

Introduction

The Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Management of Plutonium That Has Been Withdrawn From Nuclear Military Programs was signed in Moscow on 24 July 1998.

The purposes of the Agreement are to: (1) provide the scientific and technical basis for decisions on how plutonium that has been withdrawn from nuclear military programs and is no longer required for defense purposes shall be managed; and (2) establish a framework for continued and expanded U.S.-Russian scientific and technical cooperation in this area. "Managed" for these purposes means the transformation of the plutonium into spent fuel or other forms equally unusable for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and may include conversion of plutonium and its manufacture into mixed oxide (MOX) fuel, use of MOX in nuclear reactors, and immobilization of plutonium in various forms.

Article 4 of the Agreement designates the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy (MINATOM) as Executive Agents to carry out the provisions of the Agreement. Article 4 also establishes a U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management to coordinate and agree upon scientific and technical work undertaken under the Agreement.

This reference volume contains the July 1998 Agreement, the principal documents concerned with the Agreement's implementation in 1998-1999, and related documents of general relevance.

Chronology

- July 1998 U.S.-Russian Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Management of Plutonium That Has Been Withdrawn From Nuclear Military Programs signed in Moscow by the Vice President of the United States and the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation. Among other things, the Agreement establishes the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management.
- September-October 1998 In an exchange of letters, the Minister of MINATOM and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy designate, on behalf of their respective governments, MINATOM First Deputy Minister V. Ivanov and DOE Under Secretary E. 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 1998 Representatives of DOE and the Atomic Energy Commission of France (CEA) sign the Protocol on Administrative Arrangements for DOE-CEA Technical Coordination and Cooperation in Support of Russia's Plutonium Disposition
- December 1998 Inaugural Meeting of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management held in Moscow. Steering Committee agrees on general approach to joint technical and scientific work under the July Agreement, and authorizes 28 specific technical and scientific projects and activities. U.S. Co-Chair declines to sign 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.
- December 1998- January 1999 In an exchange of letters, 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.
- February 1999 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. The Protocol is signed by Co-Chairs Moniz and Ivanov.
- March 1999 Representatives of DOE and MINATOM reach agreement that the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee shall be composed in the future 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 1999

First quadrilateral (U.S.-French-Russian-German) technical information exchange meeting under the applicable international agreements for scientific and technical support for Russia's plutonium disposition held in Moscow. The two-day meeting brings together for the first time governmental, laboratory, institute, and commercial policy and technical experts engaged in the implementation of the July 1998 U.S.-Russian Agreement and the June 1998 trilateral French-German-Russian technical cooperation agreement.[‡] The meeting also results in an agreed set of principles for future scientific, commercial, and technical information exchange within the framework of the two international agreements.

April 1999

Representatives of DOE and MINATOM negotiate and reach agreement on principles and procedures for strengthening DOE-MINATOM management coordination, Joint Steering Committee administrative arrangements, and scientific and technical work program management in the implementation of the July 1998 Agreement.

April 1999

In an exchange of correspondence, the United States and the Russian Federation formally designate their members on the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management and Disposition

April 1999

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.

[‡] See Related Documents for the text of the June 1998 trilateral agreement.

Principal Documents

- 1 Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Management of Plutonium That Has Been Withdrawn From Nuclear Military Programs, Moscow, July 1998
- 2 Exchange of Letters between MINATOM Minister Adamov and DOE Secretary Richardson designating oversight for the implementation of the July 1998 Agreement and Co-Chairs for the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Disposition
- 3 Protocol of the Meeting on Administrative Arrangements of CEA-DOE Technical Coordination/Cooperation in Support of Russia's Plutonium Management and Disposition, Paris, 8-9 October 1998; signed, 9 October 1999
- 4 Exchange of Letters between MINATOM First Deputy Minister Ivanov and DOE Under Secretary Moniz on general principles and directions for scientific and technical cooperation under the July 1998 Agreement, December 1998-January 1999
- 5 Protocol of the Meeting of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management and Disposition, Moscow, 10-12 December 1998; signed, February 1999
- 6 Correspondence relating to the first quadrilateral (U.S.-French-Russian-German) technical information exchange meeting under the July 1998 U.S.-Russian Agreement and the June 1998 Franco-Russian-German Agreement on "cooperation in the utilization for peaceful purposes of plutonium derived from the dismantlement of surplus Russian nuclear weapons," and concerning agreed principles and procedures for future exchanges of scientific, technical and commercial information within the framework of the two international agreements, March-May 1999
- 7 Record of Meeting on Management Coordination and Administrative Arrangements in the Implementation of the 24 July 1998 U.S.-Russian Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Management of Plutonium That Has Been Withdrawn From Nuclear Military Programs, Moscow, 15-16 April 1999
- 8 Exchange of Letters between MINATOM First Deputy Minister Ivanov and DOE Under Secretary Moniz designating Russian and American members of the U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Management and Disposition, April 1999
- 9 Record of Meeting of U.S.-Russian Technical Experts on the Development of a "Roadmap" for Scientific and Technical Work under the July 1998 U.S.-Russian Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the Management of Plutonium That Has Been Withdrawn from Nuclear Military Programs, Washington, DC, 26-28 April 1999

Related Documents

- A Convention Between the Government of the German Federal Republic, the Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning Cooperation in the Field of the Utilization for Peaceful Purposes of Plutonium Derived From the Dismantlement of Surplus Russian Nuclear Weapons, June 1998
- B Protocols of the Meetings of DOE and CEA Technical Experts on Scientific and Technical Information Exchange in Support of Russia's Plutonium Disposition, June and July 1998 (Washington, DC)
- C Joint Statement of Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin "On Principles for the Management and Disposition of Plutonium Designated as No Longer Required for Defense Purposes," September 1998
- D Protocols of the meetings of the [Informal] U.S.-Russian Joint Steering Committee on Plutonium Disposition, 1995-1998