



**OSPAR**  
COMMISSION

# Annual report and assessment of discharges of liquid discharges from nuclear installations in 2023

## **Liquid Discharges from nuclear installations in 2023**

### **OSPAR Convention**

The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the “OSPAR Convention”) was opened for signature at the Ministerial Meeting of the former Oslo and Paris Commissions in Paris on 22 September 1992. The Convention entered into force on 25 March 1998. The Contracting Parties are Belgium, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

### **Convention OSPAR**

La Convention pour la protection du milieu marin de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est, dite Convention OSPAR, a été ouverte à la signature à la réunion ministérielle des anciennes Commissions d'Oslo et de Paris, à Paris le 22 septembre 1992. La Convention est entrée en vigueur le 25 mars 1998. Les Parties contractantes sont l'Allemagne, la Belgique, le Danemark, l'Espagne, la Finlande, la France, l'Irlande, l'Islande, le Luxembourg, la Norvège, les Pays-Bas, le Portugal, le Royaume-Uni de Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord, la Suède, la Suisse et l'Union européenne.

## **Acknowledgement**

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## Executive summary

This report presents the 2023 data for liquid radioactive discharges from nuclear installations along with temporal trends for the period 1989 - 2023. On this basis, an assessment has been made for the discharges from the nuclear sector which comprises the following sub-sectors;

- nuclear power stations;
- nuclear fuel reprocessing plants;
- nuclear fuel fabrication and enrichment plants;
- research and development facilities;
- decommissioning facilities and management of legacy radioactive wastes activities.

Discharges are reported as total alpha, tritium and total beta (excluding tritium) in terabecquerels per year (TBq/y).

The overall trend in 2023 is a steady continuing reduction in the majority of reported discharges which reflects the longer-term trend.

The total discharges of alpha activity from all nuclear installations in 2023 were 0.12 TBq which has increased by 0.01 TBq (or 9%) since the previous year. Discharges of total alpha in 2023 are only about 4% of the 1989 peak and are the second lowest on record. Discharges from the fuel reprocessing sub-sector contributed 40% with the decommissioning sub-sector becoming the major contributor for the first time at 55% of the overall total alpha discharge in 2023. All sub-sectors combined resulted in a total of 0.117 TBq. The single largest contributor of alpha discharges in 2023 was decommissioning related discharges from Sellafield at 54% of the total.

The total discharge of tritium in 2023 was around 12,000 TBq, a 7% reduction from the previous two years. Discharges of tritium are dominated by those from the reprocessing sector (with 82% of the total from all installations from Cap de la Hague in France and Sellafield in the UK).

Discharges of total beta activity (excluding tritium) from all nuclear installations have decreased markedly since 1989 and in 2023 were only about 1.3% of what they were in 1989. In 2023 total beta discharges decreased by around 17% from the previous year to about 10 TBq and represents the lowest recorded levels since 1989.

Historically, total beta discharges have been dominated by discharges from the reprocessing plants and the nuclear fuel fabrication plant at Springfields in the UK to a lesser extent. In 2023, the contribution of the reprocessing sub-sector (36%) is significantly lower than the peak contribution of this sub-sector (81% in 2007).

The contribution of decommissioning discharges in 2023 was the highest contributing sub-sector for the first year (48% of all installations). Discharges from decommissioning, and the management of historical or legacy waste, in 2023 was 4.8 TBq.

## Récapitulatif

Le présent rapport annuel comporte les données de 2023 sur les rejets radioactifs liquides provenant des installations nucléaires et les tendances temporelles pour la période de 1989 à 2023. Une évaluation a été réalisée, à partir de ces informations, portant sur les rejets du secteur nucléaire, provenant des sous-secteurs suivants :

- centrales nucléaires ;
- installations de retraitement de combustible nucléaire ;
- installations de production de combustible nucléaire et installations d'enrichissement ;
- installations de recherche et de développement ;
- activités de démantèlement et de gestion des déchets radioactifs hérités.

Les rejets sont notifiés au titre des activités d'alpha total, de tritium et de bêta total (à l'exclusion du tritium) et exprimés en térabecquerel par an (TBq/y).

La tendance générale en 2023 est une diminution continue de la majorité des rejets déclarés, ce qui reflète la tendance à long terme.

L'activité d'alpha total rejetée par toutes les installations nucléaires en 2023 était de 0,12 TBq, ce qui représente une augmentation de 0,01 TBq (9 %), par rapport à l'année précédente. Les rejets alpha annuels en 2023 ne représentent qu'environ 4 % du pic enregistré en 1989 et sont les deuxièmes plus bas jamais enregistrés. Les rejets provenant du sous-secteur du retraitement du combustible ont représenté 40 % du total, tandis que le sous-secteur du démantèlement est devenu pour la première fois le principal contributeur, avec 55 % du total des rejets alpha en 2023. Tous les sous-secteurs combinés ont représenté un total de 0,117 TBq. Le plus grand contributeur aux rejets alpha en 2023 a été les rejets liés au démantèlement de Sellafield, avec 54 % du total.

Le rejet total de tritium en 2023, d'environ 12 000 TBq, représente une réduction de 7 % par rapport à l'année précédente. Les rejets de tritium sont dominés par ceux du secteur du retraitement (82 % du total provenant de toutes les installations du Cap de la Hague en France et de Sellafield au Royaume-Uni).

Les rejets d'activité bêta totale (à l'exclusion du tritium) provenant de toutes les installations nucléaires ont nettement diminué depuis 1989 et ne représentaient en 2023 qu'environ 1,3 % de ce qu'ils étaient en 1989. En 2023, les rejets d'activité bêta totale ont diminué d'environ 17 % par rapport à l'année précédente, pour atteindre environ 10 TBq, ce qui représente les niveaux les plus bas enregistrés depuis 1989.

Historiquement, les rejets bêta totaux ont été dominés par les rejets des usines de retraitement et, dans une moindre mesure, par ceux de l'usine de fabrication de combustible nucléaire de Springfields au Royaume-Uni. En 2023, la contribution du sous-secteur du retraitement (36 %) est nettement inférieure à la contribution maximale de ce sous-secteur (81 % en 2007).

La contribution des rejets liés au démantèlement en 2023 a été la plus élevée pour la première année (48 % de l'ensemble des installations). Les rejets liés au démantèlement et à la gestion des déchets historiques ou hérités se sont élevés à 4,8 TBq en 2023.

## 1. Introduction

Work to prevent and reduce pollution from ionising radiation in the North-East Atlantic was first undertaken within the framework of the former 1974 Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources (the "Paris Convention") and then under the 1992 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the "OSPAR Convention"), which replaces the Paris Convention and establishes the OSPAR Commission.

At the first Ministerial Meeting of the OSPAR Commission (20-24 July 1998, Sintra, Portugal), an OSPAR Strategy for Radioactive Substances was adopted to guide the future work of the OSPAR Commission on protecting the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic against radioactive substances arising from human activities. This strategy was revised at the third Ministerial Meeting of the OSPAR Commission (23-24

September 2010, Bergen, Norway), where the Strategy of the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic 2010-2020 (the “North-East Strategy”) was adopted. In 2021, the [North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy](#) (NEAES) 2030 was agreed in Cascais, Portugal to cover the period 2020 - 2030.

The NEAES sets out OSPAR’s vision, objectives, strategic directions, and action for the period up to 2030. In Part I, the new Strategy sets out its 12 strategic objectives. Strategic Objective 3 commits OSPAR Contracting Parties to *Prevent pollution by radioactive substances in order to safeguard human health and to protect the marine environment with the ultimate aim of achieving and maintaining concentrations in the marine environment at near background values for naturally occurring radioactive substances and close to zero for human made radioactive substances.*

Strategic objective 3 is supported by 4 operational objectives setting targets and further details of how Strategic Objective 3 will be achieved. These are:

S3.O1: On an ongoing basis OSPAR will further prevent, progressively reduce or, where that is not practicable, minimise discharges of radioactive substances through the application of Best Available Techniques (BAT), taking into account technical feasibility, radiological impact and legitimate uses of the sea.

