



## INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY

Fourteen operating nuclear power units currently provide about 40 per cent of Ukraine's electricity generation. Recently, the Ukraine government has had to depend more on the operation of these nuclear units to provide essential electrical supplies in view of the cost and reduced availability of fossil fuel imports.

The operating nuclear plants in Ukraine include two Chernobyl units similar to the one, "unit four", that caused the disastrous accident in 1986. Several major modifications have been made to the safety systems for the units still in operation and operating procedures have been upgraded. This has been done in close collaboration with the Russian designers and international experts who are providing assistance and training on nuclear safety in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Canada is assisting in several areas of nuclear safety and radiation protection. The Atomic Energy Control Board is cooperating with the Ukraine State Committee for Nuclear and Radiation Safety to help it develop a legislative and regulatory framework for the control of nuclear facilities. Another project just announced, valued at \$3 million, will help build urgently needed spent fuel storage facilities at the Chernobyl and Rovno plants. This project will be managed by Ontario Hydro International Inc. of Toronto.

It is anticipated that Ukraine and Canada, along with other Group of Seven leading industrialized countries (G-7), will continue to work together on raising nuclear safety levels and finding longer-term energy solutions. These solutions would be expected to include the introduction of energy reforms, efficiency and conservation measures, and replacement by newer nuclear and conventional power plants. This is in accordance with the Naples Economic Summit announcement of an action plan, which included a G-7 grant of up to \$200 million and a provision for closure of the Chernobyl Plant. The European Commission will also provide a further \$100-million grant and a \$400-million loan.

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