

Gas Centrifuge Technology: Proliferation Concerns and International Safeguards

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M. Rosenthal (BNL), J.M. Whitaker (ORNL), H. Wood (UVA), O. Heinonen (Harvard Belfer School), B. Bush (IAEA-Ret.), C. Bathke (LANL) for sources of ideas, information, and knowledge





Enrichment / Proliferation / Safeguards



- Enrichment technology The centrifuge story
- Proliferation of technology Global Networks
- IAEA Safeguards The NPT Bargain

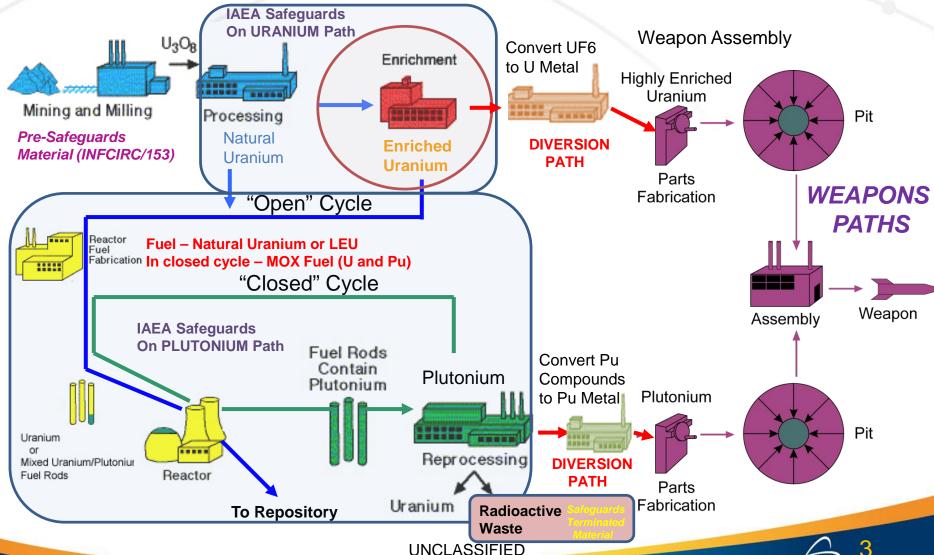








The Nuclear Fuel Cycle and Proliferation Paths to WMDs





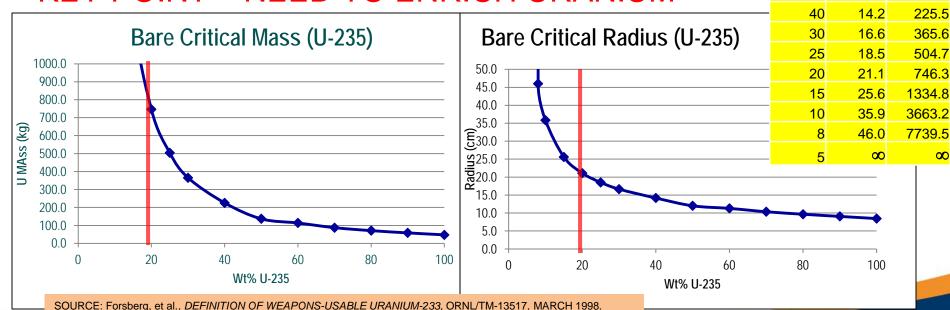
Safeguards Concerns of U-235 IAEA Significant Quantities/Timeliness

DNLEU --- 75 kg U-235 in U (Wt% of U-235 <20%)

timeliness = 1 year (NU = 0.711% U-235)

HEU --- 25 kg U-235 in U (Wt% of U-235 =>20%) timeliness = 1 month (unirradiated) / 3 months (irradiated)

