



Analysis of IAEA Iran Verification and Monitoring Report — May 2024

By David Albright, Sarah Burkhard, Spencer Faragasso, and Andrea Stricker¹

May 29, 2024

Background

- This report summarizes and assesses information in the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA's) quarterly report, dated May 27, 2024, *Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)*, including Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Findings

- Iran can produce more weapon-grade uranium (WGU) since the IAEA's last report in February 2024 due to increased stocks of enriched uranium.
- Iran's stocks of enriched uranium and its centrifuge capacity combined are sufficient to make enough WGU, taken as 25 kilograms (kg) of WGU, for almost eight nuclear weapons in one month, ten in two months, 12 in three months, 13 in four months.
- With Iran's growing enrichment experience and using only a portion of its stock of 60 percent highly enriched uranium (HEU), Iran could produce its first quantity of 25 kg of WGU in about one week. This breakout could be difficult for the IAEA to detect promptly, if Iran delayed inspectors' access.
- The IAEA's efforts to verify Iran's nuclear activities, particularly its uranium enrichment activities, continue to be seriously affected by Iran's decision last fall to withdraw the designation of several experienced inspectors. Despite repeated calls by the IAEA that Iran reconsider this inappropriate, political act, as of the end of May 2024, Iran has failed to reverse course.
- As of May 11, the net overall enriched uranium stock, including all levels of enrichment and all chemical forms, increased by 675.8 kg, from 5525.5 kg to 6201.3 kg (Uranium mass or U mass).
- Iran's stockpile of 60 percent HEU was 142.1 kg (U mass) or 210.2 kg uranium hexafluoride mass (hex mass) as of May 11, 2024, an increase of 20.6 kg (U mass) since February 2023.
- However, the IAEA report states in a footnote that sometime after May 11, 2024, Iran downblended 5.9 kg of uranium enriched up to 60 percent U-235 by mixing it with 2 percent enriched uranium, producing 20 percent enriched uranium. Taking into account

¹ Andrea Stricker is deputy director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies' (FDD's) Nonproliferation and Biodefense Program and an FDD research fellow.

newly produced 60 percent HEU from May 11 to the end of May, using average production rates during this reporting period, the estimated 60 percent HEU stock as of the end of May is approximately 140.5 kg (U mass).

- The average production rate of 60 percent HEU was 6.4 kg (U mass) per month, slightly lower than the 7.1 kg (U mass) during the previous reporting period. At this rate, Iran can produce about 78.4 kg of 60 percent HEU (U mass) annually.
- Iran continued to produce 60 percent HEU from 5 percent LEU feed in two pairs of interconnected advanced centrifuge cascades at the above-ground Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP) and at the below-ground Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP). The FFEP pair includes two IR-6 centrifuge cascades, one of which is easily modifiable to change operations and enrich uranium to higher levels. In January 2023, the IAEA detected the presence of near-84 percent HEU particles at the cascade's product sampling point after Iran failed to declare a change in the cascade's mode of operation. While Iran temporarily reversed the configuration over the summer of 2023, it began using this configuration again after December 2023. The current IAEA report does not provide any new details on this issue, other than stating that two interconnected IR-6 cascades continue to make 60 percent enriched uranium.
- According to previous reports, Iran was storing the majority of its 20 percent enriched uranium and 60 percent HEU stocks at the Esfahan Fuel Plate Fabrication Plant (FPFP), which may not be as thoroughly monitored as Natanz and Fordow. The stocks require enhanced IAEA safeguards to detect and prevent Iran's diversion of enriched uranium to a secret enrichment plant. For example, there should be stepped-up inspector presence and remote camera surveillance at the facility.
- As of May 11, 2024, Iran had an IAEA-estimated stock of 751.3 kg of 20 percent enriched uranium (U mass and in the form of UF_6), equivalent to 1111.4 kg (hex mass), representing an increase of 39.1 kg (U mass). Iran also had a stock of 30 kg (U mass) of 20 percent uranium in other chemical forms.
- The average production rate of 20 percent enriched uranium at the FFEP was 12.6 kg (U mass) per month or 18.6 kg (hex mass) per month, slightly lower but similar to the previous reporting period.
- In addition to regular production of 20 percent enriched uranium, after May 11, when Iran downblended 5.9 kg of 60 percent HEU, it produced an additional 18.4 kg of 20 percent enriched uranium (U mass), resulting in a further increase of Iran's stock of 20 percent enriched uranium.
- Iran's deployment of advanced centrifuges has not changed from the last IAEA report in February 2024. Iran now has nearly 7400 advanced centrifuges installed at Natanz and Fordow, where most are deployed at the Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant (FEP) (see Figure 1). The FEP now has all near-term planned centrifuge cascades installed, pending less firm Iranian plans.
- Including the installed IR-1 centrifuges at the FEP and FFEP brings the total number of installed centrifuges to about 14,600. It should be noted that many advanced centrifuges are deployed but not enriching uranium, and the IR-1 centrifuges have a reduced ability to enrich uranium.

- During the reporting period, Iran did not install any additional advanced centrifuge cascades at the FFEF, where it is currently operating six IR-1 centrifuge cascades and two IR-6 centrifuge cascades, although it plans to install up to an additional 14 IR-6 centrifuge cascades.
- The quantity of Iran's enriching centrifuges decreased during this reporting period to around 10,000 centrifuges. In a footnote, the IAEA draws a distinction between operating and enriching centrifuges, where operating centrifuges include those that have enriched uranium previously and enriching centrifuges are those that are enriching uranium at the time of inspection.
- Iran's current, total operating enrichment capability is estimated to be about 19,000 separative work units (SWU) per year, where only cascades enriching uranium during the reporting period are included in the estimate. As of this reporting period, Iran was not yet using its fully installed enrichment capacity at the FEP, which, if operational, would increase the total SWU per year by about 80 percent, for a total of about 34,500 SWU.
- Iran's stockpile of near 5 percent LEU decreased by 19.9 kg (U mass) to 2376.9 kg (U mass), or 3516.1 kg (hex mass). Average production of near 5 percent LEU at the FEP was about 75 percent of the last reporting period's total, consistent with the IAEA's reporting that Iran used fewer centrifuge cascades.
- Iran has not prioritized stockpiling uranium enriched between two and five percent. It also has not made planned progress on the Enriched Uranium Powder Plant, a key civil facility to convert less than 5 percent enriched uranium hexafluoride into uranium oxide powder for use in nuclear power reactor fuel. These two choices are at odds with Iran's contention that its primary goal is to accumulate 4-5 percent enriched uranium for use in nuclear power reactor fuel. Instead, Iran has used this stock extensively to produce near 20 percent and 60 percent enriched uranium, far beyond Iran's civilian needs.
- The IAEA again reports that Iran has not started commissioning the Arak reactor, now called the Khondab Heavy Water Research Reactor (KHRR), or IR-20. Iran previously informed the IAEA that it expected to commission the reactor in 2023 and start operations in 2024. The IAEA reports that construction efforts on the reactor continue, and Iran has provided no new update.
- The IAEA underscores that it has been "more than three years since Iran stopped provisionally applying its Additional Protocol and, therefore, since it provided updated declarations and the Agency was able to conduct complementary access to any sites and other locations in Iran."
- The IAEA reports no new progress on installing new surveillance cameras at Iran's nuclear-related facilities, including centrifuge manufacturing and assembly sites. Iran has also said it will not turn over data or footage associated with monitoring devices and cameras, as it committed in an IAEA/Iran Joint Statement from March 2023, unless sanctions are removed, essentially holding the IAEA hostage to political developments outside the agency's control.
- The absence of monitoring and surveillance equipment, particularly since June 2022, has caused the IAEA to doubt its ability to ascertain whether Iran has diverted or may divert advanced centrifuges. A risk is that Iran could accumulate a secret stock of advanced centrifuges, deployable in the future at a clandestine enrichment plant or during a

