

RUSSIA-UKRAINE INVASION

NUCLEAR TRANSGRESSIONS

A TIMELINE OF THE TRANSGRESSIONS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND STATE PRACTICE IN REGARDS TO THE TREATMENT OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS DURING ARMED CONFLICT

MARCH 4, 2022

Russian forces seize control of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, the largest in Ukraine and all of Europe. Some of the plant's facilities were damaged by Russian shelling.

APRIL 28, 2022

The IAEA probed a Ukrainian report that a missile had flown directly over the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant near Yuzhnoukrainsk. Ukraine's government has regularly accused Russia of sending rockets directly over Ukrainian nuclear plants.

MAY 20, 2022

Russia's deputy prime minister, Marat Khusnullin, stated that Russia would seek to integrate the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant with Russia's energy system if Ukraine refused to pay for the plant's electricity. Russian occupying forces later told heads of the plant's subdivisions that Russia wanted to put the power plant under Rosatom control by September 1.

JUNE 2, 2022

Following the Russian withdrawal from the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, the plant's staff reported that more than \$135 million worth of equipment was missing from the power plant, with nearby nuclear labs also ransacked by Russian forces.

JUNE 29, 2022

Russian occupying forces planned to drain the cooling pools at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in order to search for alleged weapons belonging to workers. According to Ukraine, several plant workers were detained and tortured to coerce weapons that they had dropped some weapons, explosives, or shells into the concrete basins of the cooling pools. In July 2022, Enerhodar's mayor alleged that Russian occupiers tortured the power plant's diver to death

SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

Ukrainian energy minister Herman Halushchenko stated that a fire resulting from ongoing shelling around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant severed the plant's last connection to the reserve line that provided its only source of outside power.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

The IAEA Board of Governors adopted a resolution calling on Russia to cease all actions against the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, deploring Russia's persistent violent actions against nuclear facilities in Ukraine.

OCTOBER 3, 2022

The head of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Ihor Murashov, was released after being arrested by Russian forces. Murashov was allegedly blindfolded and detained in an undisclosed location by the Russian occupiers.

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Russian troops take control of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Russia would eventually transfer control back to Ukraine a month later. The IAEA added that they were not able to confirm reports of Russian forces receiving high doses of radiation while in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. Radiation detectors would only return online in June 2022.

MARCH 26, 2022

Russian troops fired on the nuclear research subcritical facility in Kharkiv. Further damage would be inflicted on the facility the following June.

APRIL 30, 2022

The IAEA confirmed that a group of eight Rosatom specialists had been sent to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant to demand daily reports on confidential issues from its management.

MAY 27, 2022

The State Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine (SNRIU) claimed that the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and the nearby city of Enerhodar contain Russian military forces and weapons, along with active fighting taking place nearby.

JUNE 23, 2022

According to reports, Russian forces have fortified the outside of the plant with trenches and heavy artillery. This raised concerns about the security of nuclear material at the site. Later reports were that Russia garrisoned the plant with tanks, rocket launchers, and armored personnel carriers.

JULY 1, 2022

Energatom announced that it re-established its connection to surveillance systems at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. This was the second time communications had been lost with the plant due to the cutting off of all Ukrainian mobile operators by Russian occupation

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

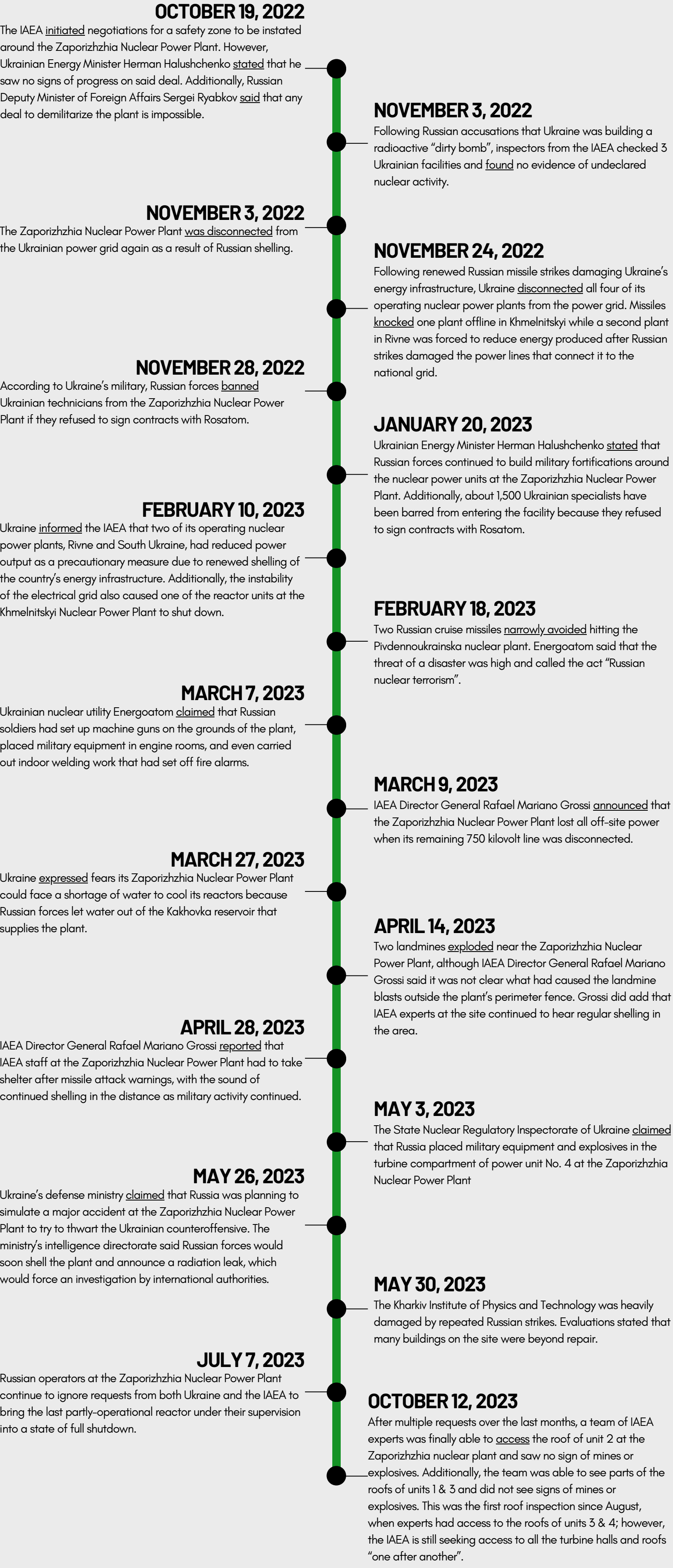
Ukraine announced they would power down the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant's sixth and final working reactor following weeks of shelling around the area.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

