



Russia's floating nuclear plant readies for Northern Sea Route

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Russia's first floating nuclear power plant set sail on Friday from the Arctic port of Murmansk to provide power to one of the country's most remote regions, sparking environmental concerns.

For the crew on Akademik Lomonosov their latest trip is no run-of-the-mill voyage.

Russia's first floating nuclear power plant set sail from the Arctic port of Murmansk on Friday (August 23) for a 3000 mile journey along the Northern Sea Route to the Chukotka region in Russia's far east.

Once there, it will replace a coal-fired power plant and an aging nuclear power plant to supply electricity to more than 50,000 people in the town of Pevek.

Russia is stressing its ingenuity.

ROSENERGOATOM DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF FNPP (FLOATING NUCLEAR POWER PLANT), DMITRY ALEKSEENKO, SAYING:

"The main advantage of this energy block is that we can deliver it to the location of our country where energy is needed. It is a rather powerful energy source."

But environmentalists have voiced concerns over the risk of nuclear accidents.

Activist group Greenpeace last year labelled the plant a 'nuclear Titanic'.

The country's state nuclear company Rosatom assures the floating plant is safe and can serve as a new power source for the planet's most isolated communities.

Its voyage comes at a time of heightened concern over nuclear energy in Russia, after a deadly blast earlier this month in the country's north during a weapons system test.

The explosion caused a spike in radiation levels in a nearby city.