

Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

German Chancellor-designate Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union and their new Social Democrat allies approved the policy platform for the country's grand coalition government. The lifespan of Germany's nuclear-power plants won't be extended. An agreement signed by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and power companies five years ago that aims to phase out nuclear power by 2021 will be left unchanged. Merkel initially sought to delay the phase-out to about 2027.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000100&sid=aZ0WrFWmW46c&refer=germany>

NUCLEAR POLICY

Great Britain: Comments from Ian Pearson, the minister for trade with a brief on energy issues, are the most explicit expression of support for nuclear power from a senior Labour figure. "My personal view is that we ought to look at a limited new-build nuclear programme, probably based around existing sites," he said. "That strikes me as pretty much a no-brainer. To meet our future climate-change targets, it is the right thing to do, and in terms of the energy mix."

<http://news.independent.co.uk/business/news/article326721.ece>

Slovenia: Economics Minister Andrej Vizjak said he was surprised by Croatia's decision to take its dispute with Slovenia on undelivered electricity from the Nuclear Power Plant Krsko to the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) in Washington. According to Vizjak, the two countries should settle the issue in bilateral talks. He added that he and Croatian counterpart Branko Vukelic

had agreed on Friday, 11 November that Vukelic would send a proposal to the Croatian electricity grid operator HEP and the Croatian government that the dispute be settled in bilateral talks.

<http://www.gzs.si/eng/news/sbw/head.asp?idc=20009>

Germany will not meet its climate protection targets. **The German Physicists Society (DPG) therefore urges for longer operational lifetimes of NPPs.** These are the conclusions of a newly published study by DPG. **Press release and study:** <http://www.dpg-physik.de/presse/aktu.htm>

URANIUM

French nuclear power group **Areva said in a statement Monday it had applied for uranium exploration licences in three zones in Finland** and registered a new reservation claim 80km northwest of Helsinki. News:

<http://newsroom.finland.fi/stt/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=10742&group=Business>

NUCLEAR FUEL

Russia: The American fuel company **Global Nuclear Fuel** performed an audit of the Quality Management System at JSC TVEL. According to the audit results it was acknowledged, that the TVEL's QMS meets the international standards. Presently, **TVEL has been formally included into the "List of Approved Suppliers of GNF"**. Release: <http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=34>

TVEL completed its 2005 scheduled fuel supplies to four units of Paks NPP in Hungary. Several batches of fuel assemblies are delivered to Hungarian NPP every year. This year TVEL has made four fuel supplies to Hungary. <http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=33>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

Sweden: "The premature and expensive closure of Barsebäck is unsatisfactory for all parties – for the government, industry and private households. No winners emerged from the recently completed negotiations." These are the words of E.ON Sverige CEO Lars Frithiof, commenting on the agreement reached between E.ON Sverige and the Swedish government regarding compensation for the closure of Barsebäck 2. **"The total cost to the government is SEK 5.6 billion, but on top of that there will be other social expenses. Statement:** <http://www.eon.se/templates/PressPage.aspx?id=46124> (English in pdf). "We are satisfied with the commercial agreement that has now been reached between the

Swedish State, E.ON and Vattenfall," said Alf Lindfors, Head of **Vattenfall Nordic Generation**. Statement: <http://www.vattenfall.com/index.asp?nosup=2>. Statement of **Swedish Ministry for Environment** in Swedish only: <http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/6033/a/52947>

New organization and new directors at SKI: The Office of nuclear **non-proliferation and nuclear waste** management is a new organization within SKI that will be effective from 1 January 2005. Appointed as Director is Ms Elisabeth André Turlind. Appointed to the position as Director of the Office of **Reactor Safety** is Mr Lennart Carlsson. **Press release:** http://www.ski.se/se/index_english.html

Ontario Power Generation Inc. reported its financial and operating results for the nine months ended September 30, 2005. OPG received average prices of 4.9¢/kWh for the output from all of its generating facilities during this period. **Results** in pdf available from <http://www.opg.com/info/press.asp>

South Africa's **Koeberg, Africa's only nuclear-fired power station, was up** and running today after a shutdown on Friday due to technical problems, a spokesperson said. http://www.sabcnews.com/south_africa/general/0,2172,116219,00.html