S3.O2: By 2025 OSPAR will identify and consider any obstacles in achieving further reductions in environmental concentrations of radioactive substances in the marine environment and examine possible solutions where appropriate.

S3.O3: By 2025 OSPAR will identify the different types of loss of radioactive substances that may contribute to pollution of the marine environment. By 2027 OSPAR will determine if any additional measures are required to prevent such pollution, to the extent that such pollution is not already the subject of effective measures agreed by other international organisations or prescribed by other international conventions.

S3.O4: By 2028 OSPAR will, following the outcome of the Quality Status report 2023, address, where appropriate, any uncertainties by reviewing and updating methodologies to better determine the possible impact of releases, emissions and losses of radioactive substances on marine ecosystems.

The NEAES 2030 provides a means for achieving a clean, healthy and biologically supportive North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to climate change and ocean acidification. The OSPAR Commission will continue to monitor and assess the status of the OSPAR maritime area ensuring that data collection and assessment programmes are kept under continuous review. The effective use and management of data and information is required to support the production of robust assessments.

To this end, the Radioactive Substances Committee (RSC) continues the annual collection of data on discharges of radionuclides from the nuclear sector. Regular reporting is required in order to review progress towards the radioactive strategic and operational objectives of the NEAES 2030.

## 1.1 Programmes and measures

Since the mid 1980s, liquid discharges of radioactive substances from nuclear installations have been addressed first under the former Paris Convention and then under the OSPAR Convention. The following relevant measures <sup>1</sup> are applicable <sup>2</sup> under the OSPAR Convention:

- PARCOM Recommendation 88/4 on Nuclear Reprocessing Plants;
- OSPAR Recommendation 2018/01 on Radioactive Discharges <sup>3</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> All measures referred to in this section can be downloaded from the OSPAR website [www.ospar.org](http://www.ospar.org) (under "programmes and measures").

<sup>2</sup> OSPAR Decision 2000/1: France and the United Kingdom abstained from voting.

<sup>3</sup> The implementation of this Recommendation requires an assessment to be carried out as to whether BAT is being applied in nuclear installations. Contracting Parties submit national reports that also contain discharge data on a regular basis thereby

- PARCOM Recommendation 94/8 Concerning Environmental Impact Resulting from Discharges of Radioactive Discharges <sup>4</sup>;
- OSPAR Decision 2000/1 on Substantial Reductions and Elimination of Discharges, Emissions and Losses of Radioactive Discharges, with Special Emphasis on Nuclear Reprocessing.

The OSPAR Fifth Periodic Evaluation of the Progress in Implementing the OSPAR Radioactive Substances Strategy, published in 2022 ([OSPAR publication 2016/687](#)), has also informed this report.

## 1.2 Annual reporting

In 1985, Contracting Parties to the former Paris Convention initiated reporting on liquid discharges from nuclear installations. These data have subsequently been submitted annually by Contracting Parties, collated by the Secretariat and, following examination by the Expert Assessment Panel (EAP) of the OSPAR Radioactive Substances Committee, published by the OSPAR Commission in the form of annual reports. At first annual reports were published as part of the OSPAR Commission's general Annual Report, and from 1991 onwards they are published in the form of Annual OSPAR Reports on Liquid Discharges from Nuclear Installations in the OSPAR maritime area. From 1998 onwards, the annual reports also contain an assessment of liquid discharges which include a description of the trends from 1989 until the date of the latest report. Over time, reporting requirements and formats for data collection as regards nuclear installations have been regularly reviewed and updated in the light of experience and ongoing work under the OSPAR Commission. With a view to harmonising the way in which data and information are being established and reported, the OSPAR Commission adopted in 1996 a set of reporting formats for the annual Collection of Data on Liquid Discharges from Nuclear Installations, which were updated in 2010 to include a guide to generate “total- $\alpha$ ” and “total- $\beta$ ” discharge data. There was a further update of the set of reporting formats in 2013 (OSPAR Agreement number: 2013-10) which were revised in 2021.

RSC decided at its annual meeting in 2006, that for data from 2005 onwards, discharges arising from decommissioning and the recovery and conditioning of legacy wastes should be reported separately from operational nuclear discharges. The discharges from such activities were reported as “Exceptional Discharges” and appear in this report in a separate table.

## 1.3 Parameters monitored and reported

Tables 1-8 of this report contain data on total- $\alpha$  (Table 1), tritium (Table 2), total- $\beta$  (Table 3), and individual radionuclides (Tables 4-8). Figures 1-3 of this report show trends in discharges of total- $\alpha$  activity, tritium and total- $\beta$  activity respectively.

Total- $\alpha$  and total- $\beta$  values are useful as they will encompass the contribution to the overall activity from a wide range of radionuclides which, individually, would be difficult to measure or could be below detection limits. However, total- $\alpha$  and total- $\beta$  values provide limited information about the potential harm and, as such, information should be based on the characteristics of individual radionuclides. Tritium is reported separately.

There is currently little consistency in the approach adopted by Contracting Parties in the assessment of total- $\alpha$  and total- $\beta$  quantities. Consequently, for the purposes of this report total- $\alpha$  quantities include measurements that are strictly gross- $\alpha$ . The calculation of total- $\beta$  varies between Contracting Parties. For example, in some cases it is the sum of individual radionuclide measurements and in other cases gross- $\beta$  measurements are used.

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using the Guidelines for the submission of information about, and the assessment of, the application of BAT in nuclear facilities (reference number: 2004-03).

<sup>4</sup> Assessments of the effect and relative contributions of remobilised historical discharges and current discharges of radioactive substances, including wastes, on the marine environment have been published in the Quality Status Report 2000 published by the OSPAR Commission in 2000 (ISBN 0 946956 52 9) and in the MARINA II Report published by the European Commission (EC, 2003).

Total- $\alpha$  represents the measured radioactivity of  $\alpha$ -particle emitting radionuclides. These particles are emitted as a result of the decay of certain radionuclides, the so-called  $\alpha$ -emitters. Typically, the total liquid discharges of  $\alpha$ -emitters from all nuclear sites represent mainly Pu-239, Pu-240 and Am-241 and, to a lesser extent, Th-230, Pu-238 and some other nuclides. Total- $\beta$  represents the sum of the measured radioactivity of  $\beta$ -particle emitting radionuclides. These particles are emitted as a result of the decay of certain radionuclides, the so-called  $\beta$ -emitters. On average, the total liquid discharges of  $\beta$ -emitters from all nuclear sites represent mainly Ru-106, Sr-90, Pu-241, Cs-137, Tc-99 and, to a lesser extent, a range of other radionuclides. Total- $\beta$  in this report excludes tritium, which is reported separately.

Tritium (H-3) is an isotope of hydrogen that emits low-energy radiation in the form of  $\beta$ -particles. Tritium is discharged from most nuclear power plants, reprocessing plants and some research and development facilities.