KEY POINT – NEED TO ENRICH URANIUM



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BARE CRITICAL

RADIUS & MASS

8.5

9.7

10.4 11.3

12.0

47.5

58.4

70.9

87.5

113.5

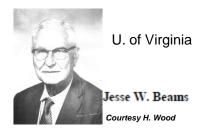
136.7

Weight

% U235 R (cm) 100

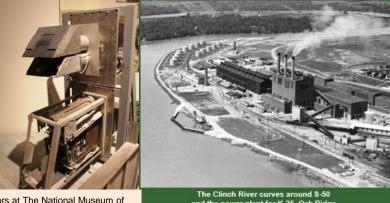
Uranium Enrichment: Review of History

- Centrifuge isotope separation suggested by Lindemann/Aston (1919)
- 1934 1st experiments at UVA in 1934 by Prof. Jesse Beams (CI)
- Uranium (U-238 99.3%, U-235 0.711%)...U.S. needs enriched U-235
 - Manhattan Project centrifuge efforts were unsuccessful
 - Manhattan Project enriched with varying success by
 - Thermal Diffusion (S-50) Abandoned in 1945
 - EMIS Electromagnetic Isotope Separation (Y-12)
 - Gaseous Diffusion (K-25)
 - Oak Ridge used 1/7 of the electricity of the United States



Site of Massive Gaseous Diffusion Plant in FRANCE GB I - Pierrelatte, FRANCE - from SNCF passenger train

(Photo - B. Boyer 2/1/08)



EMIS Collectors at The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History - Albuquerque, (Photo - B. Boyer 9/11/09)

and the power plant for K-25, Oak Ridge

SOURCE: The Manhattan Project an interactive history https://www.osti.gov/manhattan-project-history/Events/1942-

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Uranium Enrichment: Post War Advances

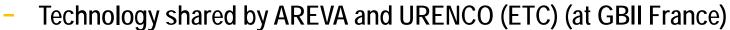
After the war gaseous diffusion process used in the West



USSR developed centrifuges – how?

Gernot Zippe over Oak Ridge Courtesy H. Wood

- Used captured Third Reich scientists G. Zippe (Universität Wien) Luftwaffe
- Europe successful with centrifuges in 1970's URENCO
- Operating URENCO plants world leader in enrichment
 - Capenhurst UK
 - Almelo NL
 - Gronau GFR
 - Eunice, NM USA



Flirtations with laser isotope separation (LIS) enrichment





Centrifuges/21st Century Technology for Enrichment Why Such Proliferation Concerns/Daily Headlines?

- "Rule of Thumb" on Enrichment capacity
 - ~5 MTSWU/yr capacity to go from NU to HEU (90%)
- Key Safeguards Issues
 - Diversion of Nuclear Material
 - Misuse of facility to produce enriched uranium
 - Undeclared capacity in undeclared plants
- Aspects of concern with Gas Centrifuge
 - Compare to Gaseous Diffusion Plant (GDP) Energy use and size
 1/50th electrical consumption less waste heat /smaller footprint
 - Compact size of centrifuges 1-3m tall / 0.5m Dia. tubes
 - Small specific inventory / Short equilibrium time









Centrifuges – Technology Diffusion

- Technology was limited to NWS and NPT NNWS
 - Khan network starting in Pakistan changed this status quo
 - Iran moved to acquire technology and build own industry
 - Libya, DPRK,…?



- Nuclear Supplier Group Trigger List / Dual Use Items
- Iran operates declared plants with capability to make
 - 3-5% enrichment for LEU PWR reactor fuel (Bushehr)
 - 19.75% enrichment (almost HEU = 20%) for TRR
- Naval reactor potential loophole in NPT
 - INFCIRC/153 Description of "non-proscribed military activity"
 - Military desire of HEU for submarine fuel

Para 14.a.1

THE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE AGENCY AND STATES REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS







Details of How Centrifuges Work

Enriching Power = Separative Work Unit (SWU) = ΔU ~ ZV²

$\Delta U(max) = SWU$ of a machine

- 1. ΔU~ proportional to Length (Z)
- 2. $\Delta U \sim$ proportional to V^2
- 3. ΔU is independent of width (a)



frequency = $\frac{|velo\,cit\,y|}{2\Pi|radius|}$

Relationship of Frequency and Velocity

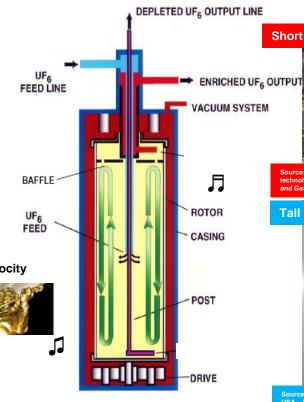
V(max) = Maximum velocity of a machine

- 1. **T** = Tensile Strength (kN/m²)
- 2. ρ = Density (kg/m³)
- 3. Engineering need = strong but light materials
- 4. Al to Maraging Steel to Carbon Fiber

