

Amid Radiation Scare, Russian Atomic Agency Finds 'No Violations'

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The Mayak nuclear facility / Ilya Yakovlev / TASS

Russia's Atomic oversight agency (Rostekhnadzor) says it has [found](#) no violations of radiation norms at the Mayak nuclear facility in Chelyabinsk.

After a complaint from Greenpeace, European monitors earlier this month [detected](#) a cloud of radioactive material originating in Russia's southern Urals over two dozen European countries in late September.

Russia's state nuclear corporation Rosatom first [claimed](#) the release of the radioactive material, known as Ruthenium 106 or Ru-106, was natural background radiation.

The Consumer Oversight Agency (Rospotrebnadzor) even [said](#) that the amount of Ru-106 in the atmosphere was 200 times less than the norm and was no danger to public health.

But on Monday, Russia's Federal Meteorological Service [said](#) it had registered extreme levels of Ru-106 across several locations in late September. The highest levels of the radioisotope — 986 times the norm — were at Rosatom's Mayak facility.

The Federal Agency for Environmental, Technical and Atomic Oversight [said](#) it inspected Mayak from Oct. 26 to Nov. 3, the news agency Interfax reported.

In a press statement Wednesday, the agency said that during the inspection, "the activity of radionuclides in the ground air, including the specific activity of the isotope Ruthenium-106 did not exceed the permissible and controlled levels established for the facility."

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