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# EU at risk from Ukrainian strikes on nuclear plant – Rosatom CEO

Radiation knows no borders, the head of the Russian state atomic power corporation, Aleksey Likhachev, has warned

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FILE PHOTO: Rosatom head, Aleksey Likhachev, attending a licensing ceremony for operating the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant's first reactor unit. © Sputnik

Ukraine and its neighboring EU countries would be the first to suffer if Kiev's continued attacks result in an incident at the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), Aleksey Likhachev, CEO of the Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom, has said.

Europe's largest nuclear power plant has been targeted by Ukraine on multiple occasions since Russia took control of the facility in March 2022. On Saturday, a fiber-optics-guided drone struck the machine hall of ZNPP's sixth power unit, puncturing a hole in the

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building. According to Rosatom, this was Kiev’s first “deliberate attack” on the station’s main equipment.

Ukrainian authorities have denied any involvement in the incident. Vladimir Zelensky said in April that the only way for Russia to guarantee security at the plant was to hand it over to Kiev.

Likhachev told journalists on Monday that “any explosion, any fire [at the plant] guarantees a loss of both power and water supplies to the reactor unit. And that is a precursor to a nuclear incident.”



If the ZNPP is hit with more powerful weapons such as heavy missiles, the reactor vessel could well be destroyed, causing a release of radiation that would then spread over a vast area, he warned.

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“Ukraine and neighboring Western

states are the first to be at serious risk” if this happens, the Rosatom chief added.

According to Likhachev, his conversation about the events at the ZNPP with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi later in the day will also serve as “an address to the leaders of European countries.”

“This whole radiation situation doesn’t respect national borders. By playing with fire and allowing the escalation of tensions around the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant, the leaders of European countries are clearly putting their people, their cities and their territories under a direct threat,” he noted.

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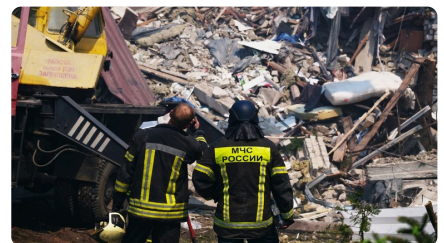
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The IAEA, which has its experts deployed at the ZNPP, previously acknowledged attacks on the facility, but stopped short of blaming Ukraine for them. The plant has been operated by Rosatom since Zaporozhye and Kherson Regions as well as the People' Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk voted to join Russia in a referendum in the fall of 2022.



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
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Radiation poisoning is basically pooping yourself to death, and eventually you are too weak to do it someplace else so you just sit and poop and sit and poop until you die. At least that's what most of the Hiroshima victims did.

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