

## **G7 condemns Russia's 'kidnapping' of nuclear plant leaders**

The Group of Seven industrialised nations condemned Russia's kidnapping of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant leadership and called for the immediate return of full control of the facility to **Ukraine**.

“We condemn Russia's repeated kidnapping of Ukrainian ZNPP [Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant] leadership and staff,” Reuters reported the G7 nonproliferation directors general as saying in a statement on Saturday.

*We urge Russia to immediately return full control of the ZNPP to its rightful sovereign owner, Ukraine.*

Russian forces captured the nuclear plant – Europe's largest – in early March.

On Wednesday, Ukraine's state nuclear energy agency accused Russia of detaining two senior employees at the plant.

Energoatom said Russian forces on Monday “kidnapped” the head of information technology, **Oleg Kostyukov**, and the plant's assistant general director, **Oleg Osheka**, and “took them to an unknown destination”, Agence France-Presse reported.

Energoatom had called on International Atomic Energy Agency chief, **Rafael Grossi**, “to make every effort” to secure their release.

The agency announced that another plant official, **Valeriy Martyniuk**, had been released.

2h ago  
07.41 BST

## **Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant again cut off from external energy supply**

**The operator of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP) has said that it has again been disconnected from external power supply as a result of Russian shelling.**

**Energoatom**, the Ukrainian state-owned concerned which runs the ZNPP, has posted to Telegram to claim that:

*Russian terrorists once again fired at substations of critical infrastructure in the territory under the control of Ukraine, as a result of which at 03:59 the last communication line of 750 kV ZANP - Dniprovska was disconnected. In the transitional process, due to a short-term voltage drop, the reserve transformer of the ZNPP's own needs was turned off and the diesel generators were started.*

*We once again appeal to the international community to urgently take measures for the demilitarisation of the ZNPP as soon as possible, the withdrawal of all Russian military personnel from the territory of the plant and the city of Energodar, and the return of the ZNPP to the full control of Ukraine for the sake of the security of the whole world.*

The claims have not been independently verified. Russian forces have been occupying the ZNPP, Europe's largest nuclear power station, since the earliest days of the war in **Ukraine**. The ZNPP is located in one of occupied regions of Ukraine which Russia claims to have "annexed", and Russia has announced its intention to bring the ZNPP under the control of Russia's nuclear authorities.

1h ago  
08.51 BST

## **Grossi: repeated loss of off-site power at Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant 'deeply worrying'**

**The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has described developments at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP), which has lost off-site power, as "deeply worrying".**

Rafael Grossi **tweeted**:

*Our team at the ZNPP informed me this morning that the plant has lost all of its external power for the second time in five days. Its back-up diesel generators are now providing electricity for its nuclear safety and security functions. This repeated loss of the ZNPP's off-site power is a deeply worrying development and it underlines the urgent need for a nuclear safety and security protection zone around the site.*

The ZNPP has been occupied by Russian forces but operated by Ukrainian staff since early in Russia's latest invasion of **Ukraine**. Russia has claimed to have "annexed" Zaporizhzhia, and stated it intends to take the plant under its own operational framework.

33m ago

09.44 BST

## **Ukrainian officials: Russian forces refusing diesel delivery to Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant**

**Energoatom**, the Ukrainian state-owned company that manages the **Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (ZNPP)** has accused Russian forces occupying it of refusing a convoy of company vehicles carrying diesel to refuel the plant's generators. It has been cut off from off-site power. In a statement posted to Telegram, Energoatom said:

*This morning, 12 October at 8.59am, as a result of rocket fire by Russian troops, the Dniprovska substation in the Dnipropetrovsk region was damaged. As a result, the 750-kV communication line of ZANP – Dniprovska was accidentally opened. As a result, the ZNPP was completely de-energized. Diesel generators turned on automatically.*

*Energoatom prepared and sent another batch of diesel fuel to the ZNPP. However, as of 10am, the Russian side does not allow the company's convoy of vehicles to pass.*

*Russian shelling and damage to energy infrastructure related to the operation of nuclear power plants is the same manifestation of nuclear terrorism as direct shelling of the ZNPP, and leads to the same consequences and threats of a radiation accident.*

*The occupiers continue to neglect the nuclear and radiation safety of the largest nuclear power plant in Europe, threatening the world with a radiation disaster.*

The claims have not been independently verified. Both sides have previously accused the other of shelling the ZNPP directly, which sits in one of the occupied regions that Russia has claimed to “annex”.

## **UN nuclear watchdog agency head says Zaporizhzhia plant is a Ukrainian facility**

From CNN's Fred Pleitgen and Radina Gigova



A general view of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant on September 11. (AFP/Getty Images)

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is a Ukrainian facility and possible changes "would be a complex issue" that he'll have to discuss during his upcoming visit to Moscow.

When asked by CNN's Fred Pleitgen on Thursday if IAEA would boycott the process of Zaporizhzhia staff potentially becoming employees of Russia's Rosatom, Grossi said "I can neither boycott nor play along. I have to do the right things and the right thing in this case is first of all to look at the security, the safety and the wellbeing of the staff."

Grossi added that "when it comes to the contractual changes that may be coming as a result of the announcements, is something that I will have to be discussing in Russia in the next few days."

"There is not much clarity of the extent of these proposed changes, so I will have to have more clarity," Grossi said. "For us, it is obvious that since this is a Ukrainian facility, the ownership is of Energoatom. Any change would be a complex issue."

Russian President Vladimir Putin **signed a decree on Wednesday** that puts the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine under Russian state control.

But just as Putin was signing the decree, Ukrainian state nuclear operator Energoatom said its president would assume the duties of the plant's director general.

**3 hr 42 min ago**

## **UN nuclear watchdog condemns renewed shelling that knocked Zaporizhzhia plant off power grid**

From CNN's Sharon Braithwaite

The UN's nuclear watchdog condemned new shelling near Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which just disconnected the plant from Ukraine's power grid, according to its operator.

The resumed shelling is "tremendously irresponsible," International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi said Saturday in a [press release](#).

The last power line connecting the plant to Ukraine's power grid [was damaged and disconnected Saturday](#) due to attacks by Russian forces, according to the Ukrainian nuclear operator Energoatom. The plant is now relying on diesel generators.

"The resumption of shelling, hitting the plant's sole source of external power, is tremendously irresponsible.

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant must be protected," Grossi said on Saturday.

"All the plant's safety systems continue to receive power and are operating normally, the IAEA experts were informed by senior Ukrainian operating staff at the site," he added in the release.

"Although the six reactors are in cold shutdown, they still require electricity for vital nuclear safety and security functions. The plant's diesel generators each have sufficient fuel for at least ten days. ZNPP engineers have begun work to repair the damaged 750 kV power line," according to the release.

Grossi stressed that the plant "must be protected" and added that he will "soon travel to the Russian Federation, and then return to Ukraine, to agree on a nuclear safety and security

protection zone around the plant. This is an absolute and urgent imperative.”

**What Russian officials say:** The plant can be put back into operation, said Vladimir Rogov, who is a senior pro-Russian official in the regional Zaporizhzhia government.

"Now the nuclear power plant has been switched back to the emergency mode of operation. The last power line that connected it with the right bank, with the territories controlled by [Ukrainian President Volodymyr] Zelensky's regime, has been cut. For now, the nuclear power plant can only be powered by diesel generators, and this is an unusual means," Rogov said while speaking to the pro-Kremlin "Soloviev Live" show on Saturday.

"We have every possibility to restore the nuclear power plant and put it into operation," he added.