Ten-year retrospective of DPRK nuclear program

Siegfried S. Hecker Center for International Security and Cooperation Stanford University

14th PIIC Beijing Seminar on International Security: Strategic Stability and Cooperation Hangzhou, China Oct. 20-23, 2014

10-year comparison of DPRK nuclear program

Nuclear Capability	January 2003	January 2014
Nuclear reactors	5 MWe – standby 50 MWe – standby 200 MWe - abandoned	
Fuel fabrication	Standby – corroding U conversion - operating	
Uranium enrichment	DPRK – denied US – 2002 accusation	
Nuclear export	UF6 to Libya Reactor to Syria	
Political	Kim Jong-il No mention of nukes	
Plutonium production halted. Uranium enrichment – building capacity. No nuclear weapons, no long-range rockets.		

10-year comparison of DPRK nuclear program

Nuclear Capability	January 2003	January 2014
Nuclear reactors	5 MWe – standby 50 MWe – standby 200 MWe - abandoned	5 MWe restarted ELWR under construction
Fuel fabrication	Standby – corroding U conversion - operating	Reactivated Fuel for ELWR
Uranium enrichment	DPRK – denied US – 2002 accusation	Centrifuge facility Covert facilities ?
Nuclear export	UF6 to Libya Reactor to Syria	Cooperation with Iran?
Political	Kim Jong-il No mention of nukes	Kim Jong-un New constitution declares DPRK nuclear state

10-year comparison of DPRK nuclear program

Nuclear Capability	January 2003	January 2014
Plutonium	0 to 10 kg	24 to 42 kg
HEU (Highly enriched U)	Likely zero	Possibly 100 kg
Nuclear tests	Zero	3
Nuclear weapons	Likely zero Pu Zero HEU	4 to 8 Pu Possibly 4 HEU
Long-range rockets	One failed Taepodong-1 launch (1998)	Successful Unha-3 launch (Dec. 2012)



Overhead imagery

Source: DigitalGlobe

















Yongbyon Fuel Fabrication Plant, North Korea



2009 event Pabian/Hecker est. (using Murphy, et al., relative location plot)

Pablan/F

"1-1.1 Km tunnel "310-350 m Do8

West Portal Area

East Portal Area

South Portal Area

© 2012 Google 2012 SK Energy

Future event? ~1-1.1 Km tunnel ~ 380-390 m DoB

-1-1.1 Km

tunnel ~420-460 m DoB

e-ri Nuclear Test Site

1042 m

F. Pabian & S. Hecker Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists August 6,2012

South tunnel is prepared for another nuclear test. More activity around the West tunnel. High Water Mark

ump Cistern

High Water Sándbar Mark

> 29 July 2014 DigitalGlobe

Remains of the Old Dam

Sandbar

P LINE

Hous

8 August 2014 Airbus



Image Credit: Digital Globe - ISIS Image Date: December 2, 2013 13 September 2014 DigitalGlobe Note: The Swing Arms Are All in the Retracted Position Sohae rocket launch pad Tanks and Rumps

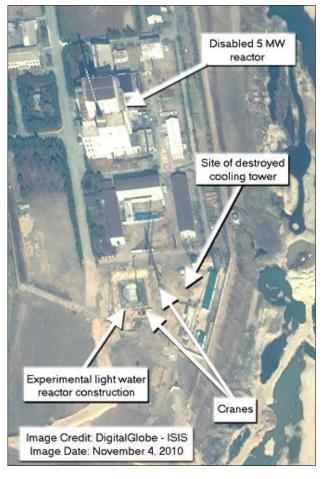
Swing Arm Covers in Place Probable Spray Painting of the Swing Arm Covers