breakout at declared sites. Another risk is that Iran will establish additional centrifuge manufacturing sites unknown to the IAEA. Iran has proven its ability to secretly move manufacturing equipment to new, undeclared sites, further complicating any future verification effort and contributing to uncertainty about where Iran manufactures centrifuges.

- The IAEA concludes that “Iran’s decision to remove all of the Agency’s equipment previously installed in Iran for JCPOA-related surveillance and monitoring activities in relation to the JCPOA has [had] detrimental implications for the Agency’s ability to provide assurance of the peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear [program].”
- The IAEA reiterates, “The Agency has lost continuity of knowledge in relation to the production and inventory of centrifuges, rotors and bellows, heavy water and [uranium ore concentrate] UOC.”
- Concern about Iran’s installation of advanced centrifuges at an undeclared site increases as the 60 percent HEU stocks grow. Such a scenario is becoming more worrisome and viable, since a relatively small number of advanced centrifuge cascades would suffice for the rapid enrichment of the 60 percent HEU to weapon-grade. This hybrid strategy involves Iran diverting safeguarded HEU and enriching the material to weapon-grade using three or four secretly manufactured and deployed cascades of advanced centrifuges. With greater uncertainty about the quantity of advanced centrifuges Iran is making, there is a greater chance of Iran hiding away the requisite number of advanced centrifuges to carry out this scenario.
- Combined with Iran’s refusal to resolve outstanding safeguards violations, the IAEA has a significantly reduced ability to monitor Iran’s complex and growing nuclear program, which notably has unresolved nuclear weapons dimensions. The IAEA’s ability to detect diversion of nuclear materials, equipment, and other capabilities to undeclared facilities remains greatly diminished.

Iran: Total Installed Advanced Centrifuges By Date

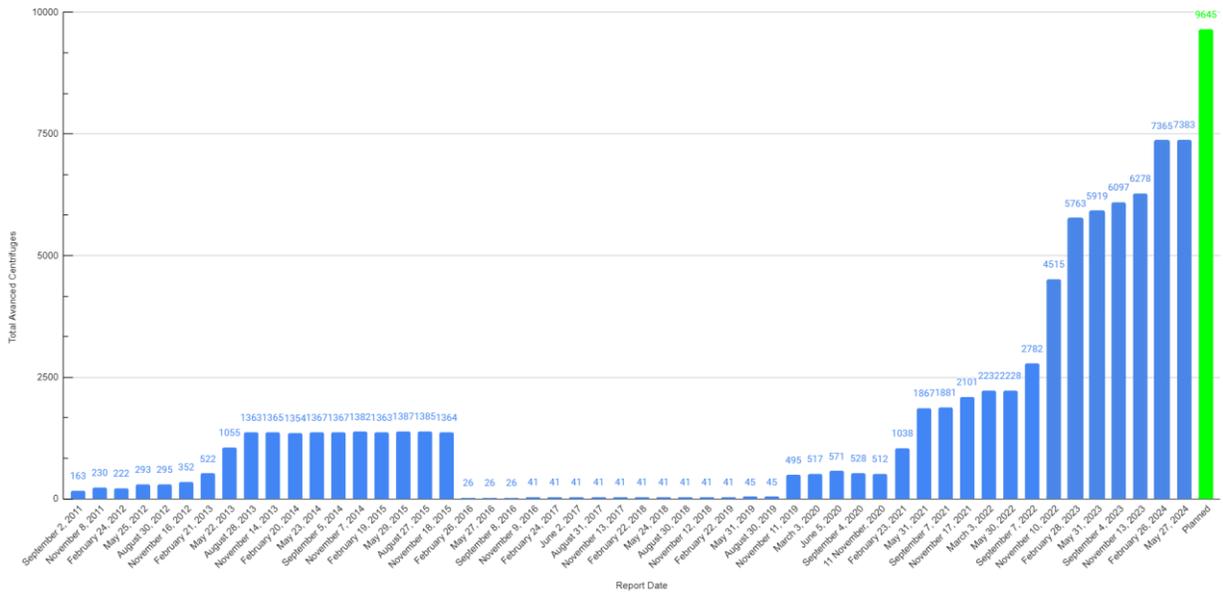


Figure 1. The total number of advanced centrifuges installed at all three enrichment facilities. No new centrifuge cascades were added during this most recent reporting period. There were only minor fluctuations in the quantities of deployed centrifuges at the PFEP. As can be seen, centrifuge installation accelerated during the previous reporting period, following relatively small incremental increases during most of 2023.

Part 1: Enriched Uranium Stocks

Five Percent LEU Production at the Natanz FEP. At the Natanz FEP, Iran produced approximately 903.3 kg of UF₆ enriched up to 5 percent U-235 during the reporting period, which spanned 90 days from February 10, 2024 to May 10, 2024.² The report discusses this amount as kilograms of UF₆ in units of UF₆ mass, which the authors refer to as hex mass. The total uranium mass, ignoring the fluorine elements, is 610.6 kilograms, for a monthly average production rate of 203.5 kg U mass and a daily average production rate of 6.8 kg U mass. These average production rates decreased from 278.1 kg U mass per month, or 9.3 kg U mass per day, during the previous reporting period, consistent with the fact that fewer centrifuge cascades were operating (see below).

60 Percent HEU Production at Fordow. At the FFEP, during the most recent reporting period, which spanned February 10, 2024 to May 10, 2024, Iran produced 17.5 kg (hex mass) of near 60 percent enriched uranium, or 11.8 kg U mass. The daily average production rate was 0.13 kg (U

² That production values are reported in uranium hexafluoride mass can be discerned only by comparing the production values to the differences in stockpile from one reporting period to the next. The differences in stockpile are consistently two-thirds of the given produced quantity, showing that the former is in uranium mass and the latter is in uranium hexafluoride mass.

mass), resulting in a monthly average production rate of 3.9 kg (U mass), slightly below the average production rate during the last reporting period, when it was 4.5 kg (U mass). Annually, using the daily average production and multiplying it by 365 days, Iran could produce 48 kg (U mass) or 71 kg (hex mass) of 60 percent enriched uranium at FFEP alone.