## 2. Assessment of the liquid radioactive discharges from nuclear installations in 2023

### 2.1 Introduction

Tables 1 to 3 summarise liquid radioactive discharges from nuclear installations for the period 1989 – 2023 (i.e., 35 years of discharge data); data are taken from the OSPAR Annual Reports on Liquid Discharges from Nuclear Installations<sup>5</sup>. These annual reports have been required from the Contracting Parties after the signature of the OSPAR Convention in 1992 in order to quantify the "land-based sources" of radioactive substances which may reach the OSPAR maritime area and to identify their trends. Reported discharges include data on operational discharges from nuclear power stations, nuclear fuel reprocessing plants, nuclear fuel fabrication and enrichment plants, and research and development facilities. Since 2005, discharges associated with the recovery of historical or legacy waste and decommissioning are reported separately for some sites. These have previously been known as 'exceptional' discharges. In 2014 the Contracting Parties agreed to apply the definitions for 'operational' and 'exceptional' discharges adopted at RSC 2013 and these definitions were included in the guidance to the revised reporting formats for discharges made since 2013. During OSPAR 2024 it was agreed that the term 'exceptional' discharges would be dropped and would now just be known as 'decommissioning' discharges. Such differentiation is becoming particularly important where the magnitude of discharges associated with the recovery of historical and legacy wastes and decommissioning is clearly evident. In recent years, the contribution of decommissioning discharges has increased to become one of the main contributors of discharges from nuclear installations.

Table 1 gives discharges of total alpha activity; Table 2 gives tritium discharges and Table 3 gives discharges of total beta activity (excluding tritium) in terabecquerels per year (TBq/y) for each sub-sector. The tables also give the percentage contributions from each sub-sector. Figures 1 to 3 show the trends in annual discharges of total alpha, tritium and total beta (excluding tritium) for the period 1989 to 2023. Figures 1 to 3 therefore shows the achievements of the OSPAR Convention since it has been signed in 1992.

Figures 4 to 6 gives the same discharges data but for the period 1995 to 2023 only. Figures 4 to 6 therefore shows the achievements of the OSPAR Strategy adopted in 1998.

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<sup>5</sup> Discharge data have been rounded to two significant figures in this assessment report. Data from 1995 have been submitted to Contracting Parties for verification and correction.

## 2.2 Trends in total alpha discharges

Table 1 and Figure 1 show the total alpha activity discharged from 1989 to 2023. The total discharges of alpha activity from all nuclear installations in 2023 were around 0.12 TBq which is a small increase of 0.01 TBq over the previous year. Discharges of total alpha in 2023 are only about 4% of the 1989 peak and the second lowest year on record.

Discharges from the fuel reprocessing sub-sector contributed 40% and the decommissioning sub-sector contributed over fifty percent for the first year on record with 55% of the overall total alpha discharge in 2023 combining in a total of 0.117 TBq.

The single largest contributor of alpha discharges in 2023 was decommissioning related discharges from Sellafield at 54% of the total. Correspondingly, operational alpha discharges from Sellafield reduced from 25% of the total in 2022 to 14% of the total in 2023, indicating an increasing focus to decommissioning at the Sellafield site. Operational alpha discharges from La Hague were 28% of the total in 2023.

Discharges from decommissioning activities is again, for the third year the largest contributor to total alpha discharges from nuclear installations. The longer term trend for decommissioning discharges is a steady increase as the number of facilities in decommissioning has grown, followed by a corresponding reduction in the number of operational facilities in other sub-sectors.

Discharges of alpha emitters from the fuel fabrication and enrichment sub-sector have seen a steady decrease from 0.0106 TBq in 2020 to 0.0060 TBq in 2023, a 43% reduction over 3 years. Most of the discharges of total alpha from this sub-sector are from the Springfields fuel fabrication plant in the UK.

Discharges of alpha activity from nuclear power plants and research and development facilities in 2023 were a very small fraction of the total discharge ( $\approx 1\%$ ).

Alpha discharges from the nuclear power sub-sector in 2023 were at the lowest recorded since 1989 with only 0.000022 TBq discharged.

## 2.3 Trends in tritium discharges

Table 2 and Figure 2 show the discharges of tritium, a weak beta emitter with a low radiological impact. The total discharge of tritium in 2023 of 12,000 TBq, a decrease of approximately 7% on the 2021 & 2022 results.

Discharges of tritium are still being dominated by those from the reprocessing sector (with 82% of the total from all installations from Cap de la Hague and Sellafield), generally levels of tritium have fluctuated in accordance with spent fuel reprocessing rates and in 2023 tritium discharges were broadly similar to those in 2022 from this sub-sector.

During 2023 the discharge of tritium by nuclear power stations contributed about 17% of the total tritium discharges from the nuclear sector; this proportion has remained of the same order of magnitude since 1995. The UK's reactors (mainly Advanced Gas-cooled Reactors) contributed about 61% (1,250 TBq) of the total tritium discharged from power stations. The Pressurised Water Reactors in France contributed about 28% (583 TBq) of the total from power stations in 2023.

Tritium discharges arising from decommissioning facilities have been recorded separately since 2006 and continue to be a relatively small and variable contribution depending upon decommissioning projects and campaigns. Discharges in 2023 were 8.6 TBq, which are the lowest since 2012. This is around 0.07 % of the total across all sub-sectors.

Discharges from other sub-sectors were very small.

## 2.4 Trends in total beta discharges

Table 3 and Figure 3 show that the discharges of total beta activity (excluding tritium) from all nuclear installations have decreased markedly since 1989 (930 TBq) to 2023 (10 TBq). In 2023 total beta discharges decreased by around 17% from the previous year to about 10 TBq and represents the lowest recorded levels since 1989.

Historically, total beta discharges have been dominated by discharges from the reprocessing plants and the nuclear fuel fabrication plant at Springfields to a lesser extent. In 2023, the contribution of the reprocessing sub-sector (36%) is significantly lower than the peak contribution of this sub-sector (81% in 2007).

The contribution of decommissioning discharges in 2023 was the highest contributing sub-sector for the first year (48% of all installations). Discharges from decommissioning, and the management of historical or legacy waste, in 2023 was 4.8 TBq.

In 2023 power plants were the third largest contributor (16%) to total discharges after decommissioning and reprocessing. There was just a small 0.08 TBq increase in 2023 discharges from nuclear power plants compared to 2022.

Discharges from the R&D sub-sector remained as the smallest contributor to total discharges.