Anti Rust Pair

Keeping up with North Korean developments Access to Yongbyon until 2010

November 2010 visit to Yongbyon presented us with a new reality

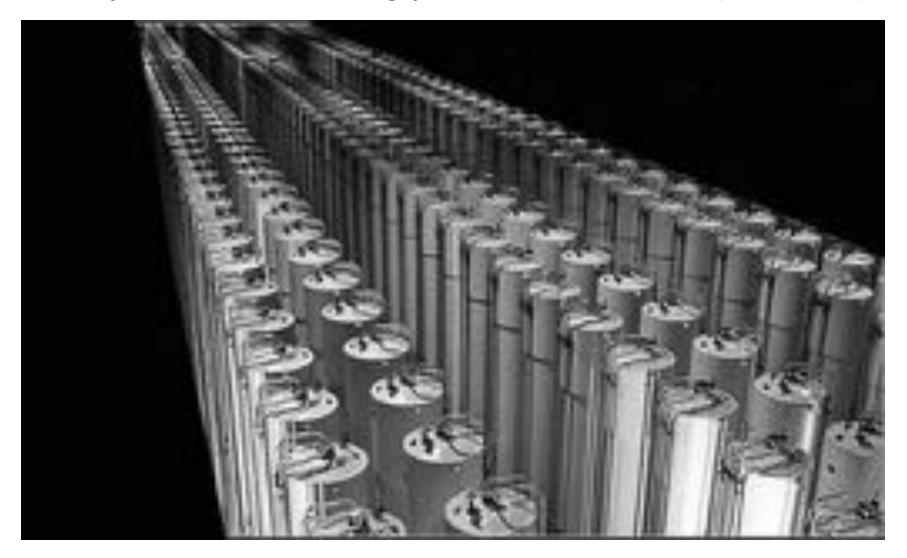
"We will convert our center to an LWR and pilot enrichment facility." DPRK Official, Nov. 2010





No foreigners have been at Yongbyon since Nov. 2010

Purely illustrative - this is not Yongbyon, but close to what we saw (Nov. 12, 2010).



Piketon, Ohio Centrifuge plant, 1984 (Department of Energy) Several additional centrifuge lines were removed graphically to try to get this as close as possible to the centrifuge cascades we saw in Bldg. 4 at Yongbyon

Potential DPRK nuclear program by 2016

Nuclear Capability	January 2003	December 2016 (Estimates)
Plutonium	0 to 10 kg	34 to 52 kg
HEU (Highly enriched U)	Likely zero	Possibly 500 kg
Nuclear tests	Zero	Possibly 4
Nuclear weapons	Likely zero Pu Zero HEU	6 to 10 Pu Possibly 12 HEU
Long-range rockets	One failed Taepodong-1 launch (1998)	Musudan or KN-08 tests

Recent activities

Nuclear Capability	January 2014	Current activities
Plutonium	24 to 42 kg	No additional Pu now, but in 3 years, 6 kg per year possible
HEU (Highly enriched U)	Possibly 100 kg	No information
Nuclear tests	3	Lots of activity at test site
Nuclear weapons	4 to 8 Pu Possibly 4 HEU	No information
Long-range rockets	Successful Unha-3 launch (Dec. 2012)	Lots of activity at launch site. Many shorter-range launches.

Recent activities

Nuclear Capability	January 2014	Current activities
Nuclear reactors	5 MWe restarted ELWR under construction	Apparent cooling issues Exterior appears ready
Fuel fabrication	Reactivated Fuel for ELWR	Lots of activity at FFP Other potential site
Uranium enrichment	Centrifuge facility Covert facilities ?	Doubled centrifuge roof Speculation of covert
Nuclear export	Cooperation with Iran?	Iran cooperation more difficult for now
Political	Kim Jong-un New constitution declares DPRK nuclear state	Threats off and on

- Deal with DPRK as it is, not the way we'd like it to be
- Stay the course on denuclearization, but limit threat
 - Long term defined by Sept. 19, 2005 Joint Statement
- For now three no's and three yes's
 - No more bombs (no Pu or HEU)
 - No better bombs (no nuclear or missile tests)
 - No export

 Yes - address fundamentals of North Korea's insecurity to create conditions favorable to disarmament.
And, provide energy and economic assistance