20 Percent Enriched Uranium Production at Fordow. At the FFEP, Iran also produced 56 kg of UF₆ (hex mass) enriched up to 20 percent enriched uranium, or 37.9 kg U mass. Average production of 20 percent enriched uranium at the FFEP was comparable to the last reporting period, at 0.62 kg (hex mass) or 0.42 kg (U mass) per day, resulting in a monthly average production rate of 18.7 kg (hex mass) or 12.6 kg (U mass). Annually, Iran could produce 227 kg (hex mass) or 154 kg (U mass) of near 20 percent enriched uranium.

From its production of 60 and 20 percent enriched uranium at the FFEP, Iran accumulated 643.7 kg (hex mass) or 435.1 kg (U mass) of up to 2 percent enriched uranium in tails.

Enrichment Levels Produced at the Natanz Pilot Plant. At the PFEP, Iran continued to produce 2 percent enriched uranium, 5 percent enriched uranium, and up to 60 percent enriched uranium stock during the reporting period. Between February 10, 2024 and May 10, 2024, the PFEP produced 11.1 kg (hex mass) of near 60 percent enriched uranium or 7.5 kg (U mass); 92.6 kg (hex mass) of up to 5 percent LEU (62.6 kg U mass); and 97.4 kg (hex mass) of uranium enriched up to 2 percent U-235 (65.8 kg U mass). It accumulated an additional 202.7 kg (hex mass) of uranium enriched up to 2 percent U-235 (137 kg U mass) in tails.

60 Percent HEU Production at the Natanz Pilot Plant. The 60 percent enriched uranium production rate at the PFEP during this reporting period was similar to the previous reporting period at 11.1kg (hex mass) or 7.5 kg (U mass) over 90 days, resulting in a monthly average production rate of 3.7 kg (hex mass) or 2.5 kg (U mass) per month, or a daily average production rate of 123 grams (hex mass) or 83 grams (U mass) per day. Annually, using only the two advanced production-scale centrifuge cascades at the PFEP, Iran could produce 45 kg (hex mass) or 30.4 kg (U mass) of 60 percent enriched uranium.

Combined Production of 60 Percent HEU at Fordow and the Natanz PFEP. Combining production levels from the FFEP with those at the PFEP, Iran is producing 6.4 kg (U mass) or 9.5 kg (hex mass) of 60 percent enriched uranium per month on average and could produce 116 kg (hex mass) or 78.4 kg (U mass) of near 60 percent enriched uranium per year.

Enriched Uranium Stocks in Other Chemical Forms. Estimates of additional amounts of LEU in oxides and intermediate products, fuel assemblies and rods, targets, and scrap, add up to 360 kg (U mass). The report specifies that of the 360 kg enriched to unspecified levels (U mass), 30 kg are up to 20 percent enriched uranium and 2 kg are up to 60 percent HEU. Of the 30 kg (U mass) of near 20 percent enriched uranium, 21.7 kg (U mass) (down by 1 kg from the previous reporting period) are specified to be in the form of fuel assemblies and 2.8 kg are in targets. The report specifies that 1 kg were “loaded into the reactor core at [Tehran Research Reactor] TRR” and “thus removed from the stockpile.” What this means is unclear, since the uranium in the

irradiated fuel is still subject to safeguards. This could be referring to past, defective exemptions of nuclear material under the JCPOA.

Five Percent LEU Feed Rates. Of its near 5 percent LEU stock, Iran fed 742.4 kg hex mass (or 501.9 kg U mass) into the cascades at Fordow, for an average feed rate of about 8.2 kg per day hex mass, or 5.6 kg U mass. Iran dumped 25.3 kg of near 5 percent LEU feed at the FFEP (hex mass), or about 17.1 kg in uranium mass, or 3.4 percent of the feed. Iran also fed 306.4 kg of near 5 percent hex mass (207.1 kg U mass) into PFEP R&D lines 4, 5, and 6, for a daily average feed rate of 3.4 kg (hex mass) or 2.3kg U mass per day.

Accounting of Five Percent LEU Stock. Based on this information, Iran's new stockpile of near 5 percent LEU in uranium mass should be the sum of 2396.8 kg U mass from the last reporting period, 610.6 kg from the FEP, and 62.6 kg from the PFEP, with the feed of 709 kg subtracted. Adding back the 17.1 kg (U mass) feed dumped at the FFEP, this total becomes 2378.1 kg (after rounding of addends), close to the 2376.9 kg U mass of near 5 percent LEU in UF₆ form that the IAEA reported.

Overall Enriched Uranium Stocks as of May 11. The net overall enriched uranium stock, including all levels of enrichment and all chemical forms, increased by 675.8 kg from 5525.5 kg to 6201.3 kg (U mass) (see Table 1). This increase stems from an increase across three out of four enriched uranium stocks. The near 2 percent LEU stock in the form of UF₆ increased by 637 kg (U mass), and the near 20 percent enriched uranium stock increased by 39.1 kg from 712.2 kg to 751.3 kg (U mass). Differently from the previous reporting period, the near 5 percent LEU stock in the form of UF₆ decreased by 19.9 kg (U mass) while the near 60 percent enriched uranium stock increased by 20.6 kg from 121.5 kg to 142.1 kg (U mass).

Changes in Enriched Uranium Stocks After May 11. Of note, these stockpile numbers are dated to May 11, 2024, and have changed since. The IAEA report states in a footnote that since 11 May 2024, Iran down blended 5.9 kg of uranium enriched up to 60 percent U-235 with 12.5 kg of uranium enriched up to 2 percent U-235 to produce an additional 18.4 kg of uranium enriched up to 20 percent U-235. Thus, as of about the end of May 2024, Iran's stock of 60 percent HEU had decreased by 5.9 kg due to down blending but increased by an unreported amount due to new production of 60 percent enriched uranium. Without considering new production of 60 percent enriched uranium, Iran's stock of 60 percent was 136.2 kg (U mass). However, these values should not be used without knowing the amount of newly produced 60 percent enriched uranium. Using average production values for the reporting period up to May 11, Iran would have produced an additional 4.3 kg of 60 percent from May 11 to the end of the month. The net change in the 60 percent stock through the end of May is an estimated decrease of only 1.6 kg. Absent the downblending, this amount of 60 percent enriched uranium would have been produced by mid-June.

Efficiency of 60 Percent Production from Five Percent LEU Feed at the Natanz Pilot Plant. At the PFEP, Iran continued to use a combination of R&D lines 4, 5, and 6 to feed 5 percent LEU into the interconnected cascades in lines 4 and 6 and produce 60 percent enriched uranium, while

using centrifuges in line 5 to increase the enrichment level of the tails (see below). During this reporting period, spanning February 10, 2024 to May 10, 2024, of the 306.4 kg (hex mass) of 5 percent LEU fed into lines 4 and 6, Iran turned 11.1 kg (hex mass) (3.6 percent) into 60 percent enriched uranium and 92.6 kg (hex mass) back into 5 percent enriched uranium (30 percent). 202.7 kg (hex mass) (66 percent) remained as tails enriched up to 2 percent.

