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Putin envoy calls for tighter security at Russian nuclear power stations
BBC Monitoring Service - United Kingdom; Feb 12, 2002

Text of report by Russian news agency RIA

Moscow, 12 February, RIA-Novosti correspondent Eduard Puzyrev: The Russian president's plenipotentiary representative in the Urals Federal District (UFD), Petr Latyshev, has called on specialists to be vigilant at installations of the Russian nuclear industry. He was speaking in Chelyabinsk on Tuesday [12 February] at an interdepartmental coordination meeting on the development of Russia's nuclear industry and ways of maintaining radiation safety and guaranteeing the social welfare of citizens who have suffered the consequences of radioactive contamination in the UFD. The conference was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov, Atomic Energy Minister Aleksandr Rumyantsev and heads of a number of central departments and constituent parts of the Russian Federation in the UFD.

The Russian Atomic Energy Ministry told RIA-Novosti that Petr Latyshev noted the importance of developing up-to-date ways of guaranteeing security at vital state installations, such as enterprises of the nuclear industry. "At a time when terrorism is resorting to more sophisticated methods in its inhuman activities, guaranteeing the reliability and operational safety of all systems in the nuclear industry assumes special importance and the state must ensure this reliability," Latyshev noted.

The participants also examined cooperation between the Atomic Energy Ministry, the Emergencies Ministry, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the local authorities in constituent parts of the Russian Federation in the context of ensuring tighter security at Atomic Energy Ministry installations, as well as measures to provide funding for the construction of a BN-800 unit [an 800-MW fast-neutron reactor] at the Beloyarsk nuclear power station. They also discussed questions of the completion of geological prospecting work in Kurgan Region.

Special attention was paid to the social support of individuals who suffered as a result of the 1957 accident at the Mayak nuclear enterprise in Chelyabinsk Region, as well as local ecological issues, the Atomic Energy Ministry said.

Source: RIA news agency, Moscow, in Russian 1501 gmt 12 Feb 02

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