

# Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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USA: Senate Energy & Natural Resources Chairman Pete V. **Domenici** today outlined some of the tangible results already seen from the enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 2005: Because of loan guarantees and nuclear production tax credits, **eight utility companies across the United States have announced plans to take the first step in the process to build 13 new nuclear power plants** that combined will produce at least 15 gigawatts of new power in the next 15 years. If all 13 plants are built, the construction and operation of the plants would create approximately 18,000 construction jobs and 6,000 high-paying, high-tech jobs. **Press release:**

[http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease\\_id=234792&Month=11&Year=2005](http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=234792&Month=11&Year=2005)

**German anti-nuclear activists briefly held up a train carrying nuclear waste from a French reprocessing facility** on its way to a storage depot in northern Germany on Sunday. The train with 12 wagons of nuclear waste sealed in glass containers was delayed for 90 minutes. The train was heading for the northern Gorleben interim storage depot. Around 15,000 police are accompanying the nuclear waste transfer in Germany.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L2060134.htm>

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## **NUCLEAR POLICY**

Great Britain: Publishing its paper, **'Powering the Future'**, the **Confederation of British Industry** said energy costs rising to uncompetitive levels, had shot the issue of UK energy needs to the top of the business agenda. The document identifies that a **third of UK generating capacity, much of it nuclear, needs to be replaced by 2020**. The CBI is therefore calling on the Government to get a coherent energy policy in place as a matter of urgency, including a decision within a year on whether to back a new generation of nuclear power stations. **Press release and 'Energy brief'** of CBI:

<http://www.cbi.org.uk/ndbs/press.nsf/03>

[63c1f07c6ca12a8025671c00381cc7/e48a351cdba21f82802570b900335af9?OpenDocument](http://www.state.gov/t/np/rls/rm/56942.htm)

Andrew K. Semmel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Nonproliferation addressed the National Strategy Forum in Chicago. In his speech "**Effective Multilateralism: The U.S. Strategy for Dealing with Global Nuclear Proliferation**" he sketched out the overall strategy for meeting the threat posed by proliferation. Then, he detailed several of the specific proposals to strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime. **Speech** available at:

<http://www.state.gov/t/np/rls/rm/56942.htm>

**Finland:** On Friday, 18 November 2005, the **Government parties reached agreement on the main lines of Finland's Energy and Climate Strategy.** In its session on Thursday, 24 November 2005, the Government will approve the Strategy and will decide on presenting it as a report to the Finnish Parliament. **Press release:** <http://www.ktm.fi/index.phtml?80057m=87106&c=www&l=en&s=9>

## URANIUM

**Canada: Saskatchewan:** At the New Democrats' annual convention this weekend, two **resolutions opposing refining the element – instead of exporting the raw product for processing elsewhere – were defeated.** Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert says he's pleased that the majority of delegates showed support for his government's views on refining uranium. <http://www.cbc.ca/sask/story/uraniumsask051121.html>

**Mega Uranium** Ltd. has entered into an agreement to acquire the **Maureen uranium-molybdenum deposit in Queensland,** Australia (historical resource 6.5 Mlbs. U3O8). The agreement also gives Mega rights to all uranium-molybdenum mineralization in the surrounding properties, totalling some 1,580 sq. km. **Press release:** [http://www.mineweb.net/co\\_releases/588704.htm](http://www.mineweb.net/co_releases/588704.htm)

**BHP Billiton's planned major expansion of the Olympic Dam uranium mine** would seriously degrade the Murray River or the Great Artesian Basin, the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) says.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/National/Dam-expansion-threatens-Murray-River/2005/11/21/1132421593388.html>

Australia, with 41% of global uranium reserves, will assess nuclear power development at the **Australian National Forum on Nuclear Power Options,** being held in Sydney over the 20th and 21st of February, 2006. **Press release:** [http://www.industrialnewsupdate.com/news/oil-energy/archives/2005/11/australia\\_to\\_co.php](http://www.industrialnewsupdate.com/news/oil-energy/archives/2005/11/australia_to_co.php)

## REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

Five million French savers showed confidence in **French electricity utility EDF, a leading nuclear energy producer, by subscribing for a privatisation share issue that valued the business at 55,0 billion euros.** The French government has pressed ahead with the sale of 15% of the state-owned group, the biggest European electricity producer, despite opposition from trades unions and concern about the group's nuclear interests and the cost of decommissioning them. [http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=61182&version=1&template\\_id=48&parent\\_id=28](http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=61182&version=1&template_id=48&parent_id=28)

