

COMMITMENT: OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY, AND RADIATION PROTECTION

Improving the radiation protection of our workers through **preventive maintenance**



At KATCO, preventive maintenance helps to further limit operators' exposure to ionizing radiation.

Since 2016, KATCO, Orano's joint venture in Kazakhstan, has been implementing a preventive maintenance program at its Tortkuduk plant, focusing on equipment which is strategic for the uranium treatment process, such as the calciner, crystallizer and the packing unit.

Not only does this program improve the overall performance of operations, but it has also proven very beneficial in reducing the exposure of operators to radiation.

Even though exposure of KATCO staff is at a low level thanks to the ISR extraction method used (average exposure of a KATCO employee in 2018 was 1.5 mSv and the maximum dose at end-2018 was 3.05 mSv), the downstream part of the process where employees carry out the precipitation, drying, calcining and conditioning of the uranium are the

areas where the radiological challenges are the most significant.

It was therefore important to reduce the number of interventions and their duration in order to reduce exposure in the plant. Furthermore, the calciner building has been modernized to better control the accumulation of dust on the ground and facilitate decontamination services. The procedures followed by the operators have also been revised to contribute to the increased radiological cleanliness of the area.

In this way, between 2016 and 2018, KATCO reduced operators' average radiation dose by 30% and the maximum dose by 45%.



Find the full 2018 CSR report on
<http://www.csr-mines.orano.group>

