

ARGENTINA

1. LOCATION AND CAPABILITY OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

Two nuclear reactors generate about 10% of Argentina's electricity. Since the 1950s, Argentina has pursued nuclear energy and technological development programs.

In the 1970s, Argentina and Brazil were engaged in a covert nuclear arms race. With the fall of the military regime in the 1980s and implementation of nuclear confidence-building agreements with Brazil, Argentina began the transition into non-proliferation, bringing the nuclear program under civilian auspices. The first commercial nuclear power reactor has operated since 1974, and today the Argentinean electricity production is largely privatized.

The Argentine government announced in May 2004 that, as part of its plan for the country's future energy strategy, it would organize the completion of the unfinished Atucha-2 unit, using public funds. Construction of a pressurized heavy water reactor started in 1981, but the project was suspended in 1994, with some 80% of the work completed. Negotiations are underway with original project contractor Siemens of Germany and Framatome ANP. Once started, the completion of Atucha-2 will take about 52 months and cost an estimated US\$500 million.

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/nb/nb05/latestnews.htm>; <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf96.htm>;

<http://www.ceip.org/programs/npp/nppargn.htm>; http://www.nti.org/e_research/profiles/Argentina/index.html

Power Reactors

Operational: 2

Shut down: 0

Decommissioned: 0

Under Construction: 1

<http://www.iaea.or.at/programmes/a2/>

Research Reactors

Operational: 5

Shut down: 2

Decommissioned: 0

Planned: 0

<http://www.iaea.or.at/worldatom/rrdb/>

Uranium Enrichment

The construction of Pilcaniyeu was initiated in 1978 by the military junta. In 2000 the enrichment plant was the first plant in the world using gaseous diffusion technology to be placed under IAEA safeguards. <http://www.ceip.org/programs/npp/nppargn.htm>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/argentina/pilcaniyeu.htm>

Uranium Mines

Mine	Location	Status
Sierra Pintada	Mendoza	active/proposed
San Rafael	Mendoza	active/proposed
Cerro Solo	Chubut	active/proposed
Don Otto	Salta	decommissioned
Schlagintweit	Cordoba	decommissioned
La Estela	San Luis	decommissioned
Dr. Baulies	Mendoza	decommissioned
Huemul	Mendoza	decommissioned
Los Adobes	Chubut	decommissioned
Los Colorados	La Rioja	decommissioned

<http://www.antenna.nl/wise/uranium/uddsam.html#AR>

Reprocessing Facilities

In the late 1960s, the Ezeiza facility was built to extract plutonium from spent reactor fuel. The facility was closed in 1973; in 1978, construction of a second reprocessing facility at Ezeiza with a higher

capacity began. Economic constraints and political pressure from the US put an end to the project in 1990. <http://www.ceip.org/programs/npp/nppargn.htm>; <http://www.antenna.nl/wise/uranium/efac.html>
<http://npc.sarov.ru/english/digest/22001/appendix8.html>

2. FISSILE MATERIAL HOLDINGS

Separated Civil Plutonium- 10 tons (end 2002)

http://www.isis-online.org/global_stocks/civil_pu.html#table7

Radioactive waste disposal

Low- and intermediate-level waste: Low- and intermediate-level wastes, including spent fuel from the research reactors, are handled at Ezeiza.

High-level waste: Spent fuel is stored at each power plant. There is a dry storage at the Embalse plant.

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf96.htm>

3. NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

Research Centers

CAB: Centro Atómico Bariloche - Instituto Balseiro

CAC: Centro Atómico Constituyentes

CAE: Centro Atómico Ezeiza

Invap

Pierre Auger Project

Universidad Nacional de Cuyo

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2002/index.htm>; <http://www.radwaste.org/research.htm>

Nuclear Cooperation

US: US designed a research reactor, RA-1, built in 1958 at Constituyentes. The construction of the reactor sparked the Argentina-Brazil nuclear rivalry.

In the mid 1990s, US and Argentina signed agreements for nuclear energy cooperation, including exchange of information, cooperative research and development between nuclear research laboratories. <http://www.ceip.org/programs/npp/nppargn.htm>; <http://usembassy.state.gov/posts/ar1/wwwhest5.html>

West Germany: In 1968, Argentina purchased a reactor from a West German company, Siemens, for the Atucha I nuclear power station without condition of safeguards.

<http://www.ceip.org/programs/npp/nppargn.htm>; <http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2002/index.htm>

Australia: In 2001, negotiations of a Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between Australia and Argentina enabled the construction of a nuclear reactor in Australia and allowed for the export of Australia's radioactive waste reprocessing. http://www.foe.org.au/mr/mr_21_12_01.htm

Egypt: In 1996, Argentina constructed a nuclear reactor in Egypt with capabilities of producing sufficient fissile material for nuclear weapons production.

<http://www.wisconsinproject.org/countries/egypt/nuke.html>

Egypt, Algeria, Australia: Argentina has exported nuclear reactors for research and radioisotope production to Egypt, Algeria, and Australia. <http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/cnpp2002/index.htm>

Iran: In 1993, Argentina supplied Iran with 115.8 kg of 20% enriched uranium fuel.

<http://www.idds.org/acr2003/453e2MEN03.html>

4. INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS

Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit

Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, 4 December 1998

Convention on Nuclear Safety, 16 July 1997

Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 6 May 1989

Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, 14 November 2000

Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, 10 February 1995

Outer Space Treaty, 26 March 1969

Treaty of Tlatelolco, 18 January 1994

Argentina has not yet signed the IAEA Additional Protocol.

Multilateral Groups

Conference on Disarmament

Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation

Missile Technology Control Regime

Nuclear Suppliers Group

Zangger Committee

5. POSITIONS TAKEN IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ON VARIOUS ISSUES OF NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

WMD: "We continue to worry about the persistence of the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction because they threaten the internal security of States as well as global stability. In this millennium, the renouncement of weapons of mass destruction constitutes the highest priority."

(unofficial translation) - Statement by Ambassador Alberto D'Alotto to the 59th session of the General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, 5 October 2004. <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com04/statements/Argentina.pdf>

Universalization: "... In the field of disarmament my country will tirelessly continue advocating for all States to eradicate arms of mass destruction and will continue actively working for the strict enforcement of obligations to different treaties on this subject in order to reach universality." *(unofficial translation)* - Statement by Ambassador Arnaldo Listre, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the 56th session of the General Assembly 24 September 2001.

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/pre1com.html>