Table 1. Enriched Uranium Inventories,* including less than 5%, up to 20%, and up to 60% enriched uranium (all quantities in uranium mass), as of May 11, 2024 (not including reported changes made after May 11, 2024, see text)

Chemical Form	May 13, 2023	August 18, 2023	October 28, 2023	February 10, 2024	May 11, 2024
UF6 (kg)	4384.8	3441.3	4130.7	5164.5	5841.3
Uranium oxides and their intermediate products (kg)	207.5	206.9	205.6	203.6	203.5
Uranium in fuel assemblies, rods, and targets (kg)	59.5	54	54.1	52.6	51.6
Uranium in liquid and solid scrap (kg)	92.7	93.37	96.4	104.8	104.9
Enrichment Level Subtotals					
Uranium enriched up to 5 percent (kg) but more than 2 percent	1340.2	1950.9	2218.1	2396.8	2376.9
Uranium enriched up to 2 percent (kg)	2459.6	833	1217.2	1934	2571
Uranium enriched up to 20 percent (kg)	470.9	535.8	567.1	712.2	751.3
Uranium enriched up to 60 percent (kg)	114.1	121.6	128.3	121.5	142.1
Uranium in chemical forms other than UF6 with unspecified enrichment level (kg) (including 30 kg up to 20% LEU and 2 kg up to 60% HEU)	359.7	354.4	356.1	361	360
Totals of Enriched Uranium in UF6, <5 % (kg)	3799.8	2783.9	3435.3	4330.8	4947.9
Totals of Enriched Uranium in UF6, including near 20% and near 60% (kg)	4384.8	3441.3	4130.7	5164.5	5841.3
Totals of Enriched Uranium in all chemical forms, <5% <20% and <60% enriched	4744.5	3795.6	4486.8	5525.5	6201.3

* These totals do not include undisclosed stocks of enriched uranium exempted by the JCPOA Joint Commission.

Part 2: Enrichment Capacity

Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant

Installed Centrifuges. As of the end of this reporting period, the IAEA reports that Iran had installed at the Natanz FEP 36 cascades of IR-1 centrifuges,³ 21 cascades of IR-2m centrifuges, 12 cascades of IR-4 centrifuges, and three cascades of IR-6 centrifuges. Iran now has an estimated total of 6264 advanced centrifuges installed at the FEP, of which 3654 are IR-2m centrifuges.

Enriching Centrifuges. As of May 21, 2024, the IAEA reports that at the FEP, in total, 35 cascades of IR-1 centrifuges, five cascades of IR-2m centrifuges, three cascades of IR-4 centrifuges, and three cascades of IR-6 centrifuges were being fed with natural UF₆, fewer than during the last reporting period, where 36 cascades of IR-1 centrifuges, nine cascades of IR-2m centrifuges, three cascades of IR-4 centrifuges, and three cascades of IR-6 centrifuges were being fed with UF₆. Overall, the capacity of enriching centrifuges remains significantly below that of installed centrifuges, as a total of 16 IR-2m cascades and nine IR-4 cascades are installed but not enriching at the FEP.

The quantity of IR-1 centrifuges Iran withdrew from JCPOA-mandated storage continues to be unavailable for this reporting period because of Iran's refusal since February 2021 to provide the IAEA with access to data and recordings collected by agency equipment, and since June 2022, to continue collecting such data. In general, these centrifuges are believed to be coming from stocks of IR-1 centrifuges dismantled before JCPOA Implementation Day in January 2016 rather than representing newly built IR-1 machines.

No new cascades of IR-2m centrifuges have been installed since February 2023, but for those installed prior to February — specifically the approximately 2600 installed over a short period of time between September 2022 and February 2023 — it is unclear whether they are newly produced machines or were drawn from a secret storage site. The total number of IR-2m centrifuges installed remains three times the quantity Iran had installed prior to the JCPOA and even exceeds the quantity Iran declared, prior to the JCPOA, that it planned to install at the FEP. Iran may have built many of these machines prior to the JCPOA's Implementation Day in early 2016 while declaring falsely that it had not done so.

Planned Expansion. Iran is planning to commission up to eight enrichment units in Hall B1000 at Natanz, based on previous IAEA reports. Each of its eight enrichment units can hold 18 cascades (same general design as Hall A1000), but Iran has not specified how many centrifuges and what type it plans to install there. The current report provides no update on this planned commissioning. Likewise, Iran has not told the IAEA about its plans to install centrifuges in two additional enrichment halls in Hall A1000. This issue is further complicated because Iran no longer provides the IAEA information about its production of centrifuges.

³ In August 2022, Iran had announced its intention to reconfigure some of the IR-1 cascades to include additional centrifuges, and in December 2022, this process was completed with 120 total IR-1 centrifuges added.

Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant

Overall, no changes in centrifuge deployment have occurred at Fordow. At the FFEP, Iran currently has 1044 IR-1 centrifuges installed in three sets of two interconnected cascades, and two interconnected cascades of 166 IR-6 centrifuges. Iran has not installed any additional IR-6 or IR-1 centrifuges toward its plans of installing up to 14 additional cascades to the FFEP (where the six currently installed IR-1 cascades would be replaced, for a total of 16 cascades) but as of May 25, 2024, the installation of necessary infrastructure for eight new cascades was ongoing.

Iran continues to use the three sets of two interconnected IR-1 cascades to produce 20 percent enriched uranium from up to 5 percent LEU. Two interconnected IR-6 cascades have produced 60 percent HEU from 5 percent LEU feed. In late January 2023, the IAEA detected near-84 percent enriched HEU at the product sampling point, suggesting that the enrichment level temporarily rose above 60 percent.

60 Percent HEU Production at the FFEP. On November 22, 2022, Iran started using the two cascades of IR-6 centrifuges to produce UF₆ enriched up to 60 percent from near 5 percent LEU feed “by operating the two IR-6 cascades as one set of two interconnected cascades.” In a footnote, the IAEA previously specified that the declared mode of interconnection used the IR-6 cascade without modified subheaders for the last stage of enrichment to 60 percent, and this mode appears to have been used through January 16, 2023. At some point after an unannounced inspection (UI) on January 16, 2023, Iran made an undeclared change to the operation, where the IR-6 cascade with modified subheaders was used for the last stage of enrichment. While Iran temporarily reversed this change over the summer 2023, this is the configuration Iran has been using again since December 2023.⁴ The current report does not contain any new information on this issue.

Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant

New Underground PFEP. Iran plans to transfer its enrichment research and development activities to “a segregated area of Building A1000 at the FEP, to create a new area of the PFEP.” On April 24, 2023, Iran provided the IAEA with an updated design information questionnaire (DIQ) for Building A1000, stating it intends to commission there six of the 18 R&D lines (A-F), consisting of “up to 174 IR-4 or IR-6 centrifuges, or various configurations of smaller cascades and single machines.” It further declared that it may accumulate enriched uranium product of up to 5 percent LEU from enrichment activities in that area. A third line, line C, was commissioned during this reporting period, bringing the total number of lines containing centrifuges to three. Iran had begun installing centrifuges in three of the lines, lines A, B, and C, where line A consists of 20 IR-4 centrifuges, line B consists of 20 IR-6s centrifuges, and Line C consists of 20 IR-6 centrifuges. On May 25, 2024, the IAEA verified that no additional centrifuges had been installed, but that the

⁴ “Statement on Iranian nuclear steps reported by the IAEA,” United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, December 28, 2023, https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-iranian-nuclear-steps-reported-by-the-iaea?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=2f47a885-843f-4f0e-b89d-7c0e6285e3cc&utm_content=immediately.

installation of infrastructure for the feeding and withdrawal of uranium hexafluoride from the 18 cascades had been completed and was being commissioned. No nuclear material had been introduced into this new area of the PFEP.

