The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Power Flowing to Chernobyl Nuclear Plant After Outage – Officials

By AFP

October 02, 2025



Sergei Dolzhenko / EPA / TASS

The defunct Chernobyl nuclear plant was being supplied with power as normal on Thursday, Ukrainian officials told AFP, a day after President Volodymyr Zelensky sounded the alarm over a temporary power outage.

Zelensky said a confinement structure at the plant was cut off from power for more than three hours after a Russian strike on an energy substation in Slavutych, a village built for personnel evacuated after the 1986 disaster.

"Everything functions normally today," Ukraine's energy ministry told AFP on Thursday.

Related article: Russia Says Situation at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Plant Under Control

The Chernobyl zone administration told AFP that the plant's New Safe Confinement — a

protective structure which covers both the exploded reactor unit and its original shelter to stop the release of radioactive material — was "operating in usual mode."

Russia's troops seized control of the site in northern Ukraine on the first day of their February 2022 invasion.

Ukraine's nuclear sites have suffered repeated Russian attacks throughout the war, raising fears about a possible nuclear disaster.

The 1986 explosion of reactor number four was the world's worst nuclear accident, exposing hundreds of thousands of people to elevated levels of radiation.

Zaporizhzhia off the grid

The Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant has meanwhile been disconnected from the power grid since last Tuesday.

Both Russia and Ukraine have traded blame for causing that blackout.

The plant's six reactors, which before the war produced around a fifth of Ukraine's electricity, were shut down after Moscow took over.

But the site needs power to maintain the cooling and other safety systems that prevent the reactors from melting down and releasing radiation into the atmosphere.

Zelensky said Tuesday the situation there was "critical" and that one of the backup diesel generators had "malfunctioned."

The Moscow-installed operator said Wednesday that the situation there was "under control."

Since the start of the war, Zaporizhzhia has seen multiple safety threats, including frequent nearby shelling, repeated power cuts and staff shortages.

The site sits near the city of Enerhodar on the Dnieper River, the de facto front line in southern Ukraine.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/10/02/power-flowing-to-chernobyl-nuclear-plant-after-outage-officials-a90692