**Table 1.** Total alpha discharges 1989-2023 (in TBq)

Discharges in TBq	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
All Nuclear Facilities	3.1E+00	2.4E+00	2.4E+00	1.8E+00	2.9E+00	1.4E+00	6.9E-01	5.3E-01	3.8E-01	4.4E-01	4.2E-01	3.4E-01	4.1E-01	6.2E-01	6.2E-01	4.9E-01	5.2E-01	3.1E-01	1.7E-01	1.7E-01	1.9E-01	1.9E-01	1.7E-01	1.9E-01	2.0E-01	2.1E-01	2.3E-01	2.9E-01	2.2E-01	1.9E-01	1.9E-01	1.5E-01	1.6E-01	1.1E-01	1.2E-01
Reprocessing Plants	2.7E+00	2.2E+00	2.3E+00	1.7E+00	2.7E+00	1.1E+00	4.7E-01	3.2E-01	2.3E-01	2.2E-01	1.7E-01	1.6E-01	2.5E-01	3.9E-01	4.3E-01	3.1E-01	2.7E-01	2.3E-01	1.4E-01	1.5E-01	1.7E-01	1.6E-01	1.4E-01	1.6E-01	1.5E-01	1.8E-01	1.9E-01	2.5E-01	1.3E-01	9.5E-02	1.1E-01	7.3E-02	7.5E-02	5.2E-02	4.9E-02
% of all installations	86	91	93	93	94	81	68	59	60	51	41	47	60	63	70	63	52	74	84	85	89	86	85	86	75	86	82	85	59	51	58	48	47	46	40
Nuclear Power Plants	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.1E-03	1.3E-03	4.1E-04	5.3E-04	3.0E-04	6.5E-04	2.9E-04	3.3E-04	1.1E-03	3.8E-04	1.3E-04	7.7E-05	5.5E-05	1.3E-04	6.7E-05	4.6E-05	4.8E-05	5.4E-05	4.2E-05	3.9E-05	4.2E-05	3.4E-05	3.1E-05	3.3E-05	2.5E-05	2.6E-05	2.8E-05	5.4E-05	2.2E-05
% of all installations	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.15	0.24	0.11	0.12	0.07	0.20	0.07	0.05	0.18	0.08	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.02
Nuclear Fuel Fabrication and Enrichment Plants	4.1E-01	2.1E-01	1.5E-01	1.0E-01	8.0E-02	1.6E-01	1.3E-01	1.2E-01	1.2E-01	2.0E-01	2.4E-01	1.8E-01	1.6E-01	2.2E-01	1.8E-01	1.8E-01	2.5E-01	8.0E-02	2.6E-02	2.2E-02	1.7E-02	2.1E-02	2.2E-02	2.4E-02	1.6E-02	1.4E-02	2.3E-02	1.5E-02	1.8E-02	7.8E-03	9.8E-03	1.1E-02	8.7E-03	6.2E-03	6.0E-03
% of all installations	13	9	6	5	3	12	19	23	33	46	58	53	40	36	29	36	48	26	16	13	9	11	13	13	8	7	10	5	8	4	5	7	5	5	5
Research and Development Facilities	3.0E-02	2.0E-02	3.0E-02	3.0E-02	1.0E-01	1.0E-01	9.5E-02	9.1E-02	2.8E-02	1.4E-02	3.1E-03	2.0E-03	1.8E-03	2.5E-03	4.4E-03	1.2E-03	1.4E-04	1.3E-04	1.4E-04	9.2E-05	6.4E-05	6.5E-05	8.0E-05	9.3E-05	5.9E-05	7.6E-05	1.4E-04	1.2E-04	8.4E-05	1.1E-04	1.3E-04	1.8E-04	8.8E-05	7.4E-05	8.4E-05
% of all installations	0.96	0.82	1.23	1.6	3.5	7.4	14	17	7.3	3.2	0.74	0.60	0.45	0.41	0.72	0.24	0.027	0.041	0.080	0.053	0.034	0.035	0.047	0.049	0.030	0.036	0.059	0.040	0.038	0.061	0.068	0.12	0.06	0.07	0.07
Decommissioning																	1.2E-03	6.6E-04	5.9E-04	3.8E-03	3.6E-03	4.5E-03	3.3E-03	2.3E-03	3.4E-02	1.6E-02	1.8E-02	3.0E-02	7.2E-02	8.4E-02	6.8E-02	6.6E-02	7.6E-02	5.5E-02	6.8E-02
% of all installations																	0.2	0.2	0.3	2.2	1.9	1.2	17.2	7.5	7.9	10	32	4	32	45	36	44	48	49	55

**Table 2.** Tritium discharges 1989-2023 (in TBq)

Discharges in Tbq	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
All Nuclear Facilities	8.0E+03	7.2E+03	8.8E+03	7.7E+03	1.1E+04	1.3E+04	1.5E+04	1.7E+04	1.8E+04	1.6E+04	1.9E+04	1.6E+04	1.6E+04	1.9E+04	2.0E+04	2.1E+04	1.9E+04	1.6E+04	1.6E+04	1.1E+04	1.4E+04	1.4E+04	1.4E+04	1.6E+04	1.8E+04	1.7E+04	1.8E+04	1.8E+04	1.6E+04	1.6E+04	1.6E+04	1.4E+04	1.3E+04	1.3E+04	1.2E+04
Reprocessing Plants	5.8E+03	5.0E+03	6.5E+03	5.0E+03	7.5E+03	9.8E+03	1.2E+04	1.4E+04	1.5E+04	1.3E+04	1.5E+04	1.3E+04	1.2E+04	1.5E+04	1.6E+04	1.7E+04	1.5E+04	1.2E+04	1.3E+04	9.0E+03	1.1E+04	1.1E+04	1.1E+04	1.3E+04	1.5E+04	1.4E+04	1.5E+04	1.4E+04	1.3E+04	1.3E+04	1.4E+04	1.2E+04	1.0E+04	1.1E+04	9.5E+03
% of all installations	72	69	74	65	68	76	82	80	80	79	82	79	76	80	80	83	81	78	81	80	78	80	78	80	81	82	84	81	80	80	85	83	78	83	87
Nuclear Power Plants	2.2E+03	2.2E+03	2.3E+03	2.7E+03	3.4E+03	3.0E+03	2.7E+03	3.3E+03	3.5E+03	3.4E+03	3.4E+03	3.3E+03	3.8E+03	3.7E+03	3.9E+03	3.6E+03	3.4E+03	3.4E+03	2.9E+03	3.2E+03	2.9E+03	2.8E+03	3.0E+03	3.1E+03	3.4E+03	3.0E+03	2.8E+03	3.3E+03	3.2E+03	3.2E+03	2.7E+03	2.8E+03	2.4E+03	2.1E+03	2.02E+03
% of all installations	27	30	26	35	31	24	18	20	20	21	18	21	24	20	20	17	18	22	19	19	22	20	22	20	19	18	16	19	19	20	17	20	18	17	17
Nuclear Fuel Fabrication and Enrichment Plants	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	3.1E-02	3.3E-06	3.1E-02	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00	0.0E+00
% of all installations	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Research and Development Facilities	6.1E+01	1.0E+02	3.2E+01	2.4E+01	8.8E+01	1.2E+02	2.6E+01	1.8E+01	1.8E+01	1.5E+01	5.0E+01	1.1E+01	8.3E+00	1.4E+01	2.0E+01	4.2E+01	1.1E+01	7.9E+00	1.7E+01	8.9E+00	4.7E+00	1.4E+01	5.0E+00	2.7E+00	5.9E+00	6.1E+00	4.0E+00	3.0E+00	3.4E+00	1.9E+00	3.5E+00	5.5E+00	4.2E+00	3.1E+00	4.4E+00
% of all installations	0.76	1.4	0.37	0.31	0.81	0.91	0.17	0.11	0.10	0.09	0.26	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.20	0.06	0.05	0.11	0.08	0.035	0.10	0.036	0.017	0.033	0.036	0.022	0.017	0.021	0.012	0.022	0.039	0.032	0.024	0.038
Decommissioning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.4E+00	1.7E+01	2.5E+01	1.1E+01	1.8E+00	2.9E+00	6.0E+00	2.8E+01	2.8E+01	1.7E+01	5.2E+01	1.3E+01	2.3E+01	2.3E+01	1.4E+01	1.2E+01	9.7E+00	2.9E+01	8.63E+00
% of all installations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	0.11	0.16	0.10	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.17	0.15	0.10	0.29	0.19	0.14	0.14	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.23	0.07