Fast – Tall – Strong - Light

SOURCE:

SAFEGUARDS TRAINING COURSE NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFEGUARDS FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANTS ISPO-347/R8 (JUNE 2007) ORNL



Source: ORNL - SAFEGUARDS TRAINING COURSE NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFEGUARDS FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANTS Short Subcritical Centrifuges - RUSSIA

6 OUTPUT

Source: Zippe G., Development and status of gas centrifuge technology, Proc. 7th Workshop on Separation Phenomena in Liquids and Gases, July 24-28, 2000, Moscow, Russia, pp.35-53.

Tall Ultra-Centrifuges - URENCO

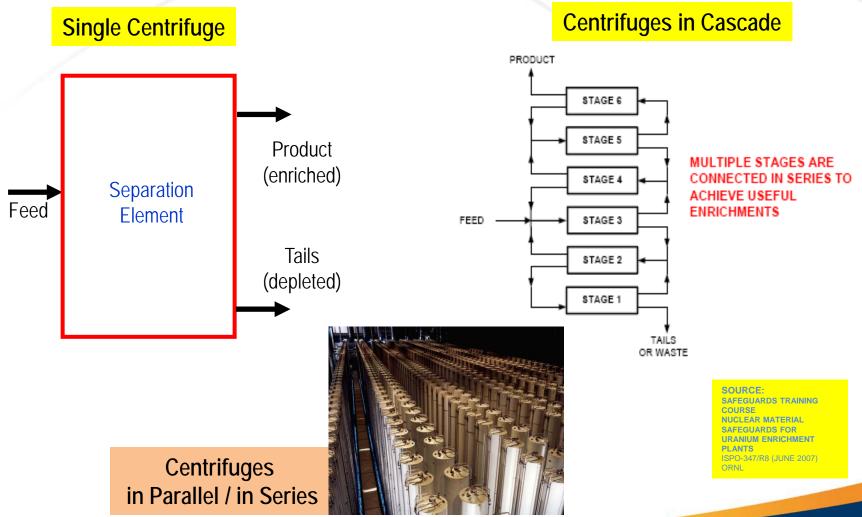


Source: FCIX 2013 Presentation: New Construction at LES/URENCO USA, Jay Laughlin Chief Nuclear Officer LES/URENCO USA June 12, 2013





Centrifuges and Cascades: Enrichment Plant Theory





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SOURCE: DOE

What is a UF6 Cylinder

Where Inspectors Find/Verify U and U-235 Material

30B Product (2.5 ton)- Product



5a (25 kg) - HEU - Criticality Safe

48Y (14 ton) - Feed and Tails

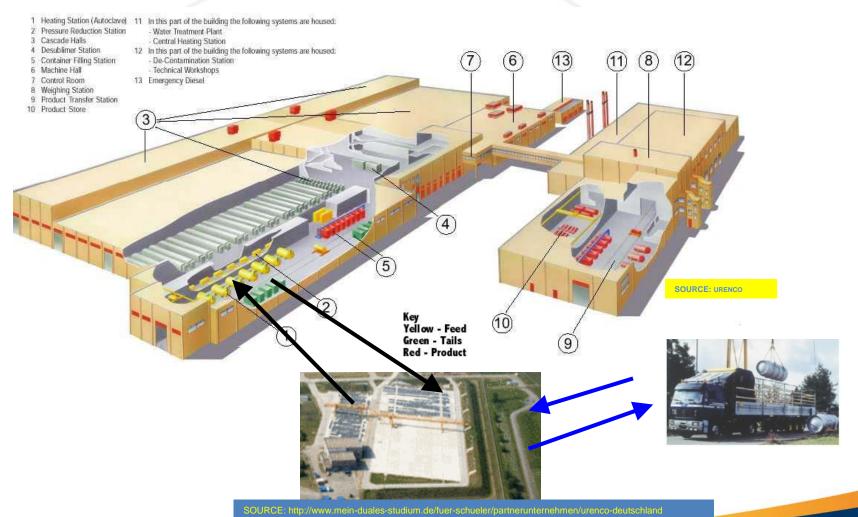








Gas Centrifuge Enrichment Plant (GCEP) Process and Storage Areas







IAEA Detection Goals - Perspective Safeguards Focus on Iran's Paths?