The report does not provide an anticipated start date for this new area. Given that this new R&D area represents a three-fold increase from the six lines in the above-ground PFEP, and each could hold a full production-scale cascade of Iran's advanced centrifuges, this area could be devoted to production-scale enrichment in case of a surge in enriched uranium production or a breakout.

60 Percent HEU Production in Lines 4, 5, and 6. In the May 27, 2024 report, the IAEA reported no changes to the deployment of centrifuges in production lines 4 and 6, which are used for production of 60 percent enriched uranium. Since 60 percent enriched uranium production started on April 17, 2021, Iran has changed the mode of production several times, described in previous IAEA reports.

On May 25 2024, the IAEA verified that Iran was still feeding up to 5 percent LEU into the two interconnected cascades in lines 4 and 6, comprising up to 164 IR-4 and up to 164 IR-6 centrifuges, respectively, and producing up to 60 percent enriched uranium. The assay of the tails is likely about 2-3 percent. On May 25, 2024, line 5 was enriching the tails from lines 4 and 6 in a cascade of 168 IR-4 and four IR-6 centrifuges to produce up to 5 percent enriched uranium hexafluoride.

Lines 1, 2, and 3. On May 25, 2024, according to the IAEA report, "Iran has continued to accumulate uranium enriched up to 2% U-235 through feeding natural UF₆ into small and intermediate cascades comprising up to: 12 IR-1 centrifuges; 99 IR-2m centrifuges and four IR-2m centrifuges; 20 IR-4 centrifuges and ten IR-4 centrifuges; six IR-5 centrifuges and 19 IR-5 centrifuges; ten IR-6 centrifuges, 18 IR-6 centrifuges, 19 IR-6 centrifuges and four IR-6 centrifuges. The following single centrifuges were being tested with natural UF₆ but not accumulating enriched uranium: two IR-2m centrifuges; five IR-4 centrifuges; two IR-5 centrifuges; four IR-6 centrifuges; one IR-6s centrifuge; one IR-7 centrifuge; one IR-8 centrifuge; one IR-8B centrifuge; and one IR-9 centrifuge."

Capacity of Centrifuges Enriching Uranium

Table 2 lists the estimated enrichment capacity by facility for those centrifuges that were enriching uranium when the IAEA conducted its inspection (not including machines installed but not yet enriching, or centrifuges enriching during previous reporting periods), leading to a total of 19,030 SWU per year, or the equivalent of 21,140 IR-1 centrifuges.

By contrast, including the installed but not yet enriching centrifuges results in an increase of enrichment capacity by about 80 percent, for roughly 34,500 SWU per year. This difference is especially significant at the moment, because Iran has 25 additional advanced centrifuge cascades installed, which it was not using to enrich during the latest reporting period.

Of note, the total enrichment capacity used in breakout calculations is different. It includes currently installed centrifuges but excludes many of the advanced centrifuges in the PFEP, except production-scale advanced cascades, as they would likely not contribute meaningfully to the quick production of enough WGU for a nuclear explosive when starting with up to 5 percent or near 20 percent enriched uranium.

Table 2. Quantity of enriching centrifuges and enrichment capacity⁵

	Number of enriching centrifuges	Enrichment capacity in SWU/yr	IR-1 equivalent
Natanz FEP	7934	13,300	14,790
Fordow	1376	2680	2980
Natanz Above-Ground PFEP*	721	3030	3370
Lines 1, 2 & 3	See text		
Lines 4, 5 & 6	See text		
Natanz Below-Ground PFEP	N/A (not enriching yet)	–	–
Total	10,031	19,030	21,1400

* The values for lines 1, 2 and 3 of the PFEP are rough estimates based on the use of estimated and measured values for the separative output of these centrifuges in cascades, as drawn from IAEA and Iranian information.

Practicing Breakout by Producing Highly Enriched Uranium

During this reporting period, Iran continued to produce 60 percent enriched uranium, or HEU, and its stock now is well over three significant quantities of HEU, despite blending down a fraction of it to near 20 percent enriched uranium.⁶ Thus, Iran continues to have enough nuclear explosive material to have assurance it can directly fashion a nuclear explosive device, since 60 percent

⁵ For a discussion of enrichment output of Iran’s various centrifuges, see David Albright, Sarah Burkhard, and Spencer Faragasso, “A Comprehensive Survey of Iran’s Advanced Centrifuges,” *Institute for Science and International Security*, December 2, 2021, <https://isis-online.org/isis-reports/detail/a-comprehensive-survey-of-irans-advanced-centrifuges>. The enrichment output for the IR-6 is further adjusted based on: David Albright and Sarah Burkhard, “The IR-6 Centrifuge Needs Further Development,” *Institute for Science and International Security*, September 9, 2022, <https://isis-online.org/isis-reports/detail/the-ir-6-centrifuge-needs-further-development/>

⁶ A significant quantity of 60 percent enriched uranium is 41.7 kg, and it contains 25 kilograms of uranium-235, all in uranium mass.

enriched uranium can be used directly in nuclear weapons. About 40 kg (U mass) is more than enough to make a nuclear explosive, compared to 25 kg (U mass) of 90 percent enriched uranium, the quantity the Institute uses as a “sufficient quantity” for Iran to manufacture a nuclear explosive.

Iran could also enrich the 60 percent enriched uranium to weapon-grade uranium. After all, 60 percent enriched uranium is 99 percent of the way to WGU.

Sixty percent enrichment is also a level associated with a key step in the traditional A.Q. Khan stepwise process of climbing from natural uranium to 90 percent enriched uranium in four enrichment steps – enriching natural uranium to 4-5 percent enriched uranium, then further enriching this material to 20 percent, then to 60 percent, and finally to 90 percent.

Iran has thoroughly practiced the main steps of breakout under a civilian cover and has also learned to reduce the number of steps that it would need to go from natural uranium to WGU, such as by going directly from five percent to 60 percent. Moreover, the Iranians are experimenting with transferring enriched UF₆ as a gas from one step to the next, instead of having to solidify the intermediate product gas and turn it back into a gas in the next step, as Khan needed to do to make Pakistani nuclear weapons.

Iran may have covertly produced small quantities of WGU from near 20 percent enriched uranium, despite not collecting this product. In November 2021, Iran fed an unspecified amount of its near 20 percent enriched uranium stock into a variety of advanced centrifuges at the PFEP. Since Iran was not accumulating enriched uranium, and was instead combining the product and tails, the levels of enriched uranium achieved are not included in the report and may also not be known to the IAEA. The levels reached may include 90 percent, or weapon-grade.