**Table 3.** Total beta (excl. tritium) discharges 1989-2023 (in TBq)

Discharges in TBq	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
All Nuclear Facilities	9.3E+02	4.9E+02	2.3E+02	2.7E+02	2.5E+02	3.2E+02	3.7E+02	3.3E+02	3.2E+02	2.7E+02	2.6E+02	1.7E+02	2.3E+02	2.4E+02	2.0E+02	1.6E+02	1.6E+02	6.2E+01	3.7E+01	2.8E+01	2.8E+01	2.4E+01	2.8E+01	2.2E+01	2.2E+01	2.1E+01	2.0E+01	2.3E+01	2.3E+01	1.7E+01	1.4E+01	1.3E+01	1.4E+01	1.2E+01	1.0E+01
Reprocessing Plants	6.9E+02	3.8E+02	1.8E+02	1.3E+02	1.7E+02	2.0E+02	2.4E+02	1.7E+02	1.7E+02	1.1E+02	1.3E+02	9.8E+01	1.4E+02	1.2E+02	9.7E+01	8.6E+01	5.4E+01	3.7E+01	3.0E+01	2.1E+01	2.1E+01	1.5E+01	1.8E+01	1.3E+01	1.1E+01	1.1E+01	1.2E+01	1.1E+01	1.2E+01	7.4E+00	6.6E+00	7.0E+00	7.2E+00	6.5E+00	3.6E+00
% of all installations	74	78	78	50	67	61	66	51	53	42	48	56	61	53	48	53	33	59	81	74	77	63	67	57	49	53	62	47	54	43	47	52	51	53	36
Nuclear Power Plants	7.6E+00	1.0E+01	3.8E+00	8.9E+00	1.1E+01	2.8E+00	7.3E+00	8.7E+00	9.1E+00	6.3E+00	6.0E+00	4.6E+00	6.4E+00	5.6E+00	2.4E+00	4.3E+00	4.3E+00	3.7E+00	3.2E+00	1.5E+00	2.1E+00	3.2E+00	3.3E+00	4.2E+00	4.6E+00	3.7E+00	3.4E+00	5.5E+00	5.5E+00	3.6E+00	3.2E+00	2.7E+00	1.8E+00	1.6E+00	1.7E+00
% of all installations	1.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	4.4	1.0	2.0	2.6	2.9	2.3	2.3	2.6	2.7	2.4	3.4	2.6	2.6	6.0	8.8	5.4	7.5	13	12	15	21	18	17	24	24	21	23	17	13	13	16
Nuclear Fuel Fabrication and Enrichment Plants	1.1E+02	9.2E+01	3.9E+01	1.2E+02	6.3E+01	1.1E+02	1.1E+02	1.5E+02	1.4E+02	1.5E+02	1.3E+02	7.1E+01	8.5E+01	1.1E+02	9.7E+01	7.1E+01	1.0E+02	2.1E+01	3.0E+00	4.6E+00	3.3E+00	4.5E+00	5.0E+00	4.5E+00	2.7E+00	2.9E+00	1.8E+00	1.7E+00	8.4E+01	2.8E+01	1.1E+01	2.5E+01	4.8E+02	1.3E+02	4.33E+03
% of all installations	12	19	17	45	25	36	30	45	44	56	49	41	36	45	48	44	63	33	8	16	12	18	18	21	12	14	9	7	4	2	1	2	0	0	0
Research and Development Facilities	1.2E+02	4.5E+00	6.3E+00	6.6E+00	8.2E+00	9.1E+00	7.2E+00	6.5E+00	1.0E+00	6.8E+01	4.2E+01	5.0E+01	4.6E+01	4.5E+01	5.3E+01	6.0E+01	8.8E+02	6.4E+02	1.3E+01	6.7E+02	2.1E+02	3.0E+02	2.1E+02	3.0E+02	2.1E+02	1.4E+02	1.1E+02	9.1E+03	1.2E+02	8.6E+03	1.1E+02	2.7E+02	2.7E+04	8.1E+03	2.5E+03
% of all installations	13	0.91	2.8	2.5	3.2	2.8	1.9	1.9	0.33	0.25	0.16	0.29	0.20	0.19	0.27	0.37	0.05	0.10	0.37	0.24	0.07	0.12	0.08	0.13	0.10	0.07	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.08	0.20	0.00	0.07	0.02
Decommissioning																	1.3E+00	9.0E+01	6.2E+01	1.2E+00	1.1E+00	1.2E+00	8.9E+01	7.4E+01	3.7E+00	3.1E+00	2.2E+00	4.1E+00	5.7E+00	4.3E+00	3.9E+00	5.0E+00	4.1E+00	4.8E+00	
% of all installations																	0.8	1.4	1.7	4.2	3.9	5.1	3.2	3.4	17	15	11	22	18	34	31	29	36	34	48

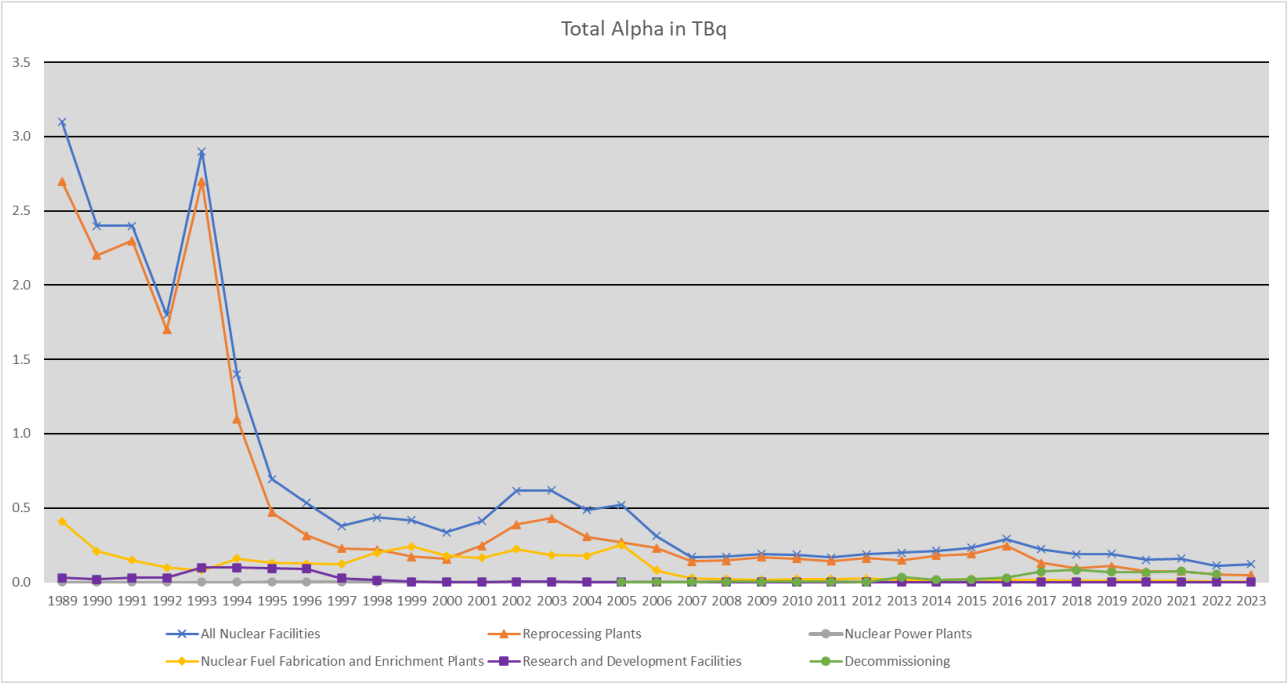


Figure 1. Total alpha activity discharges 1989 – 2023 (in TBq) – Achievements of the OSPAR Convention signed in 1992

