

Pakistan - Nuclear Safety Cooperation

QUESTION

Full-scale bilateral nuclear cooperation with Pakistan was terminated in 1976. Is Canada willing to resume nuclear cooperation? Are we providing any assistance regarding the safety of the Canadian-supplied reactors?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Canada terminated full-scale bilateral nuclear cooperation with Pakistan in 1976.
- Normal nuclear cooperation is not possible because of Pakistan's refusal to join the global non-proliferation regime, (i.e to sign the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty or provide an equivalent internationally binding legal non-proliferation commitment), and to accept International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fullscope safeguards on all of its present and future nuclear activities.
- Until then we will not be receptive to further proposals for assistance beyond safety matters towards operational assistance.
- Canada has allowed some safety assistance to Kanupp to go forward in light of our humanitarian concern about the safety of this reactor and our desire not to avoid an accident associated with Canadian supplied technology.
- We are pleased that we have found a way to contribute to the safety of this plant although, of course, the safe operation of the plant remains the responsibility of Pakistan.
- Since the policy adjustment of 1990, our sensitivity to nuclear proliferation has increased significantly, particularly in response to Iraq's object lesson on the risks involved. Most of the world has responded by supporting efforts to strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.