



US NUCLEAR ENERGY FOUNDATION

“Nuclear Advocacy Through Grassroots Education”

A Non-Profit 501 (C)(3) Nevada Corporation

WARNING: Our semi-transparent world! The natural progression of our current media exposure is election politics, Washington gridlock, terrorism watch, etc. The headlines will permeate on “U.S. Calls Off Syria Peace Talks with Russia”.

The articles below are VERY IMPORTANT. USNEF receives nuclear specific news articles from multiple sources worldwide every day. Our message here is that when the “U.S. Calls Off Syria Peace Talks with Russia” such actions have RIPPLE effects on many other agreements and affiliations in the political process. We believe this is an important factor for grassroots education to see both sides of such actions. The importance of a factually informed public is growing more and more important in the form of “issues education”.

I don’t know, or if it can ever be accomplished, but, somehow we have to separate science from political manipulation and develop technology advances for humanity. Science treaties above and beyond the fold of political obstruction.

“Russia suspends nuclear agreement, ends uranium research pact with United States”.

“Putin Halts Plutonium Pact, Demands End to Sanctions by U.S.”

“Vladimir Putin Exits Nuclear Security Pact, Citing ‘Hostile Actions’ by U.S.”



<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-usa-nuclear-uranium-idUSKCN12521J>

Wed Oct 5, 2016

Russia suspends nuclear agreement, ends uranium research pact with United States

By Lidia Kelly | MOSCOW

Russia further curtailed its cooperation with the United States in nuclear energy on Wednesday, suspending a research agreement and terminating one on uranium conversion, two days after the Kremlin shelved a plutonium pact with Washington.

The Russian government said that as counter-measures to the U.S. sanctions imposed on Russia over Ukraine, it was putting aside a nuclear and energy-related research pact with the United States.

It also said it was terminating for the same reasons an agreement between its nuclear corporation Rosatom and the U.S. Department of Energy on feasibility studies into conversion of Russian research reactors to low-enriched uranium.

On Monday, President Vladimir Putin suspended a treaty with Washington on cleaning up weapons grade plutonium, signaling he is willing to use nuclear disarmament as a new bargaining chip in disputes with the United States over Ukraine and Syria.

"The regular renewal of sanctions against Russia, which include the suspension of Russian-American cooperation in the field of nuclear energy demands the adoption of countermeasures against the U.S. side," the Russian government said on its website.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said the United States had not received an official notification from Russia although he had seen media reports of the suspension of the research agreement.

"If they're accurate, we would regret the Russian decision to unilaterally suspend cooperation on what we believe is a very important issue that's in the interest of both of our countries," spokesman Mark Toner said at a daily news briefing.

"UNFRIENDLY ACTS"

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the decisions were taken in response to "unfriendly acts" by Washington. They came two days after Washington said it was suspending talks with Russia on trying to end the violence in Syria.

The agreement on co-operation in nuclear and energy-related scientific research, signed in 2013, provided the legal framework necessary to expand work between U.S. and Russian nuclear research laboratories and institutes in nuclear technology and nonproliferation, among others.

The uranium agreement, signed in 2010, provided for feasibility studies into the conversion of six Russian research reactors from dangerous highly enriched uranium to more secure low enriched uranium.

"We can no longer trust Washington in such a sensitive area as the modernization and security of Russian nuclear facilities," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

It said that should Russia decide on the feasibility of the conversion of any research reactors to low-enriched uranium, it will carry the work itself. But it warned the conversion may not be "an end in itself."

"In some cases, including in the production of medical isotopes, highly enriched uranium is the most effective and renouncing its would be technically and economically inexpedient," the ministry said.

The West imposed economic sanctions on Russia over its annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula in 2014, followed by a pro-Russian insurrection in the east of the country. The breakdown of a ceasefire in Syria, where Russia backs government forces and the West supports rebel groups, has added to tensions.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-10-03/putin-halts-plutonium-pact-demands-u-s-troop-cuts-to-revive-it>

Putin Halts Plutonium Pact, Demands End to Sanctions by U.S.

Stepan Kravchenko, Ilya Arkhipov world_reporter, Toluse Olorunnipa ToluseO

October 3, 2016



Vladimir Putin

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- President abandons U.S.-Russia deal to dispose of plutonium
 - Putin calls for U.S. to end sanctions, cut Europe presence
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President Vladimir Putin abandoned a key nuclear disarmament treaty with the U.S. and demanded the removal of sanctions and troop reductions from Russia's former Cold War enemy to restore the agreement.