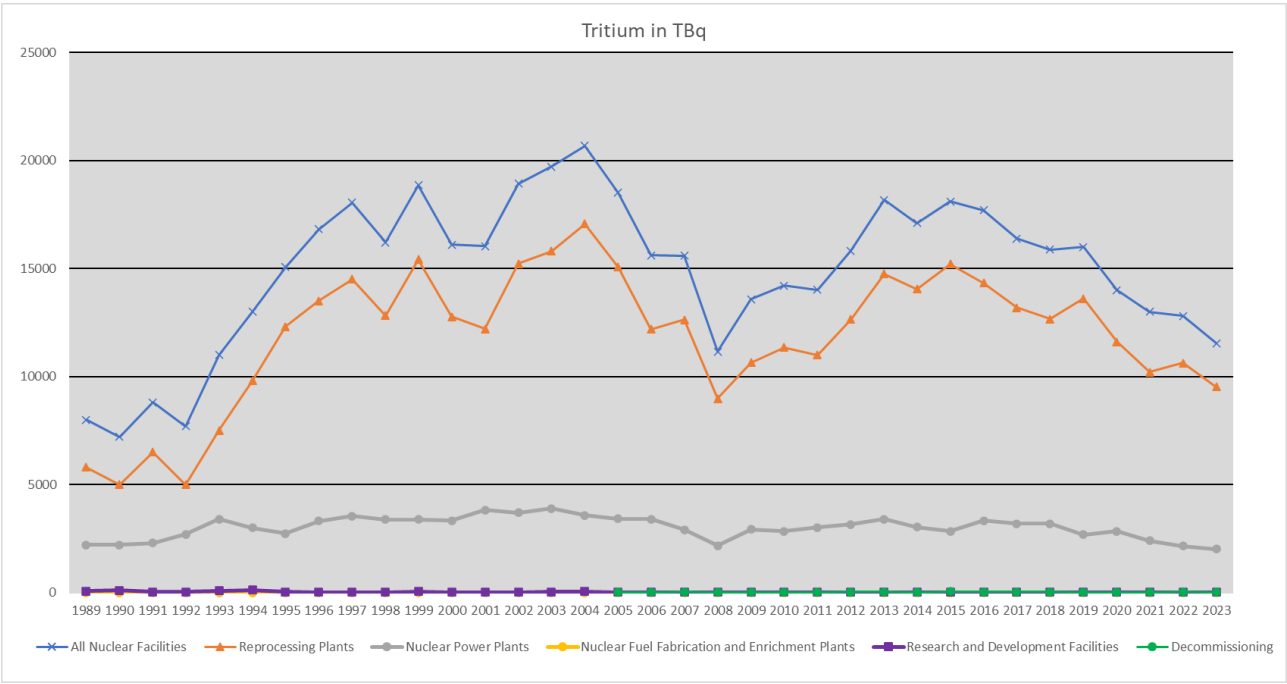
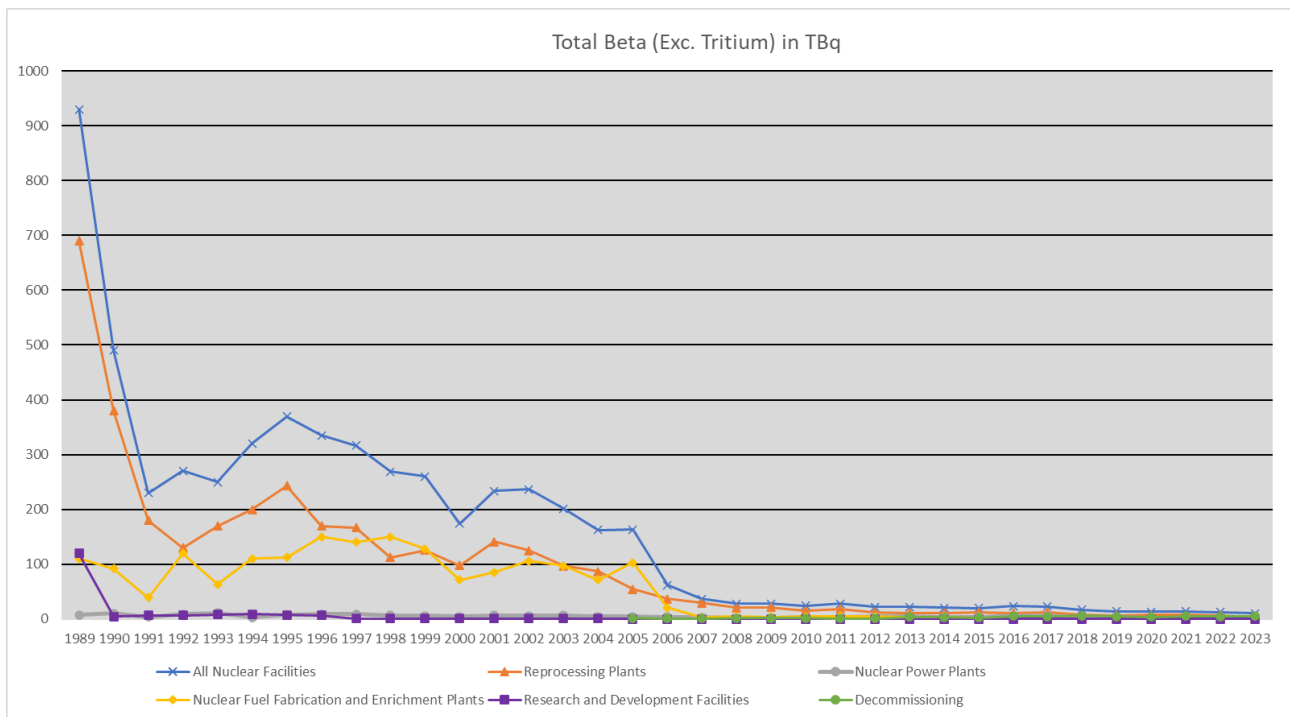
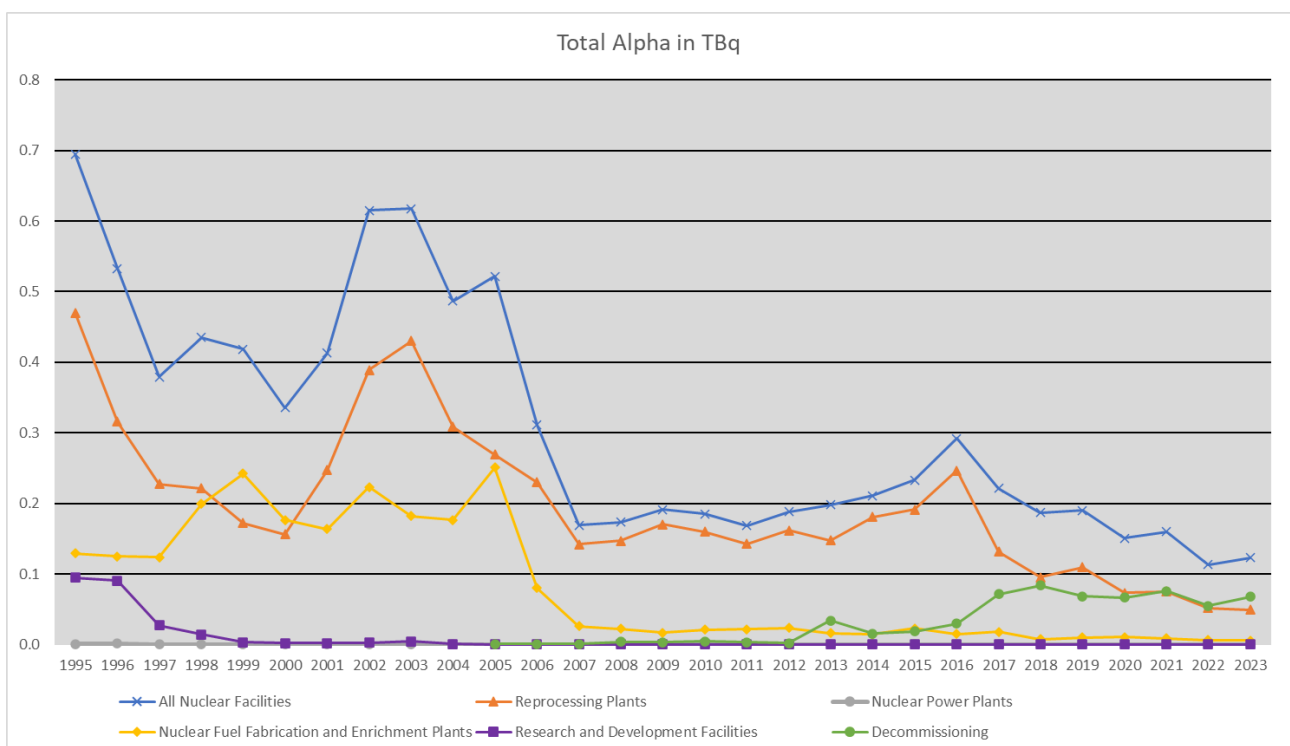