All this experimentation has led Iran to be more capable of breaking out, if the leadership orders production of WGU or moves toward the construction of nuclear weapons. Undoing Iran’s acquisition of this knowledge is not possible.

Transfer of 20 Percent Enriched Uranium and 60 Percent HEU from Natanz to Esfahan

This report and the previous two IAEA reports do not discuss additional transfers to or existing stocks of near 20 and 60 percent enriched uranium at the Esfahan FFPF, stocks which Iran moved from Natanz and Fordow. The reason for the omission is not provided.

Earlier reports discussed Iran’s transfer of 20 percent enriched uranium and 60 percent HEU in hexafluoride form from the Natanz site to the FFPF, which it declared to be for the production of HEU targets for the TRR. However, almost none of this enriched uranium has been turned into targets. Iran’s storage of so much proliferation-sensitive material at the FFPF requires enhanced IAEA safeguards to detect and prevent diversion to a secret enrichment plant. It is unclear if such safeguards have been applied, such as stepped-up inspector visits, more frequent inventory verification, or camera surveillance. The IAEA should report on this matter urgently.

Based on past reports, in January 2022, Iran transferred 23.3 kg (U mass) of 60 percent material to the FPF. On April 19, 2022, the IAEA verified the receipt of an additional quantity of 15.3 kg (U mass) 60 percent HEU, bringing the total to 38.6 kg (U mass). On September 11, 2022, the IAEA verified the receipt of 16.5 kg (U mass) of 60 percent enriched uranium, bringing the total to 55.1 kg. On October 24, 2022, the IAEA verified the presence of a total of 53 kg (U mass) 60 percent HEU at the “storage area” of FPF. The difference of about 2 kg matches the amount of 60 percent HEU reported to be in forms other than uranium hexafluoride, specified to contain 1.6 kg (U mass) in mini-plates. As of August 19, 2023, this 1.6 kg of HEU in 264 targets had been irradiated in the TRR, and the targets were being stored in the TRR reactor pool. Another 0.4 kg (U mass) was in liquid and solid scrap.

On February 15, 2023, the IAEA verified the receipt at the FPF of 16.55 kg (U mass) of 60 percent enriched uranium in the form of uranium hexafluoride. On July 19, 2023, the IAEA verified receipt at the FPF of 30.92 kg of 60 percent enriched uranium, and on August 20, 2023, it verified an overall total of 100.52 kg of 60 percent enriched uranium at the FPF.

On May 30, 2023, the IAEA verified receipt from the PFEP of 64.5 kg (U mass) of 20 percent enriched uranium in the form of uranium hexafluoride, bringing the total of 20 percent enriched uranium to 454.64 kg. No additional transfer or production of mini-plates (targets) has been reported since the previous reporting period.

As of August 2023, of Iran’s total stock of 121.6 kg (U mass) of 60 percent HEU at that time, about 83 percent of this stock was in storage at the FPF. This represented an increase from the total of 60 percent of this material stored at the FPF at the end of the prior reporting period in May 2023. Of Iran’s total stock of 20 percent enriched uranium, nearly 85 percent of this stock was in storage at the FPF at that time. The November 2023 and February 2024 reports provides no information about the size of these stocks at the FPF.

Given that Esfahan holds Iran’s capabilities to turn enriched uranium hexafluoride into metal, the IAEA should carefully monitor these stocks, as well as guard against diversion to a secret enrichment facility. It should also be noted that the presence of these stocks of 20 and 60 percent stocks violates the JCPOA, and therefore the amounts should be available in the IAEA report.

Part 3: Current Breakout Estimates

During this reporting period, Iran’s installed centrifuge capacity used for breakout calculations remained virtually the same. Because Iran no longer allows the IAEA to monitor its manufacture and assembly of advanced centrifuges, it could also be stockpiling advanced centrifuges without the IAEA’s knowledge. In this report, the IAEA acknowledges this fundamental problem.

Iran's formal breakout timeline remains at zero. It has enough 60 percent enriched uranium, or HEU, to be assured it could directly fashion three nuclear explosives.⁷

If Iran wanted to further enrich all its 60 percent HEU up to weapon-grade, it could do so quickly, using four advanced centrifuge cascades that are already installed at the PFEP and FFEP. The length of time needed to further enrich the 60 percent HEU to WGU also depends on its choice of tails assay, or the enrichment level of the "waste" material. In this reporting period, the expected enrichment level of the tails assay is selected at 5 percent enriched uranium, which would allow Iran to reuse the tails as feed in cascades making 20 percent. With Iran's stock of 60 percent enriched uranium as of May 11, 2024, and using three IR-6 and one IR-4 cascades, Iran could produce about 91 kg of WGU in about four weeks. The time to produce its first 25 kg of WGU, where a weapon is assigned 25 kg of weapon-grade uranium (U mass) (see below for a brief explanation for this choice) would entail a little over one week. Within the first month after a breakout started, Iran could use its stock of 60 percent "feed" to produce almost enough WGU for well over three quantities of 25 kg of WGU.

In parallel to further enriching 60 percent material, Iran could enrich its near 20 percent enriched uranium stock to weapon-grade uranium in its production-scale cascades at the FEP and FFEP. Using the Institute's breakout calculator, and assuming a set-up time of two weeks, Iran is estimated to be able to accumulate, in one month, enough weapon-grade uranium for over four nuclear weapons from its stock of near 20 percent enriched uranium.

Looking at the issue differently, in one month, using 20 and 60 percent stocks, with a set-up time applied to the 20 percent enriched uranium, Iran could produce enough weapon-grade uranium for seven nuclear weapons, or almost enough for eight nuclear weapons. Smaller amounts may be sufficient for each nuclear weapon, indicating that the breakout calculation is conservative.

In the second month, Iran could continue enriching to weapon-grade using its feedstocks of enriched uranium, in particular its remaining 20 percent stock and its less than five and above two percent (taken as 4.5 percent) enriched uranium stock, producing enough weapon-grade uranium for three more nuclear weapons, or a cumulative total of ten nuclear weapons. This increase of one nuclear weapon since the last report is indicative of Iran being very close to having enough WGU for eight weapons in the first month.

By the end of the third month, using its remaining stock of less than five but greater than two percent enriched uranium, Iran could accumulate enough WGU for 12 nuclear weapons, and by the end of the fourth month, enough WGU for 13 nuclear weapons. The latter variation reflects the functioning of the calculator and transition times to the use of 4.5 percent enriched uranium.

⁷ The IAEA defines a significant quantity as the "approximate amount of nuclear material for which the possibility of manufacturing a nuclear explosive cannot be excluded." By definition, it is the amount of HEU containing 25 kg of uranium-235, or 41.7 kg of 60 percent enriched uranium.

In summary, Iran can use a fraction of its 60 percent enriched uranium to rush to its first quantity of 25 kg of WGU in about a week. Its enriched uranium stocks are sufficient to make enough weapon-grade uranium for almost eight nuclear weapons in one month, ten nuclear weapons in two months, 12 in three months, and 13 in four months.