Putin withdrew Russia from a plutonium disposal pact Monday in a decree that accused the U.S. of "unfriendly" actions that posed a "threat to strategic stability." The president said the U.S. had failed to honor the agreement, signed in 2000, which commits both countries to eliminating their stockpiles of plutonium used as the core material in some types of nuclear weapons.

"From Russia's point of view, sanctions represent the same threat to national security as nuclear weapons," Andrei Frolov, a defense specialist at the Moscow-based Center for the Analysis of Strategies and Technologies, said by phone.

In a separate document submitted to Russia's parliament, Putin indicated his readiness to revive the treaty provided the U.S. reduces its military and troop presence in NATO member states to the level that existed on Sept. 1, 2000. He also called for an end to sanctions against Russia imposed in 2014 over the conflict in Ukraine, and the abolition of restrictions under the so-called Magnitsky Act of 2012, which was aimed at officials accused of involvement in the prison death of whistle-blower Sergei Magnitsky.

Nuclear Summit

The rejection of the plutonium agreement adds to tensions between Russia and the U.S. that plunged to the worst since the end of the Cold War after Putin annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. Russia and NATO have also accused each other of stoking confrontation as they have built up forces along their borders.

“This is an announcement that we are disappointed by,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest said at a daily briefing in Washington. “The United States has been steadfast since 2011 in implementing our side of the bargain and we’d like to see Russia do the same thing.”

The U.S. remains concerned over Russia’s actions in Syria and Ukraine, and its decision over the plutonium treaty is “in line” with the types of actions that have only left it more isolated on the world stage, he said.

Snubbing Obama

Putin said in April that he rejected President Barack Obama’s invitation to attend a nuclear summit in the U.S. the previous month because Russia’s delegation would have been sidelined at the talks, and because the U.S. hadn’t built the plants required for disposal of its plutonium under the agreement. The White House had proposed earlier to convert the expensive disposal process into a long-term storage program.

Under the draft bill submitted to parliament, the U.S. should compensate Russia for losses incurred during the sanctions period, including those linked to counter-sanctions imposed by Putin on some food imports from the U.S. and its allies including the European Union.

Putin also called for the U.S. to present a “clear plan” for fulfilling its commitments to dispose of plutonium stockpiles.

Halting the plutonium pact is a “forced measure,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Monday, according to the ministry’s website. Russia viewed the 2000 treaty as an “important step” toward nuclear disarmament, he said.

“This treaty died before being born,” Frolov said. “The agreements didn’t work. Neither Russia nor the U.S. needed it. Putin simply drew the line after many years.”

The Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement specified that each side should eliminate 34 tonnes (37.5 tons) of weapon-grade plutonium. The radioactive material, which formed part of the Fat Man bomb dropped by the U.S. on Japan’s Nagasaki in 1945, was to be converted into fuel for nuclear power stations.



<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/04/world/europe/russia-plutonium-nuclear-treaty.html>

Vladimir Putin Exits Nuclear Security Pact, Citing ‘Hostile Actions’ by U.S.

By ANDREW E. KRAMEROCT. 3, 2016



President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia at the Kremlin in Moscow last month. He signed a decree on Monday pulling Russia out of a plutonium disposal treaty.

MOSCOW — Saying relations with the United States have deteriorated in a “radically changed environment,” President [Vladimir V. Putin](#) of [Russia](#) withdrew Monday from a landmark nuclear security agreement, in a troubling sign that the countries’ cooperation in a range of nuclear areas could be threatened.

The treaty, on the disposal of plutonium, the material used in some [nuclear weapons](#), was concluded in 2000 as one of the framework disarmament deals of the [early post-Cold War period](#).

It required Russia and the United States to destroy military stockpiles of plutonium, a deal that represented another encouraging step away from nuclear doomsday and an insurance policy against the materials falling into the hands of terrorists or rogue states.

The deal has no bearing on the numbers of nuclear weapons deployed by Russia or the United States. Instead, it concerns 34 tons of plutonium in storage in each country that might go into a future arsenal, none of which has yet undergone verifiable disposal.

Still, the abrogation signals that the nuclear agreements that accompanied the breakup of the Soviet Union and were to lead the world back from the hair-trigger brink of atomic conflict could be open to revision, as Russia’s relations with the West sour on a range of disputes today, including Syria and Ukraine and the Kremlin’s interference in the domestic politics of Western democracies.