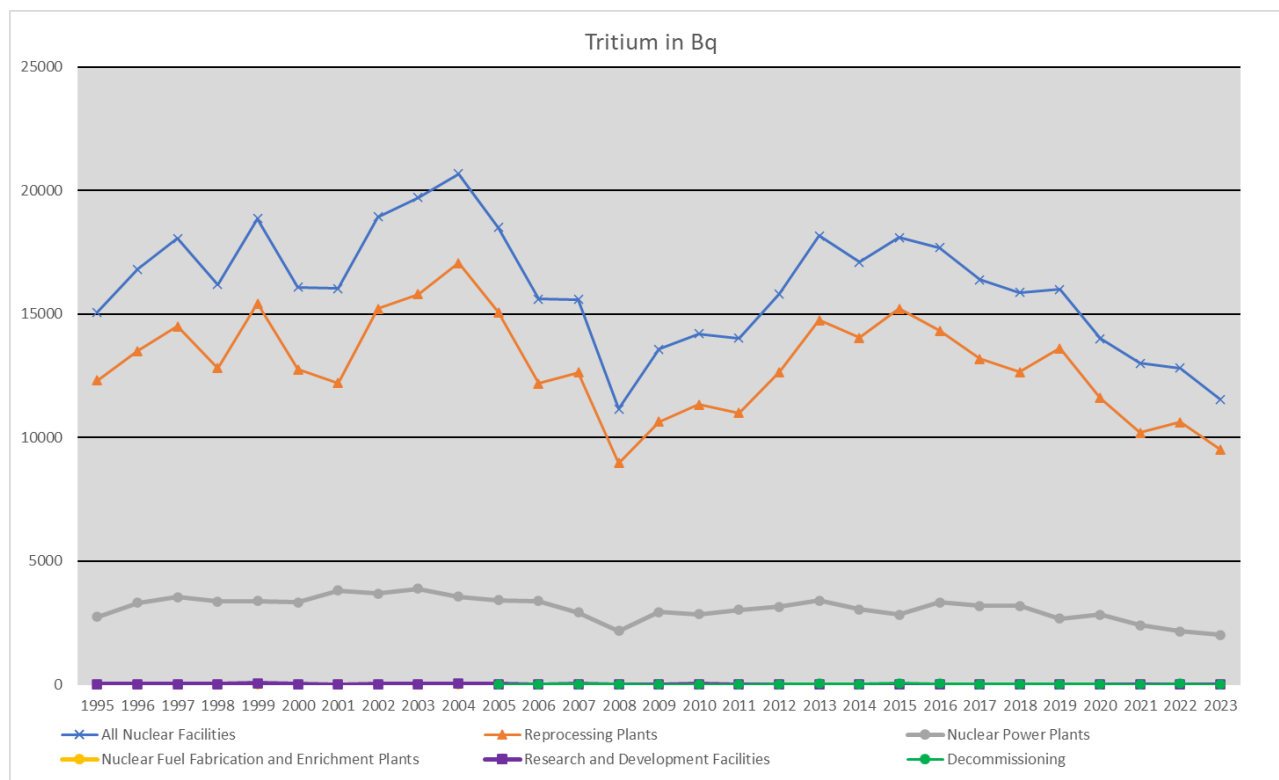
Figure 2. Discharges of tritium 1989 – 2023 (in TBq) – Achievements of the OSPAR Convention signed in 1992



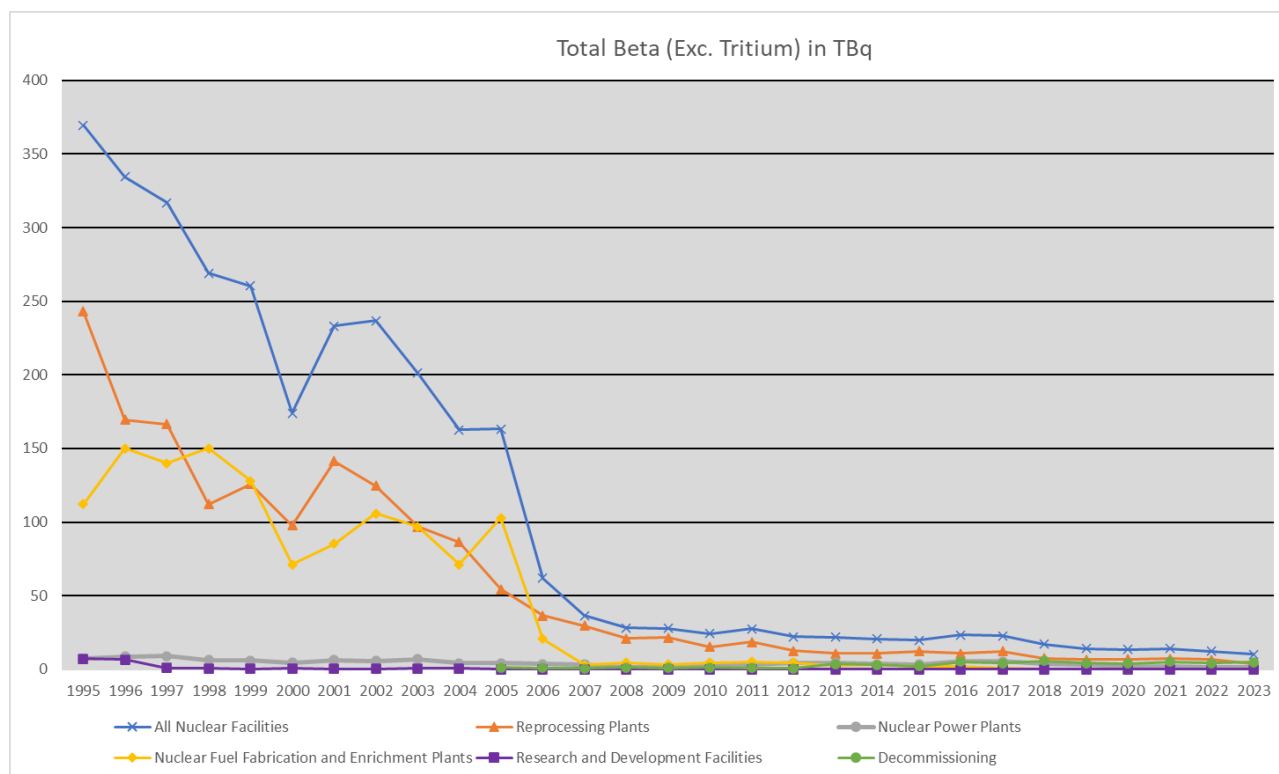
**Figure 3. Total beta discharges 1989 – 2023 (in TBq) – Achievements of the OSPAR Convention signed in 1992**



**Figure 4. Total alpha activity discharges 1995 – 2023 (in TBq) – Achievements of the OSPAR Strategy adopted in Sintra in 1998**



**Figure 5. Discharges of tritium 1995 – 2023 (in TBq) – Achievements of the OSPAR Strategy adopted in Sintra in 1998**



**Figure 6. Total beta discharges 1995 – 2023 (in TBq) – Achievements of the OSPAR Strategy adopted in Sintra in 1998**

### 3. 2023 data and information

This section presents information on the location of the nuclear installations and data and information on liquid discharges for each OSPAR Contracting Party under the following categories of nuclear installations draining into the OSPAR Maritime Area:

Table 1: Nuclear Power sub-sector

Table 2: Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing sub-sector

Table 3: Nuclear Fuel Fabrication and Enrichment sub-sector

Table 4: Nuclear Research and Development sub-sector

Table 5: Discharges associated with decommissioning activities that may include historical and legacy wastes.

Further detailed information with respect to individual plants is presented in endnotes after the entire set of tables.