According to Ukrainian officials, a powerful Russian missile exploded less than 900 feet from the reactors of the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant. While there was no damage to essential safety equipment, the blast forced a shutdown of one of the plant's hydraulic units.

OCTOBER 5, 2022

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his government to take control of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Russia's move to seize complete control of the power plant came as Russia sought to formally annex the Zaporizhzhia region as Russian territory.



OCTOBER 25, 2023

Blasts near the Khmelnytskyi nuclear site damaged windows at the facility overnight. The IAEA stated that, although this did not affect operation of the plant, it did knock out power temporarily for some off-site radiation monitoring stations.

NOVEMBER 27, 2023

On the same day that the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant lost its main off-site power line, IAEA staff reported that they heard what sounded like rockets fired from a Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) nearby.

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi stated that the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant lost connection to its last back-up external power line. The disconnection leaves the plant solely reliant on its 750 kV line, with no immediate back-up options available.

MARCH 28, 2024

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi stated that IAEA staff at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant heard explosions every day over the previous week, several times sounding near the site.

APRIL 13, 2024

Russian President Vladimir Putin told the IAEA that Russia plans to restart the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, which Russian troops have occupied for two years. An unnamed European diplomat said Russia may aim to do so in time for the 40th anniversary of the plant's original connection to the Soviet Union's electrical grid.

MAY 30, 2024

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi met with Rosatom officials to discuss the continuing efforts of the agency to help prevent a nuclear accident at Zaporizhzhia. Grossi raised numerous issues with the current situation, such as the vulnerability of Zaporizhzhia's off-site power lines, its need for reliable water supplies to ensure reactor cooling, and the ongoing situation related to staffing and equipment maintenance.

JUNE 23, 2024

The IAEA called for a halt of attacks on Enerhodar, the town nearest to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, after drone strikes hit two electricity substations serving the area.

AUGUST 11, 2024

A fire broke out in one of the cooling towers at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russian forces of starting the fire. A month later, IAEA chief Rafael Mariano Grossi said the tower would have to be demolished.

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

U.S. cybersecurity firm Mandiant reported that Russian cyber spies were behind a hack in late 2022 that disrupted part of Ukraine's power grid. The group behind the attack, known by the moniker "Sandworm" has been previously identified as a cyberwarfare unit of Russia's GRU military intelligence agency. The attack, carried out simultaneously with Russian missile strikes, caused a power cut by tripping circuit breakers at an electrical substation.

JANUARY 4, 2024

The IAEA reported that Russia was obstructing access to specific areas of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Russia's denial of IAEA inspectors' access to reactors 1, 2, and 6, coupled with the lack of provision of 2024 maintenance plans for the facility, raised concerns about the safety and security of the plant.

MARCH 4, 2024

Energoatom Chairman Petro Kotin claimed that there were no longer any Energoatom personnel at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Despite having 360 employees at the plant at the beginning of 2024, Ukrainian personnel have been denied access to the facility by Russian occupying forces.

APRIL 9, 2024

The IAEA confirmed that the main reactor containment structures at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant had been attacked by three drone strikes. In response, the IAEA held an emergency meeting where they once again called for the removal of Russian military personnel from the site.

APRIL 19, 2024

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi urged restraint from all sides following a report of a third drone attack in two weeks around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

JUNE 14, 2024

The IAEA reported a mine explosion near the cooling pond of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, although no damage or casualties were reported.

