

NON-PROLIFERATION TRUST II LONG-TERM FISSILE MATERIALS SAFEGUARDS AND SECURITY PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary

The following Agreement reflects the creative efforts of the Russian Federation, the United States of America, several organizations dedicated to worthy causes, and the environmental community in achieving historic cooperation for an effort designed to aid the non-proliferation of nuclear materials and weapons and to advance environmental restoration and other worthy causes within the Russian Federation. With appropriate approvals from the Russian and U.S. governments, the Agreement creates a legal framework whereby a special organization, established for this purpose, will cooperate with the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy (Minatom) by providing billions of U.S. dollars for environmental restoration of contaminated weapons sites and other environmental initiatives in Russia, for economic development for nuclear cities, for Russian pensioners, for Russian invalids and orphans, for improving the security of Russian weapons usable fissile materials not retained for national security purposes, and for other worthy causes within Russia. The Agreement in no way compromises the national security of either Russia or the United States. Indeed, by safeguarding the excess fissile materials using substantial additional funds provided for that purpose, the Agreement will enhance international security and improve relations between Russia and the United States.

The special-purpose organization raises the requisite funds by providing, with Minatom's authorization, storage space within Russia for up to 10,000 metric tons of spent nuclear reactor fuel, sealed in dry casks and placed in a specially licensed, closed facility. The spent fuel would not be owned by the United States, and would have been generated in reactors located in countries other than the United States or Russia. This amount of spent fuel is less than ten-percent of the world's inventory of such material. It is comparable to the amount of spent fuel already stored in Russia, and is about one-fourth of the spent fuel stored in the United States. The Agreement recognizes that such spent fuel can be safely and securely stored in an environmentally sound manner for a term of at least 40 years.

The Agreement recognizes that the spent nuclear fuel would never be converted for weapons use or be reprocessed. Thus, the Agreement avoids the

need to engage in controversial and costly production of commercial mixed-oxide fuel and attendant additional reprocessing facilities.

In short, the Agreement represents an investment by the parties in continuing good relations between Russia and the United States, in recognition of the paramount need to secure weapons-usable materials against theft and terrorism, to provide assistance for nuclear defense workers, and to restore the environment to a safe condition.