

Nuclear Latency (NL) Dataset
Country Coding Sheets

EGYPT

COW COUNTRY CODE: 651

List of Country's Enrichment and Reprocessing (ENR) Facilities

1. Hot Cell Facility at Inshas Nuclear Research Center

Detailed Facility-Specific Information and Sources

1. Hot Cell Facility at Inshas Nuclear Research Center

- a. ENR type (diffusion, centrifuge, EMIS, chemical and ion exchange, aerodynamic isotope separation, reprocessing).*

Reprocessing.

- b. Facility size (laboratory, pilot, commercial).*

Laboratory.

- c. Is the facility under construction or in operation? If under construction, list the construction years. If in operation, list the years of operation.*

The facility started construction in 1980 and was completed in 1982. The facility operated from 1982 to the present. Intermittent operation during the 1980s and 1990s occurred with some activity not being reported to the IAEA. The IAEA concluded in 2005 that the facility was being used for research on radiological protection rather than reprocessing. Although we code this facility as operational from 1982 to 2012, it is important to note that reprocessing may not have occurred during that full timespan.

- d. Was the facility developed covertly? If so, identify years that facility was covert.*

Yes. Although France supplied the hot cells, Egypt sought to keep the plant secret from the IAEA and other international actors, at least initially.

- e. Was the facility placed under IAEA safeguards? If so, identify the years that the facility was safeguarded.*

Egypt did not initially declare the facility to the IAEA. However, it is now under Agency safeguards.

- f. Was the facility placed under regional safeguards? If so, identify the years that the facility was under regional safeguards.*

No.

g. *Did the facility have a military purpose?*

Egypt sought nuclear weapons under Gamal Abdel Nasser and Anwar Sadat. At the time Cairo sought hot cells from France it harbored bomb-related ambitions. It is therefore likely that it sought this technology with military applications in mind. However, Egypt's interest in nuclear weapons seems to have subsided after it ratified the Nonproliferation Treaty in 1980.

h. *Was the facility multinational? If so, identify the other countries that were involved.*

No.

i. *Was the facility built with foreign assistance? If so, list the supplier(s) and what they provided.*

Yes, the facility was built by purchasing hot cells from Robatel of France. In the late 1970's Egypt signed a contract with a foreign company for the construction of the Hydrometallurgy Pilot Plant at Inshas. From 1980-1982 France constructed hot cells in the Hot Laboratory and Waste Management Center. The HLWMC was established in 1980 with the support of the IAEA. Egypt claims only the second of the three laboratories was completed.

j. *Sources:*

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