Only 4 of these sites have equipment that meets scientific safety standards. It is estimated that 700 million rubles are needed to properly equip the waste storage system.

[CISNP Discussions with Belarusian official, 10/95.]

### **4/95: WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY PLANNED FOR FUTURE BELARUS NPP**

Belarus has been planning for future nuclear waste management. If Belarus decides to purchase a Western nuclear reactor, there are plans to create a 50-year interim waste disposal facility on the site of the proposed nuclear plant. Final or permanent disposal would be decided at the end of the 50 years. But if Belarus decides to purchase a Russian reactor, it will attempt to send nuclear waste to one of the reprocessing facilities in Russia, such as Krasnoyarsk-26. This issue will be discussed at future Belarus-Russia negotiations. Belarus would like reshipment to be a condition for the selection of a Russian project. This could be a potential problem, as Russia is refusing to accept spent fuel from Ignalina and from reactors in Ukraine.

[CISNP discussions with Belarusian nuclear official, 4/95.]

### **1/94: INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE FACILITIES IN BELARUS**

Aleksandr Grebenkov, head of a laboratory at IPEP, stated that the problem of radioactive waste remains one of the most troublesome for Belarus. There is a "burial ground" in Minsk that was specially built for this purpose and is thus safe, but, since the demise of the Soviet Union, it is no longer sufficient. Previously, Belarus shipped all of its Chernobyl-related nuclear waste to the scientific and industrial amalgamation "Pripyat" in Ukraine.

Now, Ukraine refuses to accept foreign radioactive waste. New stationary burial sites are planned for several locations, including the Gomel Oblast, near Khatki; these new sites would comply with international standards.

["Official Interviewed On Construction of Waste Burial Sites," JPRS-TND-93-003, 1/31/94, pp. 25-26.]

**11/93: DECOMMISSIONED NUCLEAR WEAPONS STORAGE SITE FOR LEASE**

A decommissioned nuclear ammunition dump in Bobrusk, Belarus, was handed over to city authorities. The dump is an autonomous complex of under- and above-ground facilities including military barracks, a club, a canteen, a sauna, a boiler-house, and stadium. The city community services and local commercial enterprises have refused to lease it.

[ITAR-TASS, 11/19/93; in "Unique Nuclear Ammunition Dump Mothballed," JPRS-TND-93-038, 12/29/93, p. 50.]