

Securing Radiological Materials

Canada has concentrated its radiological security work on radioisotopic thermoelectric generators (RTGs). These generators, which supply energy to monitoring or transmission devices in remote areas, underwater, or in space, are powered by radioactive materials such as strontium. These elements are extremely radioactive and can cause death within hours following exposure.

Cooperating with the All-Russian Scientific Research Institute of Technical Physics and Automation (VNIITFA), Canada financed the acquisition of transportation and security shielding containers to secure decommissioned RTGs during transportation. This contribution was key to the success of other partners' RTG elimination initiatives.

The U.S. Department of Energy has removed 20 RTGs from Russia's Northern Sea Route using the containers funded by Canada. The GPP has provided \$9 million to help remove, replace and dispose of 20 RTGs in Russia's Northern Sea Route and 39 RTGs in the Far East.



A secure shipping container funded by Canada.



A Canadian official examines a decommissioned RTG in Russia.