

2. Chronology: Implementing and Related Developments

1998

- July U.S.-Russian Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Management of Plutonium That Has Been Withdrawn From Nuclear Military Programs signed in Moscow by Vice President Al Gore of the United States and Prime Minister Sergei Kirienko of the Russian Federation.
- September Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin sign a "Joint Statement of Principles for Management and Disposition of Plutonium Designated as No Longer Required for Defense Purposes," in which, among other things, they pledge that the United States and Russia will each convert approximately 50 tons of plutonium withdrawn in stages from nuclear military programs into forms unusable for nuclear weapons. They agree that both sides will develop strategies for the management and disposition of plutonium, taking into account the July 1998 U.S.-Russian agreement as well as a U.S.-Russian agreement to be negotiated promptly based on the principles of the Joint Statement.
- September-October In an exchange of letters, Evgeny Adamov, Minister of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy, and Bill Richardson, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, designate on behalf of their respective governments MINATOM First Deputy Minister Valentin B. Ivanov and DOE Under Secretary Ernest J. Moniz to oversee, direct and coordinate the implementation of the July 1998 Agreement, and to serve as Co-Chairs of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management.
- October Representatives of DOE and the Atomic Energy Commission of France (CEA) sign a Protocol on Administrative Arrangements for DOE-CEA Technical Coordination and Cooperation in Support of Russia's Plutonium Disposition. The protocol establishes administrative principles and procedures for DOE-CEA technical coordination and cooperation within the framework of the July 1998 U.S.-Russian agreement and the June 1998 trilateral (France-Germany-Russia) agreement.
- December Inaugural meeting of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management held in Moscow. Pending formal designation by the governments of remaining U.S. and Russian members of the Joint Steering Committee, a transitional steering committee headed by the designated co-chairs is authorized for purposes of the meeting. The transitional Steering Committee agrees on a general approach to joint technical and scientific work under the July Agreement, and authorizes 28 specific technical and scientific projects and activities. The U.S. Co-Chair declines to sign a meeting protocol, however, until general principles and directions for future work are agreed in a subsequent exchange of letters between the Co-Chairs, and specific issues in the protocol text are resolved. New and/or additional contracts for the projects and activities approved at the December 1998 meeting are held in abeyance pending completion and signing of an agreed meeting protocol.

December-January In an exchange of letters, the Steering Committee Co-Chairs—MINATOM First Deputy Minister Ivanov and DOE Under Secretary Moniz—agree on general principles and directions for joint scientific and technical work under the July 1998 Agreement.

1999

February Representatives of DOE and MINATOM resolve remaining issues in the December 1998 meeting protocol of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management, and incorporate the general principles and directions agreed upon in correspondence between the Co-Chairs. The protocol is signed by Co-Chairs Moniz and Ivanov. The temporary suspension of new and/or additional contracts for work approved at the December 1998 meeting is lifted.

March Representatives of DOE and MINATOM reach agreement that the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management will be composed of 16 members, eight each from the United States and Russia, and that "sherpas" will be designated by the two ministries to help strengthen the substantive preparation for future Steering Committee meetings.

April Quadrilateral (U.S.-French-Russian-German) technical information exchange meeting held in Moscow. The aim is to have "the fullest technical information exchange possible within the framework of existing agreements and protocols, and, if possible, to reach some agreed understanding on technical baselines for future work." The two-day meeting brings together for the first time governmental, laboratory, institute, and commercial technical experts engaged in the implementation of the July 1998 U.S.-Russian and June 1998 French-German-Russian technical cooperation agreements.

April Representatives of DOE and MINATOM negotiate and reach agreement on principles and procedures for strengthening management coordination and administrative arrangements in the implementation of the July 1998 Agreement. The agreement is codified in a "Record of Meeting on Management Coordination and Administrative Arrangements," signed on 19 April, 1999 and approved by the Steering Committee Co-Chairs in the days following.

April The United States and the Russian Federation formally designate their remaining members on, and sherpas for, the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management.

April U.S. and Russian technical experts meet in Washington, DC to begin work on the development of a "roadmap" and coordinated plan to guide the scientific and technical work under the July 1998 Agreement.

