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Ukraine 'deliberately' struck Europe's largest nuclear plant – Rosatom

It is the first time nuclear power plant key equipment has ever been purposely targeted, Rosatom CEO Aleksey Likhachev has said

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FILE PHOTO: Cooling pond facilities at Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant, Energodar, Russia © Sputnik

The Ukrainian military attacked Russia's Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), puncturing a hole in the machine hall of one of the facility's units, Aleksey Likhachev, CEO of the Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom, has said.

The ZNPP – which has repeatedly been attacked by Kiev forces over the past years – came under a new attack on Saturday, with a fiber-optics-guided drone making it to the machine hall of the sixth power unit of the plant. Given that such munitions are guided by their operators until the impact, the strike was carried out deliberately, and any “theories of an accidental hit” can be ruled out, Likhachev stated.

“One could, if I may put it this way, ‘congratulate’ the entire international community – this is the first-ever deliberate attack on the nuclear power plant’s main equipment, with a penetrative explosion and damage to the machine hall,” he said.

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Russia has repeatedly drawn the attention of the international community to the “*extremely dangerous behavior*” on Kiev’s part, the nuclear chief added. Many appear not to take the continuing attacks on the ZNPP “*seriously*,” while a potential nuclear incident at the plant could spread well beyond Russia and Ukraine, affecting those believing themselves to be “*completely safe*,” Likhachev warned.



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Radiation levels remain normal at the site, the ZNPP said in a statement. The attack caused no casualties or “*critical damage*” to the facility, it added. Emergency teams are currently accessing the damage sustained by the machine hall, with the situation remaining under “*full control*,”

the ZNPP stressed.

In recent weeks, the Ukrainian military has ramped up attacks on the plant, repeatedly striking structures within its perimeter and targeting the facility’s employees. The ZNPP came under Moscow’s control early in the conflict and has been operated by Rosatom after the Zaporozhye Region voted to join Russia in a referendum in the fall of 2022.

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