When Iran ended its crash nuclear weapons program in 2003, called the Amad Plan, its biggest bottleneck was the lack of WGU; it still needed at least a few more years to accumulate enough WGU for a nuclear weapon.⁸ Under intense international pressure, Iran decided in 2003 to downsize and better camouflage its nuclear weapons effort, while pushing to establish a robust capability to enrich uranium. Today, that decision has borne fruit. While Iran aimed for enough nuclear explosive material for five nuclear weapons in 2003, today it can have enough for those five weapons in less than one month. With its residual and covert nuclear weaponization capabilities, Iran could test a nuclear explosive underground or deploy a crude nuclear weapon six months after it decides to build nuclear weapons. It could also re-establish and complete its Amad Plan infrastructure in two years, before serially producing nuclear weapons for ballistic missiles.⁹

Breakout Calculator. The Institute's breakout calculator is used to estimate the breakout time, as in previous reports. The methodology is described in earlier Institute reports. The production of WGU from the 4.5, 20, and 60 percent enriched uranium stocks significantly reduces the timeline for the production of multiple quantities of 25 kg of WGU (U mass). The authors' benchmark reflects a reasonable, assured quantity of WGU for a variety of nuclear weapon designs available to Iran and the creation of a pipeline for production of multiple WGU cores. As before, the total enrichment contribution from small, non-production-scale cascades of advanced centrifuges installed at the PFEP is not included, as their use in a breakout would be complicated and likely would not contribute significantly to reducing breakout timelines. Stocks of less than 2 percent enriched uranium are also not included, since to do so would require additional modifications of the cascades to handle lower enrichments, likely significantly slowing or contributing only slightly, rather than speeding up, breakout timelines. Lastly, only enriched uranium hexafluoride stocks are used; Iran's chemical conversion of other stocks is assessed as too time consuming, and involving too little material, to significantly affect breakout estimates.

The breakout timelines are credible, worst-case estimates, likely representing the shortest timelines to breakout, with longer timelines possible. Uncertainties include ongoing ones, such as the exact enrichment level of the uranium stock enriched between 2 and 5 percent and operational efficiencies of the advanced centrifuges, particularly the IR-4 and IR-6 cascades, although the calculations use a significantly lower estimated enrichment output for the IR-6 cascades than expected.

⁸ David Albright with Sarah Burkhard and the Good ISIS Team, *Iran's Perilous Pursuit of Nuclear Weapons* (Washington, D.C.: Institute for Science and International Security Press, 2021).

⁹ David Albright, "Iran Building Nuclear Weapons," *Institute for Science and International Security*, December 5, 2022, <https://isis-online.org/isis-reports/detail/iran-building-nuclear-weapons/8>.

Part 4: Enriched Uranium Metal Production Remains Halted, Nuclear Material Discrepancy at Uranium Conversion Facility

Since the fall of 2021, Iran has not produced any uranium metal at the Esfahan FFPF. However, Iran's capability to produce uranium metal remains intact.

In December 2020, Iran informed the IAEA that it would begin producing uranium metal, including uranium metal enriched up to 20 percent, a step that alarmed many. Iran is using the uranium metal in civil applications, including to produce experimental fuel rods for the TRR. However, Iran has no pressing need to develop this fuel or to use this material for other civilian activities, lending weight to concern that Iran is installing the wherewithal to make uranium metal to increase its nuclear weapons capabilities and is producing it to practice the manufacture of enriched uranium metal components of nuclear weapons. Prior to 2003, under the Amad Plan, Iran was constructing both pilot and large-scale uranium metallurgy facilities to make nuclear cores and was practicing with surrogate materials for WGU.¹⁰

On February 2, 2021, Iran began producing uranium metal using natural uranium in a laboratory experiment at the Esfahan FFPF. As of August 14, 2021, the IAEA verified that Iran had begun producing enriched uranium metal from 20 percent enriched UF₆. It produced 200 grams of enriched uranium metal, starting with 257 grams of enriched uranium in tetrafluoride form.

Iran stated this enriched uranium metal was for use in silicide fuel for the TRR. Iran produced "two batches of uranium silicide" containing 0.43 kg of uranium enriched to 20 percent. Assuming this is in uranium mass, the uranium silicide contains twice the amount of metal that was reported previously (430 grams compared to 200 grams). As of May 20, 2023, three irradiated silicide fuel elements, containing 70 grams of 20 percent enriched uranium, were in the TRR spent fuel pond. As of that date, another two such fuel elements were being irradiated in the TRR. As of August 19, 2023, the situation remained the same, with these three fuel elements still in the TRR reactor pond and another two still being irradiated in the TRR. The November 2023 report did not update this information, although the report implied that no new silicide fuel elements had been introduced into the TRR.

On February 21, 2022, the IAEA verified that the installation of equipment for the first of three stages for the production of enriched UF₄ from enriched UF₆ at the FFPF, while almost complete, had progressed only slightly. Uranium tetrafluoride can be the intermediate product of uranium metal. The IAEA noted that on May 17, 2022, installation had been completed but Iran had not yet tested it with nuclear material, and the IAEA observed the same through May 19, 2024.

At the nearby Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF) at Esfahan, in November 2021, Iran had finished installing equipment for producing uranium metal, and the facility was ready to operate with

¹⁰ *Iran's Perilous Pursuit of Nuclear Weapons*; David Albright, Sarah Burkhard, and Frank Pabian, "Shahid Mahallati: 'Temporary' Plant for Manufacturing Nuclear Weapon Cores," *Institute for Science and International Security*, April 8, 2020, <https://isis-online.org/isis-reports/detail/shahid-mahallati-temporary-plant-for-manufacturing-nuclear-weapon-cores/8>.

depleted or natural uranium. As of May 21, 2024, the IAEA verified that no nuclear material had been introduced into the production area.

Part 5: Heavy Water and Khondab (Arak) Reactor

The IAEA reports that since February 2021, due to Iran's reductions in agency monitoring, it has not been able to ascertain the status of Iran's Heavy Water Production Plant (HWPP) nor the production and inventory of heavy water. Since June 11, 2022, when Iran removed Flow-rate Unattended Monitoring (FLUM) equipment at the HWPP, the IAEA has had no monitoring capabilities. Based on commercial satellite imagery, the IAEA included in its May 2024 report its assessment that the HWPP continued to operate during the reporting period.

The IAEA reports that as of May 23, 2024, civil construction work was ongoing at the Khondab Heavy Water Research Reactor (KHRR), or IR-20, formerly known as the Arak reactor or IR-40. Iran agreed to re-orient the reactor's design under the JCPOA. In May 2023, the IAEA reported that Iran provided an updated DIQ for the reactor, indicating "that the reactor power of 20 MW(th), the fuel enrichment and the preliminary core design are consistent with the 'Fundamental Principles' and 'Preliminary Characteristics' for the re-design of the research reactor" were consistent with the conceptual design set out in Annex I of the JCPOA.

