

North Korea nuclear site fully operational

North Korea says it has resumed operations at its main atomic facility, the Yongbyon complex, and is working to improve the “quality and quantity” of its nuclear weapons

YONGBYON FACILITIES

1 Five-megawatt reactor

Provides North Korea with weapons-grade plutonium by reprocessing of spent fuel rods. When fully operational, reactor can produce about 6kg of plutonium per year – enough for one nuclear bomb, experts say

2 Pilot fuel fabrication plant:

Probable source of new fuel for 5MW reactor

3 Experimental light water reactor (ELWR)

Work believed close to completion on 25-30MW facility, which North Korea says will generate electricity for civilian purposes. U.S. concerned that reactor could be used to make weapons-grade plutonium

4 Radiochemical laboratory

Plutonium in spent reactor fuel rods is chemically separated from uranium and other radioactive materials before being converted into metal form – raw material for building nuclear weapons

5 Uranium enrichment plant

Centrifuges could be used to enrich uranium to weapons-grade levels, giving North Korea second route to developing nuclear bombs. Recent satellite imagery indicates new construction activity at plant