The Kremlin had [signaled previously](#) that it planned to cut back on mutual efforts with the United States to secure nuclear material on Russian territory.

Times have changed, Mr. Putin wrote in the decree signed on Monday. “The threat to strategic stability posed by the hostile actions of the U.S. against Russia, and the inability of the U.S. to deliver on the obligation to dispose of excessive weapons plutonium under international treaties” forced Russia’s hand, he wrote.

Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, said the administration was disappointed by the Russian decision since “both leaders in Russia and the United States have made nonproliferation a priority.”

“We’ve also been quite disappointed by a range of Russian decisions both in Syria and inside of Ukraine,” Mr. Earnest said, adding that the decision on the plutonium deal was part of a problematic pattern.

Russia will withdraw from the original pact and subsequent amendments, the decree says, meaning that the country will no longer be treaty-bound to destroy its plutonium stockpiles. But the decree also offers an assurance, backed by no bilateral agreement, that the plutonium will not be used for military purposes.

“These agreements were designed to limit and circumscribe the future chances of getting back into a competition over nuclear arms,” James Collins, an associate at the [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#), said in a telephone interview. “It was an important step in defusing the strategic nuclear arms race.”

Mr. Collins, who was the United States’ ambassador to Russia when the agreement was signed, called the abrogation a “strange move,” given the extraordinary danger, not least to Russians, should

plutonium fall into terrorist hands. He added that it was “in my understanding the first time they have withdrawn from a specific nuclear agreement,” highlighting the slide in relations lately.

Russia and the United States had reaffirmed the plutonium disposal agreement in 2009, as President Obama pursued the “reset” policy with Dmitri A. Medvedev, then the Russian president.

Russia had viewed the agreement as rendering disarmament irreversible by destroying the fissile materials accumulated during the Cold War. In this light, the Russians had interpreted the treaty as requiring that the plutonium be irreversibly transformed into nonexplosive materials by using it in civilian nuclear power plants as a type of fuel, called mixed oxide fuel, or mox. Russia is pressing ahead with that.

But glitches and cost overruns in the mox plant at Savannah River, S.C., delayed the American program. This year, Mr. Obama proposed canceling the program in the 2017 budget and instead sending the plutonium for long-term storage at a nuclear waste site in Carlsbad, N.M.

The State Department has said the move complies with the treaty, but the Russians have said it does not, as Mr. Putin reaffirmed on Monday.

As ties with the West have frayed under Mr. Putin, analysts in Moscow have floated the prospect of a Russian pullback from an array of disarmament agreements dating from a period of greater friendliness. Two years ago, for example, the Obama administration [accused](#) Russia of violating another bedrock security agreement by testing a prohibited ground-launched cruise missile.

In Mr. Putin’s second term in office, Russia pulled out of a treaty governing conventional forces in Europe in retaliation for the Bush administration’s abrogation of the antiballistic missile treaty that prohibited missile defense systems.

Russia and the United States last signed a nuclear disarmament accord in 2009, when both sides agreed to a new limit on delivery vehicles such as bombers or cruise missiles of 500 to 1,100, and a limit on deployed warheads as low as 1,500.

In the chaos surrounding the end of the Cold War, the United States embarked on a sweeping program to secure the former Soviet Union’s nuclear arsenal and fissile materials by returning them to Russia from former Soviet states and upgrading security at storage areas.

The Soviet nuclear program was so entwined with the economy and society that slowing the Cold War military machine took years and cost United States taxpayers billions of dollars.

In several cities, specialized nuclear reactors, for example, continued to pump out plutonium because they were also used to heat water for residential use in showers and space heating in nearby towns.

A 1993 agreement allowed Russia to sell blended-down uranium bomb cores to American utilities for use as fuel rods in civilian power plants, in a swords-to-plowshares program called Megatons to Megawatts. This program [generated about 10 percent of all electricity](#) in the United States for 20 years, until 2013. The plutonium program, while smaller, held the potential to also yield energy for civilian electrical networks.

It seems unlikely that the two countries will resume cooperation on plutonium soon. The Kremlin first wants the removal of all economic sanctions and compensation for the damage they have caused; the repeal of the [Magnitsky Act](#), which allows Americans to freeze the assets of Russian officials thought to have been involved with human rights violations; and reductions in the American military presence in countries that joined NATO after Sept. 1, 2000.