Previously, Iran informed the IAEA that it expected to commission the reactor and the primary circuit in 2023 using dummy IR-20 fuel assemblies of Iranian design, and the reactor would start operations in 2024. Iran has not communicated any formal update to the agency regarding these plans, but the reactor has not yet started.

Part 6: De-designation of Inspectors

The IAEA's efforts to verify Iran's nuclear activities, particularly its uranium enrichment activities, continue to be seriously affected by Iran's decision to withdraw the designation of several experienced enrichment inspectors. While formally Iran is within its rights to do so under its comprehensive safeguards agreement (CSA), this de-designation was exercised by Iran in a political manner, contrary to the spirit and intent of safeguards. In October 2023, the Director General requested Iran's vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) reconsider the withdrawal of the designations for these inspectors, but as of the end of May 2024, Iran has failed to do so.

Part 7: Additional Protocol and JCPOA Monitoring

Iran stopped implementing the Additional Protocol (AP) to its CSA and the JCPOA's additional monitoring arrangements on February 23, 2021.

Iran's actions and its refusal to cooperate with the IAEA across a wide range of monitoring issues causes the IAEA to consistently express doubt about understanding key aspects of Iran's nuclear activities. Without monitoring in place for three years, for example, the IAEA cannot determine the number of centrifuges Iran has manufactured.

Although the IAEA can ascertain the number of centrifuges deployed at Fordow and Natanz, it cannot know how many more Iran has made and stored or deployed at an undeclared site. A risk is that Iran will accumulate a secret stock of advanced centrifuges, deployable in the future at a clandestine enrichment plant. At the least, this situation complicates any future verification effort and contributes to uncertainty about the status of Iran's nuclear activities and facilities.

Monitoring and Surveillance Equipment

After halting implementation of the AP and JCPOA monitoring measures in February 2021, Iran agreed to continue operating IAEA monitoring and surveillance equipment installed for JCPOA monitoring purposes, but to keep footage and data in its custody until it received sanctions relief. Iran pledged to continue collecting and storing these data "with the aim of enabling the Agency to recover and re-establish the necessary continuity of knowledge" at the affected nuclear sites. On June 8, 2022, following IAEA board censure over its failure to cooperate on the IAEA's separate safeguards probe, Iran notified the IAEA that it would remove the IAEA's JCPOA-related monitoring and surveillance equipment. From June 9 to 11, 2022, the IAEA removed, in total, 27 surveillance cameras, the on-line enrichment monitor (OLEM) at the Natanz FEP, and the FLUM equipment installed at the HWPP. The equipment was placed in storage under IAEA seal. The IAEA noted, "This seriously affected the Agency's JCPOA-related verification and monitoring."

Cameras and Surveillance at the Natanz Centrifuge Workshops. During the September 2023 meeting with Eslami, the IAEA proposed to Iran the voluntary measure of installing agency cameras in the centrifuge component workshops at Natanz and "a limited number of consistency checks" of the data stored in those cameras. Iran dismissed the request as "not acceptable." The IAEA reports no further developments on the issue.

Cameras and Surveillance at the Esfahan Centrifuge Manufacturing Plant. The IAEA reported in May 2023 that in line with the March 2023 Iran/IAEA Joint Statement, "the Agency installed surveillance cameras at workshops in Esfahan where centrifuge rotor tubes and bellows are manufactured," although Iran has not turned over the video footage to the IAEA.

In an earlier report, the IAEA reported that Iran delayed the IAEA from servicing these cameras at Esfahan. Under standard safeguards practice, these cameras should not be left for more than three months without being serviced by the inspectors, including replacing the storage medium. When the IAEA asked for access to service these cameras in early August 2023, Iran delayed responding. It subsequently agreed to allow the inspectors to service the cameras on September 2, 2023 – four months after they had been installed. The IAEA proposed to conduct consistency checks on the data stored in the Esfahan cameras, but Iran refused. In the February 2024 report, Iran finally allowed the IAEA to service the cameras in December 2023, but refused access to the data. Iran retains the data under agency and Iranian seals at the Esfahan location.

However, in a letter to Iran dated April 9, 2024, the IAEA reports it:

...Requested that Iran provide access to the centrifuge rotor and bellows manufacturing workshops in Esfahan to enable the Agency to service the cameras that it had installed in March–June 2023. The Agency reminded Iran that such Agency equipment could not be left without being serviced for more than three months. The Agency, having received no reply from Iran, sent another letter on 3 May 2024, reminding Iran that these cameras should have been serviced in April 2024. At the aforementioned meeting in Tehran on 20 May 2024, Iran invited the Agency to service the cameras.

On May 21, the IAEA reports that “Agency inspectors successfully serviced the cameras at the workshops in Esfahan and the data they had collected since late December 2023 were placed under separate Agency seals and Iranian seals at the location.”

Lack of Updated AP Declarations, Complementary Access, and Enhanced JCPOA Monitoring

Due to Iran’s refusal to implement the AP, the IAEA reports that it has “been more than three years since Iran stopped provisionally applying its Additional Protocol and, therefore, since it provided updated declarations and the Agency was able to conduct complementary access to any sites and other locations in Iran.”

The IAEA can no longer carry out daily visits to Iran’s enrichment facilities or measure in-process low enriched nuclear material. It has not had access to data from on-line enrichment monitors and electronic seals, or access to measurement recordings registered by installed measurement devices.

The IAEA also no longer receives data and recordings of test stands engaged in quality control tests of advanced centrifuge rotor assemblies, prior to their installation at Natanz and Fordow enrichment plants. It no longer has information about Iran’s production of uranium ore concentrate (UOC) or its transfer to the Esfahan facility for conversion, or about UOC obtained from any other source. Table C.2 in the IAEA report describes these and other reduced provisions under JCPOA enhanced monitoring.

The IAEA previously reported in several reports:

In the event of a full resumption of implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA, the Agency would not be able to re-establish continuity of knowledge in relation to the production and inventory of centrifuges, rotors and bellows, heavy water and UOC. Instead, the Agency would need to establish a new baseline in relation to such production and inventories. It would face major challenges in doing so, including the difficulty in confirming the accuracy of any declaration by Iran of its production of centrifuges, rotors and bellows, heavy water and UOC for the period when no verification and monitoring equipment had been in operation. In order to try to fill the gaps in its knowledge and minimize the margin of error, the development of specific arrangements with Iran would be indispensable.

In the recent report, as in the previous one, however, the IAEA categorically states, “The Agency has lost continuity of knowledge in relation to the production and inventory of centrifuges, rotors and bellows, heavy water and UOC.”

Iran has augmented centrifuge manufacturing, assembly, and mechanical testing activities in violation of the JCPOA, while halting IAEA monitoring. Without any monitoring in place, for more than three years, the IAEA cannot ascertain the total quantities of centrifuges Iran has manufactured.

Combined with Iran’s refusal to resolve outstanding safeguards violations, the IAEA has a significantly reduced ability to monitor Iran’s complex and growing nuclear program, which notably has unresolved nuclear weapons dimensions. The IAEA’s ability to detect diversion of nuclear materials, equipment, and other capabilities to undeclared facilities remains greatly diminished.