- Timely detection of the misuse of the facility to produce HEU (or any UF6 at higher-thandeclared enrichment levels)
- 2. Timely detection of diversion of declared UF6
- 3. Timely detection of the misuse of the facility to produce undeclared LEU (at declared enrichment levels) from undeclared feed
 - Obtain undeclared material (NU)
 - Enrich to LEU to be feed for clandestine HEU plant





Bushehr-1 (PWR/VVER-1000 Hybrid) Fuel = 3.5% U-235 Enriched

- Iran's VVER-1000 Reactor
 - Maximum enriched 3.62% Russian fuel
- Set up declared GCEPs capacity for
 - 3-5% enriched Fuel



Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant.
Photograph: Abedin Taherkenareh/EPA

SWUs for production of HEU ~(90%) from LEU?

SWU Calculator "Back of the Envelope EXCEL Model"

SOURCE:
SAFEGUARDS TRAINING COURSE
NUCLEAR MATERIAL.
SAFEGUARDS FOR
URANUM ENRICHMENT PLANTS
ISPO-347/R8 (JUNE 2007) ORNIL.

NU to	LEU		LEU to	HEU(9	0)	NU to F	1EU(90 <mark>)</mark>	
XF	0.71%		XF	3.50%		XF	0.71%	
XP	3.50%		XP	90.00%		XP	90.00%	
XW	0.42%		XW	0.42%		XW	0.42%	
F=	60.85	kgU235	F=	28.30	kgU235	F=	60.85	kgU235
P=	28.30	kgU235	P=	25.02	kgU235	P=	25.02	kgU235
W=	32.55	kgU235	W=	3.28	kgU235	W=	35.83	kgU235
SQ HEU	1.13	SQ HEU	SQ HEU	1.00	SQ HEU	SQ HEU	1.00	SQ HEU
ΔU	2.85	MTSWU	ΔU	1.79	MTSWU	ΔU	4.64	MTSWU
	61.42%	TOTAL SV	VUs	38.58%	TOTAL SV	NUs	100%	TOTAL SWUs

Source - B. Boyer Calculations (9/2014)

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KEY
CALCULATION
POINT:
61% of SWUs
Done in LEU
Stage



Teheran Research Reactor (TRR) Fuel = 19.75% U-235 Enriched

- Iran declares need for fuel for TRR
 - 19.75% enriched Fuel produce medical isotopes
- Sets up declared GCEPs capacity for
 - 19.75% enriched Fuel

SWUs for production of HEU? ~(90%)

SWU Calculator "Back of the Envelope EXCEL Model"

SOURCE: SAFEGUARDS TRAINING COURSE NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFEGUARDS FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANTS ISPO-347/RB (JUNE 2007) ORNIL The Tehran Research Reactor. http://iranprimer.usip.org/blog/2014/mar/06/realistic-options-final-nuclear-deal

NU to LEU (19.75)	LEU(19.75) to HEU(90)	NU to HEU(90)

	•	•		•		•		• •
XF	0.01		XF	0.20		XF	0.01	
XP	0.20		XP	0.90		XP	0.90	
XW	0.00		XW	0.00		XW	0.00	
F=	60.85	kgU235	F=	25.44	kgU235	F=	60.85	kgU235
P=	25.44	kgU235	P=	25.02	kgU235	P=	25.02	kgU235
W=	35.40	kgU235	W=	0.42	kgU235	W=	35.83	kgU235
SQ HEU	1.02	SQ HEU	SQ HEU	1.00	SQ HEU	SQ HEU	1.00	SQ HEU
ΔU	4.15	MTSWU	ΔU	0.49	MTSWU	ΔU	4.64	MTSWU
	0.89	TOTAL SV	/Us	0.11	TOTAL SV	VUs	1.00	TOTAL SWUs

KEY CALCULATION POINT:

89% of SWUs

Done in TRR Fuel

(2-Steps)

LEU reactor fuel and 19.75%

Source - B. Boyer Calculations (9/2014)