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

GE Energy's nuclear business has been awarded a multi-year, \$17 million **contract by Exelon Corp. to supply reactor control components** to the

utility's fleet of 12 boiling water reactors. Under the contract, GE is **supplying critical parts for the hydraulic control units (HCUs) in all twelve of Exelon's BWR units**, which are located in Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The HCU moderates reactivity levels by managing the location of control rod blades within the reactor core. **Press release:** http://www.gepower.com/about/press/en/2005_press/111005.htm

Russia: Kalinin-3 readiness to commercial operation has been confirmed. The report on Kalinin-3 acceptance into commercial operation was signed. The final, 10th meeting of the State Acceptance Commission (GPK) was held at Kalinin nuclear plant 8th November 2005. News: <http://eng.rosatom.ru/?razdel=11&id=185>

The work to construct the **Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran has been over 80 percent completed, Secretary of the Russian Security Council Igor Ivanov** said during his three-day visit to Teheran in an interview with Itar-Tass. According to Ivanov, the Russian specialists are actively working at the facility. <http://www.mosnews.com/news/2005/11/13/ivanoviran.shtml>

STORAGE AND WASTE

Global Matrechs Inc. provided an update on the status, progress and prospects of various aspects of its business. The company is exploring the possibility of strategic acquisitions or technology transfers for businesses or products currently generating revenues

and complimentary to the **licensed NuCap(TM) (nuclear storage and containment) and HNIPU (non-toxic polyurethane) technologies**. Press release and home page: <http://press.namct.com/content/view/4125/9/> <http://www.globalmatrechs.com>

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

European Bank of Reconstruction and Development: Lithuania has committed itself to shut down the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant by 2009, and has closed Unit 1 in December 2004. To help secure the power supply during and after the closure of Ignalina the EBRD-administered **Ignalina International Decommissioning Support Fund (IIDSF) will provide a €90 million grant** for the environmental and technical upgrading of the Lithuanian Power Plant. The IIDSF grant will be complemented by €80 million from the power plant's operator, AB Lietuvos Elektrine, a €30 million grant from the Lithuanian state and a €49 million loan, of which the EBRD is planning to provide €15 million. **Press release:** <http://www.ebrd.com/new/pressrel/2005/141nov11.htm> More on EBRD's Strategy for Lithuania from <http://www.ebrd.com/>

On the 1st of November 2005 the Russian-Ukrainian Consortium «Stabilization», consisting of JSC «Atomstroyexport» and three Ukrainian companies, **completed the next in turn stabilization measure at Unit 4 of Tchernobyl NPP**. The works were completed on strengthening of the western support of the beam «Mammoth», and currently the “as built”

documentation to be submitted to the Customer is being elaborated. News: <http://www.atomstroyexport.ru/eng/news.htm>

REPOSITORIES

Posiva has published its work reports on results of monitoring at Olkiluoto concerning environment, rock mechanics and geochemistry. Available at <http://www.posiva.fi/englanti/index.html>

MISCELLANEOUS

35% percent of the Czech nuclear workforce is due to retire in the next five years. How to assist countries like the Czech Republic survive the "information gap" is a focus of IAEA efforts internationally. The purpose of the **IAEA's Nuclear Knowledge Portal** is to offer professionals in the nuclear field a direct and efficient access path to scientific and technical expert knowledge. The main objective of a Co-Ordinated Research Project (CRP) on Comparative Analysis of **Methods and Tools for Nuclear Knowledge Preservation** is to assist Member States in the selection and implementation of appropriate cost-effective knowledge preservation technological solutions. **News release and more at:** http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2005/change_guard.html

The **International Energy Agency has published its World Energy Outlook 2005**. IEA projects growth in Middle East and North Africa oil and natural gas sectors through 2030 but also that a lack of investment would push up prices and depress GDP growth. **Press release:** http://www.iea.org/Textbase/press/press_detail.asp?PRESS_REL_ID=163

The World Nuclear Association has updated its briefing papers **Small Nuclear Power Reactors** <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf33.htm> and Nuclear Power in **South Korea** <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf81.htm>

AND FINALLY THIS

A gigantic ape, measuring about 10 feet tall and weighing up to 1,200 pounds, co-existed alongside humans, a geochronologist at McMaster University has discovered. Using a **high-precision absolute-dating method (involving uranium series)**, Jack Rink, associate professor of geography at McMaster, has determined that Gigantopithecus blackii, the largest primate that ever lived, roamed southeast Asia for nearly a million years before the species died out 100,000 years ago. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/11/051112122318.htm>

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