

Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

Niger: Following concerns expressed by members of the public living in the Arlit region, but also after allegations made by certain associations concerning **public health in communities near AREVA's uranium mines in Niger**, the group announced in March 2005 that it intended to launch a large-scale health study on these groups. The study now entered the active phase. It centers on a **clinical audit of the Arlit and Akokan hospitals and on an epidemiological study**. The fact-finding mission has been entrusted to two organizations specializing in epidemiological studies, Gispé and Quanta Medical. Areva, which is funding the audit, has ensured the auditors of their complete independence with regard to the method used, the information collected and the content of their report. The mission will be carried out in association with the Nigerian Ministries of Health and Mining. **Press release:**

http://www.aveva.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=arevagroup_en%2FPressRelease%2FPressReleaseFullTemplate&cid=1132051539296&p=1028798801053

URANIUM

India is eyeing the use of its plentiful reserves of thorium as an alternative fuel to power its nuclear reactors. The country has about 290,000 tonnes, or 32 percent, of the world's reserves of thorium and India's long-term plans for nuclear power generation have focussed on the development of fast breeder reactors that can use it as a fuel. R. Chidambaram, currently the principal scientific advisor to the Indian government, believe the country is an emerging leader in developing reactors and associated fuel cycle technologies for using thorium. Report:

<http://www.newkerala.com/news.php?action=fullnews&id=54296>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

Armenia has restarted its only NPP after a six-week shutdown for maintenance and refueling, the plant's general director said. General Director Gagik Markosyan said the plant's sole working reactor was started up without difficulty after being refueled with US\$14.5 million (Ծ12.4 million) in nuclear fuel supplied by Russia.

<http://newsfromrussia.com/world/2005/11/17/67913.html>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

France's Areva is still in talks with China on its original tender offer to supply four third-generation nuclear reactors and has not heard about a reported government decision to award Areva and its US rival Westinghouse with one prototype each, a company

official said. 'We have no information at present to comment on Les Echos' report,' he added.

<http://www.forbes.com/home/feeds/afx/2005/11/18/afx2345266.html>

AREVA, via its joint subsidiary with Siemens, Framatome ANP, is utilizing ETAP for the **design and analysis of the Electrical Distribution System (EDS) for Olkiluoto 3**. The nuclear version of the Electrical Transient Analyzer Program (ETAP) power system analysis software is utilized to model Olkiluoto 3 EDS. **Press release:** <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2005/11/prweb311923.htm>

The U.S. Department of Energy announced that a workshop to receive public comments on the "standby support" provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 has been scheduled. The workshop is the first step in developing a regulation for risk insurance for nuclear power plants. "The availability of **risk insurance for the first few new nuclear plants built in the U.S. along with the NP 2010 partnership** with industry helps clear the way for construction of the first new plants in over a generation," said Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman. The risk insurance provisions of the Energy Policy Act provide for **100 percent coverage of the cost of delays for the first two new plants, up to \$500 million each, and 50 percent of the cost of delays, up to \$250 million each, for the third through sixth new plants.** **Release:** http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=19225&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE . More from homepage: <http://www.nuclear.gov/>

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a request by the Arizona Public Service Company to **increase the generating capacity of Units 1 and 3 at the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station** by 2.9 percent. Press release: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-157.html>

REPROCESSING, MOX

Great Britain: The National Decommissioning Authority issued a **statement concerning THORP:** "Approximately 50% of the NDA's annual budget of £2.2bn is derived from income from various commercial activities. Of this, more than a half comes from the storage and reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel at the THORP plant. As outlined in the NDA Draft Strategy the total projected revenue from THORP from now until 2010, when current orders are scheduled for completion, is £5.1bn. Planned income from storage and reprocessing activities at THORP for this financial year was £575m. Our current estimate is that **planned revenue from THORP will be reduced by around 5% for the full financial year 05/06 due to the plant's outage.**" **Press release:** [http://www.nda.gov.uk/News--News_\(1250\).aspx?pg=1250](http://www.nda.gov.uk/News--News_(1250).aspx?pg=1250)

STORAGE AND WASTE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a **license to the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. to operate an independent spent nuclear fuel storage installation at its Humboldt Bay power plant site**. The license is effective for 20 years. PG&E intends to transfer all the

remaining used nuclear reactor fuel from the Humboldt Bay Unit 3 spent fuel pool into dry casks. **Press release:**

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-156.html>

License, technical specifications, and Safety Evaluation Report will be available through the NRC's ADAMS document management system on the Web at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> (see accession number ML053140041). For **more information about dry-cask storage of spent nuclear fuel**, see the NRC's fact sheet, at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/fact-sheets/dry-cask-storage.html>.

ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE

The French-American Chamber of Commerce gave its Person of the Year Award for 2005 to **Anne Lauvergeon**, Chairman of AREVA's Executive Board. http://www.aveva.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=arevagroup_en%2FPressRelease%2FPressReleaseFullTemplate&cid=1132051537332&p=1028798801053

MISCELLANEOUS

Nuclear Regulatory Commission live:

The NRC broadcasts some Commission meetings **over the Internet** as a means of improving communications with the public. For upcoming webcasts see:

<http://www.nrc.gov/public->

[include/public-meetings/webcast-live.html](http://www.nrc.gov/public-include/public-meetings/webcast-live.html)

The Department of Energy has selected two projects to demonstrate “oxycombustion” – a promising carbon capture technology – in existing coal-fired power plants. In an oxycombustion-based power plant, oxygen rather than air is used to combust a fuel resulting in a highly pure carbon dioxide (CO₂) exhaust that can be captured at relatively low-cost and sequestered. No commercial oxygen combustion power plants are operating today. **Press release:**

http://www.fossil.energy.gov/news/techlines/2005/tl_oxycombustion_award.html

AND FINALLY THIS

The 41st edition of *Steam/its generation and use*, published exclusively by The Babcock & Wilcox Company (B&W), is now available for ordering. The book is **the longest continually published engineering textbook in the world**, with the first edition published in November 1875. The new, 41st edition contains major updates including new sections on burners, cutting-edge supercritical pressure boilers issues, replacement of nuclear components and other topics. Available only from the company's website

<http://www.babcock.com/pgg/pr/steam41.html>

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