Non-application of Safeguards ... In Non-Peaceful Activities

Model Safeguards Agreement (1972) - INFCIRC/153(Corr.) Para. 14

The State shall inform the Agency of the activity, making it clear:

- i. That the use of the *nuclear material* in a **non-proscribed military activity** will not be in conflict with an undertaking the State may have given and in respect of which Agency safeguards apply, that the *nuclear material* will be used only in a peaceful nuclear activity; and
- ii. That during the period of <u>non-application of safeguards</u> the <u>nuclear material</u> will not be used for the production of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

Information Source: Nuclear submarine program surfaces in Iran
Posted on July 23, 2012 by Power & Policy By Olli J. Heinonen (Harvard) Former IAEA Deputy DG-SG



http://www.css11.navy.mil/Subs/Asheville.htm Toured in August 2011 at San Diego by LANL's R. Wallace, C. Murphy and B. Boyer



(AP Photo/Iranian Defense Ministry, Vahid Reza Alaei, File)



Photo – B. Boyer July 2013)







Iran's Navy Fuel = 5-90%? U-235 Enriched

- Suppose Iran declares need for fuel for naval reactors
 - Can set up need for 50-60% (HEU) Fuel
- Navy enrichment/fuels program
 - Non-application of safeguards NPT
 - Plants unsafeguarded by IAEA?
 - Need about 5-6 SQs of material (50%-90% perhaps?)

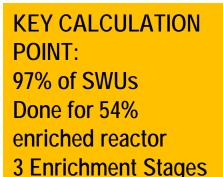


SWU Calculator "Back of the Envelope EXCEL Model"

NU to F	HEU (54	.)	HEU(5	54) to H	EU(90)	NU	J to HE	U(90)
XF	0.71%		XF	54.00%		XF	0.71%	
XP	54.00%		XP	90.00%		XP	90.00%	
XW	0.42%		XW	0.42%		XW	0.42%	
F=	60.84606	kgU235	F=	25.09845	kgU235	F=	60.84606	kgU235
P=	25.09845	kgU235	P=	25.02	kgU235	P=	25.02	kgU235
W=	35.74761	kgU235	W=	0.07845	kgU235	W=	35.82606	kgU235
SQ HEU	1.003938	SQ HEU	SQ HEU	1.0008	SQ HEU	SQ HEU	1.0008	SQ HEU
ΔU	4.486542	MTSWU	ΔU	0.149555	MTSWU	ΔU	4.636098	MTSWU
	96.77%	TOTAL SW	/Us	3.23%	TOTAL SW	/Us	100%	TOTAL SWUs

Source - B. Boyer Calculations (9/2014)

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SOURCE: SAFEGUARDS TRAINING COURSE NUCLEAR MATERIAL SAFEGUARDS FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANTS ISPO-347/R8 (JUNE 2007) ORNL





The Iran Snapshot – Latest Status of UF6

Source: IAEA GOV/2014/28

(Derestricted BOG 4 June 2014) Date: 23 May 2014

http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/iran/iae a-and-iran-iaea-reports

ISFAHAN









	Conversion NU UF6	UF6 Feed to GCEPs	UF6 GCEPs Product	UF6 GCEPs Tails
kg UF6	550000	134843	11870	122973
kg U	371855	91167	8025	83142
Enrichment	0.711%	0.711%	3.49%	0.49%
kg U-235	2643.9	648.2	280.1	404.1
SQ DNLEU U-235	35.3	8.6	3.7	5.4
SQ U-235 (25kg)	105.8	25.9	11.5	16.2
Cylinders 48 in	44.0	10.8		9.8
Cylinders 30 in			5.3	

Questions for IAEA BOG and UNSC

- Iran has enough LEU feed for producing SQ of HEU
- ~2/3 to 3/4 of the SWU for getting 90% HEU complete in LEU
- Will Iran divert I FU to a Plant "X"?
- Will Iran breakout at Natanz, etc... or at a possible secret Plant "X"?
- Can Iran make HEU? Options? Naval reactors?
- Less than optimal LEU production so far but on a learning curve Source - B. Boyer Calculations of IAEA data (6/2014 and 9/2014)

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Isfahan **EUPP and UCF plants**