JULY 12, 2024

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution demanding that Russia urgently withdraw its military and personnel from the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and return the facility to Ukraine. Russia was joined by 9 other countries in opposing the resolution.

AUGUST 19, 2024

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi called for maximum restraint on all sides at Zaporizhzhia after a drone strike on a road near the power plant's perimeter. The drone strike was also just 100 meters from the only remaining power line providing external power to the nuclear plant.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

The IAEA published a report on its efforts to ensure nuclear safety and security during Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi warned that the situation at Zaporizhzhia remains “precarious and very fragile.

OCTOBER 8, 2024

Russian Shahed drones violated the no-fly zone above the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant at Pivdennoukrainsk. Energoatom stated afterwards that the number of Russian unmanned aerial vehicles flying over Ukraine has increased drastically.

OCTOBER 23, 2024

The IAEA reported ongoing daily military activity near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. While no damage was reported, the IAEA team reported explosions close to the facility and stressed the persistent threat facing the power plant.

NOVEMBER 7, 2024

The IAEA flagged nuclear safety in Ukraine as a “highly challenging” issue in response to media reports on more ongoing fighting and drone attacks near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

DECEMBER 10, 2024

A drone strike damaged one of the IAEA’s armored vehicles en route to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy blamed Russia for the attack, while Russia’s defense minister claimed Russian troops had ensured the safety of the convoy.

JANUARY 5, 2025

The IAEA reported loud blasts near Russia’s Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, including an alleged drone attack on its training center. IAEA Director General Rafael Mariani Grossi said the blasts represent another threat to nuclear safety.

FEBRUARY 5, 2025

The IAEA postponed the rotation of its mission to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant due to a lack of security guarantees from Russia. Following this, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi announced plans to visit Moscow to address the situation.

MARCH 5, 2025

Rosatom chief Alexei Likhachev said that Russia plans to restart the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant once “military and political conditions allow”. Experts warn that restarting the plant under Russian control would set a dangerous precedent for international nuclear security.

APRIL 2, 2025

Russia announced plans to restart the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, with officials aiming to bring units 2 and 6 online once safety conditions improve. Energoatom chief Petro Kotin warned that it would be unsafe for Russia to restart the plant due to degraded infrastructure and an understaffed workforce.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of using Chinese satellites to photograph Ukraine’s nuclear plants ahead of possible strikes. Zelenskyy did not elaborate whether the satellites were commercial or controlled by the Chinese government.

OCTOBER 9, 2024

Ukrainian Energy Minister claimed Moscow may be preparing a series of strikes on Ukraine’s nuclear energy facilities, warning the European Union that it needed imminent help protecting its nuclear power plants.

OCTOBER 28, 2024

A Russian Shahed UAV flew dangerously close to one of the power units at the Khmelnytskyi Nuclear Power Plant.

DECEMBER 4, 2024

Ukraine called for an extraordinary meeting with the IAEA’s Board of Governors in response to Russian attacks on substations critical to its nuclear power plant’s safety and security.

DECEMBER 13, 2024

Ukraine’s nuclear power plants reduced electricity output again following renewed Russian attacks on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure.

JANUARY 23, 2025

The IAEA reported frequent explosions near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Additionally, air raids were heard from the Khmelnytsky, Rivne, and South Ukraine nuclear power plants.

FEBRUARY 14, 2025

A Russian drone struck the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, setting fire to the shelter that contains radiation from the site of the nuclear disaster. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that the fire had been extinguished and no increase in radiation levels had been recorded.

MARCH 25, 2025

Russia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Moscow does not consider it possible to transfer control of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant to Ukraine or any other country, indicating Russia’s intent to solidify its control of the facility.

MAY 7, 2025

Ukraine’s Energy Minister warned that the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant faces renewed blackout risk after a Russian strike disabled one of its two remaining power lines

MAY 21, 2025

The IAEA reported that a drone struck the training center at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, coinciding with bursts of gunfire heard by IAEA staff. This marked the third drone-related incident targeting the facility in 2025.

MAY 22, 2025

Russia was reportedly finalizing efforts to connect the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant to Russia’s energy grid, with new power lines spotted in occupied areas of the Donetsk Oblast.

JUNE 12, 2025

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi warned that the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant cannot safely restart operations due to the ongoing military conflict and severe vulnerabilities at the site.

JULY 5, 2025

Russian drone and missile strikes around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant resulted in the facility losing power, requiring the activation of 18 emergency diesel generators.

JULY 14, 2025

The IAEA reported that personnel heard “hundreds of rounds of small arms fire” at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. The team had seen numerous small caliber casings lying scattered on the ground near Zaporizhzhia units 5 and 6.

JULY 26, 2025

The IAEA reported further military attacks on the city of Enerhodar, a city near the Zaporizhzhia plant where many IAEA personnel reside. Evidence of shelling damage was found in multiple places within a 5-kilometer radius from the plant.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

The IAEA reported hearing shelling and gunfire near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Shells that struck an area about 400 meters from the site’s off-site fuel storage facility is believed to have caused fires.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant was completely disconnected from its external power lines, marking the tenth blackout at the plant since the beginning of Russia’s invasion in 2022. Energoatom said the plant switched to power from diesel generators due to this incident.