The columns, headings and abbreviations used in the tables correspond to the reporting requirements set out in the current reporting format (OSPAR Agreement No. 2013/10). The following abbreviations are used in the tables:

AGR:	Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor;
GCR:	Gas Cooled Reactor;
UNGG:	Natural Uranium Gas Graphite (French equivalent for GCR);
PWR:	Pressurised Water Reactor;
THTR:	Thorium High Temperature Reactor;
BWR:	Boiling Water Reactor;
NA:	Not applicable;
NI:	No information;
ND:	Not detectable.

*For radionuclides:*

Ag:	Silver	Gd:	Gadolinium	Rh:	Rhodium
Am:	Americium	I:	Iodine	Ru:	Ruthenium
Ba:	Barium	Mn:	Manganese	S:	Sulphur
Be:	Beryllium	Na:	Sodium	Sb:	Antimony
C:	Carbon	Nb:	Niobium	Se:	Selenium
Ce:	Cerium	Ni:	Nickel	Sr:	Strontium
Cm:	Curium	Np:	Neptunium	Tc:	Technetium
Co:	Cobalt	Pm:	Promethium	Th:	Thorium
Cr:	Chromium	Pr:	Praseodymium	U:	Uranium
Cs:	Caesium	Pu:	Plutonium	Y:	Yttrium
Eu:	Europium	Ra:	Radium	Zn:	Zinc
Fe:	Iron	Rb:	Rubidium	Zr:	Zirconium

All data have been entered in the tables using continental decimal system. The data values are expressed in scientific number format, *e.g.* 0.0009 as 9.0E-04.

All data can be viewed and downloaded via:

[https://odims.ospar.org/en/submissions/ospar\\_discharges\\_nuclear\\_2023\\_01/](https://odims.ospar.org/en/submissions/ospar_discharges_nuclear_2023_01/)

### 3.1 Location of nuclear installations

The location and type of each installation is listed in the table below.

Country / Code	Name of installation	Type	Discharging into
<b>Belgium</b>			
BE1	Doel	NPS	Schelde
BE2	Tihange	NPS	Meuse
BE3	Mol	RDF	River Mol-Neet
<b>Denmark</b>			
DK1	Risø	DMLRW	Kattegat through Roskilde Fjord
<b>France</b>			
FR1	Belleville	NPS	Loire
FR3	Cattenom	NPS	Mosel
FR4	Chinon	NPS	Loire
FR5	Chooz	NPS/ DMLRW	Meuse
FR6	Dampierre en-Burly	NPS	Loire
FR7	Fessenheim	NPS	Rhine
FR8	Flamanville	NPS	Channel
FR9	Golfech	NPS	Garonne
FR10	Gravelines	NPS	North Sea
FR11	Nogent-sur-Seine	NPS	Seine
FR12	Paluel	NPS	Channel
FR13	Penly	NPS	Channel
FR14	Saint Laurent	NPS	Loire
FR15	La Hague	NFRP/ DMLRW	English Channel
FR16	Civaux	NPS	Vienne
FR17	Fontenay-aux-Roses	DMLRW	Seine
FR18	Le Blayais	NPS	Gironde Estuary
FR19	Saclay	RDF	Etang de Saclay
<b>Germany</b>			
DE1a	Biblis A	DMLRW	Rhine
DE1b	Biblis B	DMLRW	Rhine
DE2	Brokdorf	NPS	Elbe
DE3	Brunsbüttel	DMLRW	Elbe
DE4	Grafenrheinfeld	NPS	Main
DE5	Grohnde/Emmerthal	NPS	Weser
DE8a	Krümmel/Geesthacht	DMLRW	Elbe
DE8b	Geesthacht	RDF	Elbe
DE9a	Lingen/Emsland	NPS	Ems
DE9b	Lingen	DMLRW	Ems - via municipal sewer system
DE10	Mülheim-Kärlich	DMLRW	Rhine
DE11a	Neckar-westheim 1	DMLRW	Neckar
DE11b	Neckar-wesheim 2	NPS	Neckar
DE12	Obrigheim	DMLRW	Neckar
DE13a	Philippsburg KKP1	DMLRW	Rhine
DE13b	Philippsburg KKP2	NPS	Rhine
DE14	Rheinsberg	DMLRW	Havel
DE15	Stade	DMLRW	Elbe

Country / Code	Name of installation	Type	Discharging into
DE16	Rodenkirchen-Unterweser	DMLRW	Weser
DE17	Würgassen/Beverungen	DMLRW	Weser
DE18	Karlsruhe	RDF	Rhine
DE19	Gronau	NFFEP	Vechte, IJsselmeer
DE24	HMI Berlin	RDF	Havel
DE25	Jülich	RDF	Rur
DE26	Mainz		
<b>The Netherlands</b>			
NL1	Borssele	NPS	Scheldt Estuary
NL3	Almelo	NFFEP	Municipal sewer system
NL4	Delft	RDF	Sewage system
NL5	Petten	RDF	North Sea
<b>Norway</b>			
NO1	Halden	RDF	River Tista (Skagerrak)
NO2	Kjeller	RDF	River Nitelva (Skagerrak)
<b>Portugal</b>			
PT1	Campus de Sacavém	RDF	Tagus River
<b>Spain</b>			
ES1	Almaraz	NPS	Tagus
ES2	José Cabrera	DMLRW	Tagus
ES3	Trillo	NPS	Tagus
ES4	Juzbado	NFFEP	River Tormes - Duero
<b>Sweden</b>			
SE2	Ringhals 1-4	NPS	Kattegat
<b>Switzerland</b>			
CH1	Beznau	NPS	Aare
CH2	Gösgen	NPS	Aare
CH3	Leibstadt	NPS	Rhine
CH4	Mühleberg	NPS	Aare
CH5	Paul Scherrer Institute	RDF	Aare
CH6	ZWILAG Würenlingen	DMLRW	Aare
<b>United Kingdom</b>			
UK1	Berkeley	DMLRW	Severn Estuary
UK2	Bradwell	DMLRW	North Sea
UK4	Chapelcross	DMLRW	Solway Firth
UK5a	Dungeness A	DMLRW	English Channel
UK5b	Dungeness B	NPS	English Channel
UK6	Hartlepool	NPS	North Sea
UK7a	Heysham 1	NPS	Morecambe Bay
UK7b	Heysham 2	NPS	Morecambe Bay
UK8a	Hinkley Point A	DMLRW	Severn Estuary
UK8b	Hinkley Point B	NPS	Severn Estuary
UK9a	Hunterston A	DMLRW	Firth of Clyde
UK9b	Hunterston B	NPS	Firth of Clyde
UK10	Oldbury	DMLRW	Severn Estuary
UK11a	Sizewell A	DMLRW	North Sea
UK11b	Sizewell B	NPS	North Sea
UK12	Torness	NPS	North Sea
UK13	Trawsfynydd	DMLRW	Trawsfynydd lake

<b>Country / Code</b>	<b>Name of installation</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Discharging into</b>
UK14	Wylfa	DMLRW	Irish Sea
UK15	Sellafield	NFRP and DMLRW	Irish Sea
UK16	Capenhurst	NFFEP	Irish Sea via Rivacre Brook and Mersey Estuary
UK17	Springfields	NFFEP	Irish Sea via River Ribble
UK18	Dounreay	DMLRW	Pentland Firth
UK19	Harwell	DMLRW	River Thames
UK20	Winfrith	DMLRW	Weymouth Bay (English Channel)

NPS: Nuclear Power Stations

NFRP: Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Plants

RDF: Research and Development Facilities

NFFEP: Nuclear Fuel Fabrication and Enrichment Plants

DMLRW: Decommissioning and Management of Legacy Radioactive Wastes

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**Our vision is a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic Ocean, which is productive, used sustainably and resilient to climate change and ocean acidification**

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