Natanz GCEP

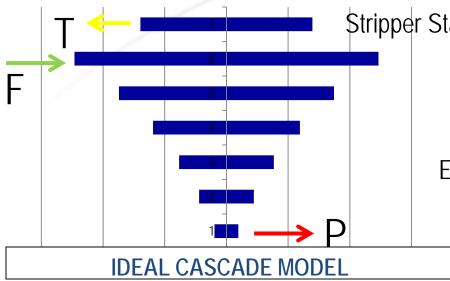






Ideal Cascade – Use of IAEA Board Reports

Scale of Operations



Stripper Stage (1)

1 Centrifuge = 1 SWU/yr

Enricher Stages (5 + 1 = 6)

Ideal Cascade "Back of the Envelope EXCEL Model"



- Natanz Model estimated from BOG Reports
- Assume ~50 cascades of ~200 centrifuges

SOURCE:	
SAFEGUARD	S TRAINING COURSE
NUCLEAR MA	TERIAL
SAFEGUARD	S FOR
URANIUM EN	RICHMENT PLANTS
ISPO-347/R8 (JUNE 2007) ORNL

F=	26382 kgU/yr	188 kgU235/yr	0.711% NU
P=	2552 kgU/yr	88.2 kgU235/yr	3.5% LEU
W=	23829 kgU/yr	101 kgU235/yr	0.42% DU

IDEAL CASCADE MODEL $\sim 50 \times \sim 200 =$

Source - B. Boyer Calculations (9/2014)

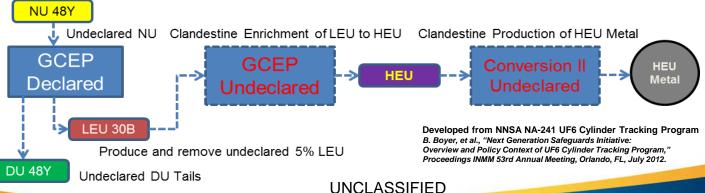




Diversion/Breakout/Clandestine Pathways

Acquisition Pathways?

- 1) Misuse at Natanz of declared ~50 cascades x ~200 machines
 - Take LEU and enrich to HEU up to 4 stages total
- 2) Divert LEU to Plant "X" clandestine HEU enrichment plant
- 3) Divert of tails to Plant "Y" clandestine HEU enrichment plant
- 4) Clandestine NUF6 at Plant "Z"
 - Clandestine conversion or acquisition of NUF6
 - Enrich NU to HEU at Plant "Z"







Path 1 - Breakout or Misuse at Natanz

- LEU from Natanz as feed ~7800 kgUF6 avail. = (3.5x30B)
- Stage 2 F 3.5%, P 19.2%, T 0.733%
 - 55 days produce 40kgU235
- Stage 3 F 19.2%, P 61%, T 3.5%
 - 11 days produce 28.6kgU235
- Stage 4 F 61%, P 91%, T 19.2%
 - 4 days produce 25kgU235

Source - B. Boyer Calculations (9/2014)

- 1 SQ of U235 produced ~10 weeks of production
- Less than 3 months to breakout or misuse Natanz





Path 2 - Diversion of LEU to Possible Plant "X"

- Take LEU at Natanz as feed ~7800 kgUF6 available ~(3.5x30B)
- Divert ONE 30B to possible Plant "X" attempt to hide diversion
- Plant "X" ~3000 centrifuges ~ similar to Fordow plant secret location
- Built as one optimized cascade to go from LEU to 91% HEU
 - 20 stages up / 2 stages down P=91% U235, T=1.59% U235
 - 21 enrich / 2 strip stages
 - 140 days produce 25 kgU235

Source - B. Boyer Calculations (9/2014)

- Feed for 1 SQ? = 1916 kgUF6 at 3.5% enrichment (<1 X 30B)
- ~5 months to use Plant "X" to process secretly LEU

OPTIMAL LEU to HEU CASCADE MODEL





Path 3 - Diversion of DU tails to Possible Plant "Y"

- Take DU at Natanz as feed ~123 tonnes UF6 (0.49% U235) ~(10x48Y)
- Divert 48Y (1/10) to Plant "Y" attempt to hide diversion 12,500 kgUF6
- Plant "Y" ~3000 centrifuges ~ similar to Fordow plant scale secret location
- Built as one optimized cascade to go from DU to 87% HEU
 - 26 stages up/3 stages down P=87% U235, T=0.17% U235
 - 27 enrich / 3 strip
 - ~3 years produce 46 kgUF6, 31 kgU, 27 kgU235
- Clandestine plant designed to enrich NU to HEU
 - Can use ONE tails cylinder to produce SQ of HEU (87%)

