

Armenia Extends Plant's Life

By [The Moscow Times](#)

April 22, 2012

The  Moscow Times

YEREVAN, Armenia — The Armenian government has decided to extend the operation of the country's sole nuclear power plant until a new nuclear reactor is built.

The landlocked and impoverished ex-Soviet nation depends on the Medzamor plant for nearly half of its energy consumption. The Soviet-built plant was to be shut down in 2016, but the Cabinet ruled Thursday that it should remain operational for a few extra years until its replacement enters service.

It said the authorities would take additional measures to increase safety at the plant. A reactor being built by Russia is to become operational in 2019–20. Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisian said he had discussed the issue with Yukiya Amano, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

(AP)

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