

# Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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**USA: The Senate and House of Representatives conferees agreed to the Energy and Water Appropriations** conference report for fiscal year 2006. The Conference report provides \$557,57 million for Nuclear Energy. \$226 million is included for Nuclear Energy R&D.

- **Nuclear Power 2010** - \$66 million
- **Generation IV** - \$55 million (Next Generation Nuclear Plant - \$40 million)
- **Advanced Fuel Concepts Initiative** \$80 million.

Concerning the **nonproliferation activities of the National Nuclear Security Administration** the conference report provides \$1,63 billion. **MOX construction** is funded at \$220 million. Concerning nuclear waste disposal (**Yucca Mountain**) the Conference report provides a total of \$500 million. Language is included directing DoE to begin a spent nuclear fuel recycling plan and to set up a competition to determine if there are communities or states that want to *volunteer* to be the site for a recycling reprocessing facility. The bill provides a total budget of \$734,3 million for the **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**, an increase of \$41 million over the President's request and \$41 million above the current year level. Funding will be used to:

- Support the licensing of next generation reactors.
- Require the NRC to undertake a security assessment of **on-site pool storage of spent nuclear fuel**. Press release: <http://appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/10-27-05EWConference.htm>

The **Nuclear Energy Institute** said, that it is pleased that "appropriations conferees, acting in bipartisan fashion at a time when the nation faces many challenges that strain budgetary resources, have made a substantial investment in nuclear energy". **Release:** <http://www.nei.org/index.asp?catnum=4&catid=860>

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## **NUCLEAR POLICY**

A new report by the Government Accountability Office says that **IAEA has strengthened its safeguards system and increased efforts to combat nuclear terrorism** by helping countries secure nuclear and radioactive material and facilities, **but weaknesses need to be addressed**. The report (1) identifies the steps IAEA has taken to strengthen

safeguards, (2) assesses the challenges in implementing strengthened safeguards, (3) identifies U.S. financial support for safeguards, and (4) describes IAEA's efforts to help secure nuclear material and facilities. **Abstract and report:** <http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-06-93>

Research by MORI for EDF Energy shows that the **British public places great emphasis on combating global**

**warming:** 79% agree that the most important thing is to reduce global warming by producing less carbon dioxide. **The public accepts, albeit reluctantly, that nuclear energy has a place in the overall energy balance (54% agree). A majority (55%) also agree that the best solution to the future "energy gap" would be to replace existing nuclear power stations with new ones at the same time as expanding renewable energy sources** such as wind power. **Results:**  
<http://www.mori.com/polls/2005/edfenergy.shtml>

### *URANIUM BUSINESS*

**Uranium contract prices may more than double over the next five years** as demand from nuclear power plants outstrips supply, Merrill Lynch said in a report. The gains would reflect higher prices for immediate delivery, which had more than tripled in two years to \$33/lb and “are not scaring any customers off”, Merrill analysts said in the November 1 report, citing a briefing from Rio Tinto. Merrill and Rio declined to comment.  
<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/mining.aspx?ID=BD4A109694>

USA: The Energy Information Administration has published its 3rd Quarter 2005 **U.S. Domestic Uranium Production Report** at:  
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/nuclear/dupr/qupd.html>

Paladin Resources Limited announced that the mineral resource **estimates for the Langer Heinrich Uranium Project, Namibia increased** significantly.  
<http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&sea>

[rchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=566685](http://www.mineweb.net/sections/energy/530504.htm)

Neal Froneman, chief executive of **Aflease**, says that Aflease is so bullish on the price of uranium, that the company **will not sign an offtake agreement at its Dominion uranium mine** until its second year of production. “You do it (sign a sales agreement) about a year ahead, but we are going to use the spot market a lot more than most people,” Froneman told Mineweb.  
<http://www.mineweb.net/sections/energy/530504.htm>

### *CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT*

The Southeast Region of the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC) has given a **Partnership Award to USEC Inc. and Oak Ridge National Laboratory for their cooperative efforts to develop and demonstrate USEC's American Centrifuge uranium enrichment technology**. The Southeast FLC recognized USEC, ORNL and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) employees who were instrumental in establishing the partnership to develop USEC's next-generation technology to produce fuel for commercial nuclear power plants.  
[http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20051109005926&newsLanguage=en](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20051109005926&newsLanguage=en)

### *NUCLEAR FUEL*

U.S. **Senator Pete Domenici** applauded the Energy Department's decision to begin a long-term effort to take up to **200 metric tons of highly enriched uranium out of circulation** for use in

nuclear warheads, a goal he has long advocated as part of a global nonproliferation effort. **Press release:** <http://domenici.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=248419> . See also last issue.

