



Electrical Trades Union of Australia
Proud to be Union

Hon. Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
CC:
The Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP
Senator The Hon. Marise Payne

8 March 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

Amongst many other horrors, the war in Ukraine is painfully highlighting the inherent problems with nuclear power.

I write to you regarding Australian obligated nuclear material (AONM) in Ukraine with grave concerns Australian uranium could be seized by Russia and used to fuel its nuclear weapons arsenal.

Russia has already captured a number of Ukrainian nuclear plants, including Europe's largest, the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant. According to the Australian Safeguard and Non-Proliferation Office, AONM was transferred to Ukraine under the Australian-Ukraine Nuclear Cooperation Agreement in 2021, and potentially subsequently.

The Agreement between Australia and the Ukraine is subject to the following condition:

the Australian Government undertakes a proper assessment of risks and develops and maintains a suitable contingency plan for the removal of Australian nuclear material if the material is at risk of a loss of regulatory control",

The Electrical Trades Union calls on the Australian Government to reveal whether that contingency plan has been enacted following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and subsequent takeover of nuclear power stations.

The ETU is also seeking clarification over whether AONM transferred to Ukraine under the Agreement is currently stored or housed in Ukraine and what the Australian Government's obligations are in the event of Australian uranium in Ukraine being compromised.

Additionally, the ETU is calling on the Australian Government to permanently rescind the Australian-Russian Federation Agreement on Cooperation in the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes which has been suspended since 2014.

If Russia is able to gain control of Australian obligated nuclear material, the fallout could be catastrophic. As Australians, I believe we have a right to know if its Australian uranium which is at risk, and what our nation's obligations are in the event of an incident.

We not only have an obligation under our own Agreement with Ukraine but we owe it to the global community to ensure these materials are protected – preferably by leaving them in the ground.

I look forward to your response,

Michael Wright
Assistant Secretary
Electrical Trades Union of Australia