

# Chile

## 1. Location and capability of nuclear facilities

Chile considered launching a nuclear power program in the 1970s (Proyecto Nucleoeléctrico) and developed a nuclear research infrastructure, but the power project was halted in the 1980s. The Chilean Commission on Nuclear Energy has made it clear in recent years that nuclear power continues to be an open option for the country. In 2006, responding to political pressure to solve a potential energy crisis, Chilean Energy Minister Karen Poniachik said the ministry will commence a technical study on the use of nuclear power in Chile. Chile's interest in nuclear energy comes as Argentina admitted in 2006, that its natural gas supplies to Chile might be permanently cut as early as 2007.

<http://www.mineweb.net/energy/645007.htm>; <http://www.mercopress.com/vernoticia.do?id=9956&formato=HTML>

<http://www.easybourse.com/Website/dynamic/News.php?NewsID=51224&lang=fra&NewsRubrique=2>

<http://www.cchen.cl/?docp=Nucleoelectricidad/presiones>

### Research Reactors

Operational: 1 (Rech 1)

Shut Down: 1 (Rech 2)

Decommissioned: 0

Under Construction: 0

Planned: 0

### Uranium Mines

Chile has uranium mineralizations, but these haven't been mined, according to the World Energy Council, citing U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Data.

<http://www.easybourse.com/Website/dynamic/News.php?NewsID=51224&lang=fra&NewsRubrique=2>

## 2. Fissile Material Holdings

**Highly Enriched Uranium:** 0.005 tons (end of 2003)

Supplier- US and France

[http://www.isis-online.org/global\\_stocks/end2003/civil\\_heu\\_watch2005.pdf](http://www.isis-online.org/global_stocks/end2003/civil_heu_watch2005.pdf)

## 3. Nuclear Activities

### Research Centers

CEN - Centro de Estudios Nucleares Lo Aguirre

CEN - Centro de Estudios Nucleares La Reina

CONICYT - Comision Nacional de Investigacion Cientifica y Technologica

<http://www.radwaste.org/research.htm>

### Cooperation

*IAEA:* The IAEA promoted the development of the 'Nuclear Techniques in Copper Mining' in Chile in cooperation with the Chuquicamata Division of the National Copper Corporation and the Centre for Mining and Metallurgy Research. <http://www.iaea.org/About/Policy/GC/GC47/Documents/gc47inf-8.pdf>

*China:* Chile gets help in extracting uranium from the Andes Mountains according to an agreement signed in 1989. <http://www.nti.org/db/china/nca.htm>

## 4. International Nonproliferation Efforts

### Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit

Antarctic Treaty, 23 June 1961

APM Convention, 10 September 2001

Biological Weapons Convention, 22 April 1980

Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, 15 October 2003  
Chemical Weapons Convention, 12 July 1996  
Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, 12 July 2000  
Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, 27 April 1994  
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 25 May 1995  
Outer Space Treaty, 8 October 1981  
Treaty of Tlatelolco, 9 October 1974  
Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, February 1990  
[http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/liability\\_status.pdf](http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Conventions/liability_status.pdf)

Chile ratified the IAEA Additional Protocol on 3 November 2003.

#### **Multilateral Groups**

Conference on Disarmament  
Hague Code of Conduct

### **5. Positions Taken in International Fora on Various Issues of Nuclear Disarmament**

*Disarmament and Security*: “The most serious failure of the 2005 Summit was its silence on the multilateral disarmament agenda. Chile bases its multilateral foreign policy on the principle that collective security is indivisible. We all have a share of responsibility to preserve peace and international security that cannot be delegated. For this reason, Chile has joined in efforts to revitalize the disarmament agenda and move towards prohibition of the use of fissile material for military purposes.” - **Statement by President Michelle Bachelet Jeria at the 61st Session of the General Assembly, September 20, 2006.**

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com06/disarminindex06.html#>