### **REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES**

**Nils J. Diaz**, chairman of the U.S. NRC, spoke at the INPO CEO Conference about "**New infrastructure for new nuclear power plants:** With the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and other key factors in place, it appears that the game plan for potential new reactor licensing applications is being set." In his speech he focused on the licensing process and the NRC role. **Speech:** <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/speeches/2005/s-05-016.html>

**Hungary: The likelihood that NPP Paks will receive government approval to keep operating for 20 more years** led to a showdown between environmental activists and the police outside Parliament. [http://www.pestiside.hu/archives/greens\\_red\\_with\\_rage\\_over\\_atomic\\_plant\\_extension001752.php](http://www.pestiside.hu/archives/greens_red_with_rage_over_atomic_plant_extension001752.php)

The Florida Public Service Commission, the regulatory authority that oversees costs customers pay for electricity, approved **Florida Power & Light Company's request for a fuel cost adjustment on customer bills** beginning in 2006. **FPL's generation mix includes** nuclear (21 percent), coal (6 percent), purchased power (18 percent), oil (18 percent) and **natural gas (37 percent)**. **FLP press release:** [http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_vie](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_vie)

[w&newsId=20051109005909&newsLanguage=en](http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_vie&newsId=20051109005909&newsLanguage=en)

### **NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

**South Africa:** Intense discussions were under way with **two consortiums, one international and one local, to invest in the Rand 14,5 billion pebble bed modular reactor project, PBMR** CEO Jaco Kriek has said. As the project was being implemented in phases, the new investors would be required to take up their share of the equity only in a few years, as funding was needed, Kriek told a joint sitting of Parliament's environmental affairs, minerals and energy, and science and technology portfolio committees. <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/economy.aspx?ID=BD4A110435>

### **TRANSPORT**

The NRC's publication "**Spent Fuel Transportation Package Response to the Baltimore Tunnel Fire Scenario**" (NUREG/CR-6886) has been issued for public comment. **Report** available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/contract/cr6886/>

**KIMO** (Kommunenenes Internasjonale Miljøorganisasjon, Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation) published a "**Report on the Transport of Mixed Oxide Fuel and other Radioactive Cargoes by Ship in Europe**". KIMO is opposing the transport of MOX fuel from the UK to Sweden on an ex-roll on roll off ferry. **British Nuclear Group** delivered the first four MOX assemblies it has fabricated in the Sellafield MOX plant to

Swiss utility **Nordostschweizerische Kraftwerke NOK** in the spring of 2005. BNG expects to use the Atlantic Osprey, an ex-roll on roll off ferry, for shipments to Sweden and possibly other destinations. **Press release and report:** <http://www.kimointernational.org/Default.aspx?tabid=83>

The *New Scientist* published an article according to which **simulations of transport accidents involving nuclear weapons** reveal the UK authorities are not fully prepared to protect its population from radiation exposure. The Ministry of Defence regularly runs exercises to evaluate how the armed forces, emergency services and local authorities would respond to accidents en route. <http://www.newscientist.com/channel/opinion/mg18825253.000.html>

### **REPROCESSING, MOX**

**Great Britain: News that the troubled Thorp reprocessing plant at Sellafield will not reopen until next summer** at the earliest raises important questions over the government's strategy to deal with nuclear waste. British Nuclear Group BNG said it could still meet all of Thorp's existing contracts for reprocessing spent fuel by its current 2010 deadline – provided the plant reopened next year. But the process will not be straight forward. <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/537c7764-5091-11da-bbd7-0000779e2340.html>

### **STORAGE AND WASTE**

**USA: Utah asked the nation's second-highest court to revoke federal**

**approval of a proposal to store high-level nuclear waste in the state.** Utah is petitioning the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for Washington, D.C., "for review of all issues related to NRC's licensing proceeding for storage up to 4,000 casks of spent nuclear fuel" on land owned by the Skull Valley Band of the Goshute Indians, according to the state Attorney General's Office. <http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,635159880,00.html>

### **DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP**

The NRC has granted the request of Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation and GPU Nuclear to terminate the license for the **Saxton nuclear facility**, which closed permanently in 1972. Saxton began operations in 1961, primarily to research various aspects of power reactor technology and to train personnel. The **NRC has determined the site is safe for unrestricted use.** **Press release:** <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-152.html> **FirstEnergy Nuclear on the historic role** of the Saxton facility: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/051108/cltu034.html?.v=27>

### **REPOSITORIES**

**Germany:** For the final disposal of radioactive waste **there is no principal preference for the host formations possible in Germany (salt, clay, granite).** The best location of a repository can be determined only on the basis of a comparative evaluation of locations. This is the central statement in the final report of a comprehensive

inquiry concerning safety and conceptual issues of the final disposal of nuclear waste, carried out by the Federal Office of Radiation protection. **Summary** (no English version available until now): <http://www.bfs.de/bfs/presse/pr05/pr0534.html>

### *MISCELLANEOUS*

**GSE Systems Inc.** a provider of real-time simulation and training solutions announced it has been **awarded a contract from Comision Federal de Electricidad, a provider of electricity for customers throughout Mexico, for a classroom simulator to be used for training at the Laguna Verde Nuclear Power Plant.** The contract represents the second Classroom Simulator sold by GSE this year. The first contract was for the Sevistopal Institute in Ukraine to teach the next generation of nuclear plant operators. Together the awards exceed \$1.3 million.

**Global investment in renewable energy set a new record of \$30 billion in 2004**, according to a report released by the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21).

Technologies such as wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and small hydro now provide 160 Gigawatts of electricity generating capacity, about 4 percent of the world total, the report finds. **Press release and report** download from: <http://www.worldwatch.org/press/news/2005/11/06/>

### *AND FINALLY THIS*

Quote from a U.S. student newspaper: **Wanted: Graduate students to meet the need of the nuclear energy industry's most limited resource: workers.** Several U.S. universities have begun confronting the predicted shortage of nuclear scientists and engineers in the United States. "If you are a nuclear engineer, now is a very good time," said Alireza Haghghat, chairman of the University of Florida's Department of Nuclear and Radiological Engineering. **"You can name your price."** <http://www.alligator.org/pt2/051109engineering.php>

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