OPTIMAL DU to HEU CASCADE MODEL

Source - B. Boyer Calculations (9/2014)
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Path 4 - Clandestine Ops - Possible Plant "Z"

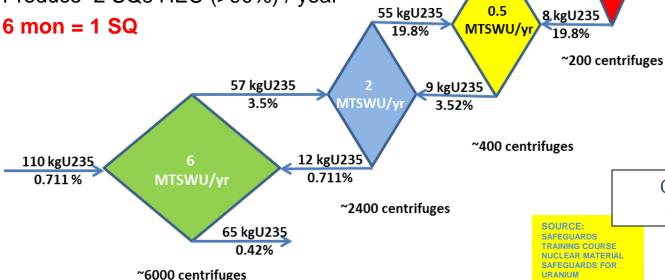
 Mine U ore / obtain foreign ore clandestinely and convert to UF6 in possible clandestine NU conversion plant

Obtain Natural UF6 from foreign black market

Possible Plant "Z" = ~9000 centrifuges

Secret location – ~50 x ~200 centrifuges/cascade

Produce 2 SQs HEU (>90%) / year



Source - B. Boyer Calculations (9/2014)

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COUPLED 4 STAGE

CASCADE MODEL

57 kgU235

92%

0.2

MTSWU

/yr

65 kgU235

63%



IAEA - Detecting Diversion of Uranium

IAEA Inspection regime includes:

- Annual Physical Inventory Verification (UF6 on site, DIV, analysis of data)
- Interim inspections for flow verification (scale of facility) (URENCO monthly)
 - > Iran how many times? Scale of operations? 1x, 4x, 12x per year???
- IAEA verifies feed, product, and tails cylinders Receipts and Shipments
 - OPERATOR holds feed before feeding to process
 - OPERATOR holds tails and product before shipment off-site

Verification of nuclear material (flows and inventories)

Nondestructive Assay (NDA) / Destructive Assay (DA) [Statistical Sampling]

Environmental Swipe Samples – powerful tool to detect HEU

For declared facilities and looking for undeclared activities and facilities

PATH	Туре	Time (months)
1	Three Stage Misuse – LEU-to-HEU	2.5
2	Plant X – LEU-to-HEU	5
3	Plant Y - DU-to-HEU	36
4	Plant Z – NU-to-HEU	6











Verify Design Information via LFUA

Low Frequency Unannounced Access (LFUA) Inspections



- Access is on a random, unannounced basis
- Access must be provided within 2 hours of request
- Performed 4 -12 times per year (<1000MTSWU/yr)
 - During planned inspections
 - Totally unannounced





Protection of proprietary information by negotiated procedures





Environmental Swipe Samples

Environmental Sample Swipe Kit

- Powerful tool for undeclared activities
- Detect HEU where not declared
- Where to swipe?
- Avoid Contamination / Site Legacy

Particle Analysis

Detection and analysis of individual micron-size particles containing fissionable materials





Labels Pen Working Papers

Gloves

Outer Bag



Aluminum Foil

Analytical Techniques

- Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometry (TIMS)

Bag with cotton swipe

Large bag for double bagging



Inspectors demo ES techniques during BNL APEX Training (B. Boyer)



Enrichment / Proliferation / Safeguards Summary of Issues

Enrichment is a sensitive technology

- Technology diffusion Zippe / Khan / (Future Lasers?)
- Export controls nuclear technology / dual use
- Safeguarding the technology by the technology holders

Proliferation

- Iran Open questions on nuclear dossier
- Libya Intercepted centrifuges "Black Market"
- DPRK Revelation of GCEP seen by Sig Hecker

GCEPS safeguards

- Timely detection of the misuse of the facility to produce HEU
- Timely detection of the diversion of declared UF6
- Timely detection of misuse of facility to produce undeclared LEU
- Breakout vs. Clandestine Ops
- Need for robust safeguards regime



Centrifuge Cases
Destined for Libya in USA



Inspector in Iran 2014