- May Bilateral (U.S.-Russian) "cost analysis workshop" on plutonium management and disposition held in Obninsk, Russia.
- May In a jointly signed letter to MINATOM First Deputy Minister Ivanov, representatives of DOE, CEA, and the German Federal Foreign Office propose a set of administrative principles and arrangements to "ease and improve ... technical coordination and the sharing of scientific and technical information in support of Russia's plutonium management and disposition" within the framework of the July 1998 bilateral and June 1998 trilateral agreements.
- June Executive meeting of the U.S. and Russian Co-Chairs of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management held in Washington, DC. The Co-Chairs give preliminary approval to the establishment of two new U.S.-Russian working groups under the July 1998 Agreement—one on cost analysis and economics in plutonium disposition; the other, on regulatory matters. The Co-Chairs agree to encourage and support the early and comprehensive involvement of Gosatomnadzor of the Russian Federation (GAN)—the Russian Federation's nuclear regulatory agency—in the scientific and technical program under the July 1998 Agreement, and to the designation of a senior GAN official as a Russian member of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management. The U.S. Co-Chair also pledges to provide such DOE financial support for GAN activities as may be appropriate in order that GAN might perform its regulatory and licensing responsibilities for Russian plutonium disposition in a timely and effective manner.
- August The Russian Federation formally designates a Deputy Chairman of GAN as one of the eight Russian members of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management.
- October In letters to DOE, CEA and the German Federal Foreign Office, MINATOM agrees in principle with the trilateral proposal of May 1999 to establish administrative principles and arrangements for technical coordination and information sharing under the June (trilateral) and July (bilateral) 1998 agreements, but cites potential legal difficulties in implementing the trilateral proposal. MINATOM suggests that these difficulties should be discussed quadrilaterally in the near future.
- October Second meeting of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management held in Washington, DC. Observers from France, Germany and Japan attend. The Steering Committee approves the "roadmap" and schedule jointly developed by U.S. and Russian experts in the spring and summer, and agrees that the documents should serve as the structural framework for joint scientific and technical work under the July 1998 Agreement. It formally approves the two new working groups on cost analysis and regulatory matters, and, as an initial task, directs the working group on cost analysis and economics to develop "by early 2000 ... a credible and comprehensive macro-level analysis of expected total costs of the Russian plutonium disposition program." The Steering Committee also recommends an early review of all

aspects of inviting the participation of specialists from other countries in the cooperative work under the July 1998 Agreement.

December Pursuant to the Steering Committee recommendations at the October 1999 meeting, "Terms of reference" for the two new U.S.-Russian working groups are approved by the Co-Chairs of the Joint U.S.-Russian Steering Committee. The Co-Chairs also approve the "Record of Meeting on Revised Working Procedures and Administrative Understandings Relating to the U.S.-Russian Joint Working Group on Cost Analysis and Economics in Plutonium Disposition, Moscow, 15 December 1999."

December Initial meeting of the U.S.-Russian Working Group on Cost Analysis and Economics in Plutonium Disposition held in Moscow. The working group launches a macro-level analysis of the costs of Russian plutonium disposition and work on an annotated bibliography of previous studies of the costs of various components of Russian plutonium disposition.

December Initial meeting of the U.S.-Russian Working Group on Regulatory Matters held in Moscow. The "roadmap" for Russian disposition program is reviewed from a licensing and regulatory perspective.

December The Russian-French-German Trilateral Coordinating Committee, meeting in Berlin, establishes a trilateral Economic Working Group to examine total costs of Russian plutonium disposition and to "cooperate closely with the experts on cost assessment, cost assessment methodology and definition in the framework of the Russia-USA program." Observers from DOE are invited. The Trilateral Coordinating Committee resolves to "initiate consultations in order to solve as soon as possible the legal issues associated with the exchange of results, documents and observers between the two intergovernmental Agreements (Russia/USA and Russia/France/Germany) in the hope of establishing a mechanism of cross participation of technical observers, consistent with nonproliferation requirements, in the technical meetings organized in the framework of the two intergovernmental Agreements."

2000

February Special U.S.-Russian meeting on macro-level cost analysis in Russian plutonium disposition held in Moscow. An agreed "scenario" for Russian plutonium disposition, to serve as the framework for the macro-level cost analysis and a series of "counting rules" for the cost analysis, are adopted by the Co-Chairs of the Joint U.S.-Russian Working Group on Cost Analysis and Economics in Plutonium Disposition.

April The report of the Joint U.S.-Russian Working Group on Cost Analysis and Economics in Plutonium Disposition—"Preliminary Cost Assessment for the Disposition of Weapon-Grade Plutonium Withdrawn From Russia's Nuclear Military Programs"—is completed and approved by the working group's co-chairs for submission to the Co-Chairs of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management. The Steering Committee Co-Chairs approve the report for unrestricted distribution.

April Quadrilateral (U.S.-Russian-French-German) experts meeting on cost analysis in Russian plutonium disposition held in Moscow. The purpose is to review and discuss the April 2000 report of the Joint U.S.-Russian Working Group on Cost Analysis and Economics in Plutonium Disposition and preliminary findings of the trilateral (French-German-Russian) Economic Working Group.