Vattenfall has published its electricity market report “**Vattenfall's Views on the Electricity Market 2005**”, which aims at increasing the understanding of Europe's open power markets. **Release:** <http://www.vattenfall.com/index.asp?nosup=2>

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. received state regulatory approval to spend \$706 million to **replace steam generators at its Diablo Canyon nuclear power**

**plant.** Replacing the steam generators will prolong the life of the plant, which has two units with 2,300 megawatts capacity, according to the utility.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-pge19nov19,1,5865978.story?coll=la-headlines-business>

### ***STORAGE AND WASTE***

**Russia:** The State Acceptance Commission (GPK) headed by Ivan M. Kamenskikh, Deputy Head of the Federal atomic energy agency (Rosatom) **accepted into operation a low-level solid waste storage facility (KhTRO-1) at Kursk nuclear plant.** The KhTRO-1 is designed for receiving and temporary organized storage of unprocessed and pressed low-level solid waste.

Completion of construction and commissioning of KhTRO-1 fortifies system of safe radwaste management; creates necessary conditions for Kursk NPP units' life-time extension. **News:** <http://eng.rosatom.ru/?razdel=11&id=188>

A decision to let the **Barnwell nuclear waste dump continue operating** has been upheld by a judge in Columbia, South Carolina. The Sierra Club will appeal the ruling to the Department of Health and Environmental Control board. Newspaper report: <http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/business/13198038.htm> The Barnwell Facility is the only state-owned facility currently available to most of the nation for disposal of commercially-generated low-level radioactive waste. After June 30, 2008, the site will only accept waste from organizations located in South Carolina, Connecticut and New Jersey.

**More on Barnwell from the South Carolina government at:**

[http://www.energy.sc.gov/RadWaste/rwdp\\_index.htm](http://www.energy.sc.gov/RadWaste/rwdp_index.htm)

The environmental group **Ekozashchita presented its new report “Nuclear waste imports: minimum profits, maximum radioactive waste”** in the Siberian city of Tomsk. The report’s authors are from the Paris-based World Information Service on Energy and Ekozashchita. The report presents data on imports into Russia of spent nuclear fuel as well as uranium “tails,” or waste from the European uranium-processing industry.

<http://www.bellona.no/en/international/russia/waste-mngment/40916.html>

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

**Ontario Power Generation (OPG)** sets aside in segregated funds about \$400 million per year to ensure the necessary funds to cover the future **costs for decommissioning nuclear plants and for nuclear waste fuel management.** At the end of September 2005, the **net asset value of the segregated funds was approximately \$6.6 billion.** Based on the Ontario Nuclear Funds Agreement (ONFA) between OPG and the Province, OPG contributes to a Decommissioning Fund and a Used Fuel Fund. **Press release and The Ontario Nuclear Funds Agreement** is available on: [http://www.opg.com/info/news/NewsNov18\\_05.asp](http://www.opg.com/info/news/NewsNov18_05.asp)

### ***REPOSITORIES***

**South Korea:** The government has launched a **feasibility research on the construction of a high-level nuclear**

**waste storage**, following the designation of Kyongju in North Kyongsang Province as the first dumpsite for low- and mid-level radioactive waste. "We started out to study domestic and foreign research documents on the high-level nuclear waste dumpsite," Cho Seok, a director general in charge of new energy & nuclear power at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy, told The Korea Times. News:

<http://times.hankooki.com/lpage/biz/200511/kt2005111118505911900.htm>

**Finnish Posiva** has published two working reports about **injection grout for deep repositories** at

<http://www.posiva.fi/englanti/index.html>

#### *MISCELLANEOUS*

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has published *Expansion and Upgrade of the RadNet Air Monitoring Network***. It presents a plan for upgrading and expanding the air monitoring component of RadNet, which is the EPA's national environmental radiation monitoring system. EPA decided that upgrading the air monitoring portion of RadNet would provide the most useful early data in **response to nuclear or radiological terrorist acts**. More at:

[http://www.epa.gov/radiation/news/radnet\\_plan.htm](http://www.epa.gov/radiation/news/radnet_plan.htm)

Stavros Dimas, Member of the European Commission, spoke about the **EU climate change policy** at the Conference of National Parliaments of the EU in London. He said that At Montreal, it is far too much to expect full agreement to be reached on all the core elements of a future climate change regime. Montreal will not produce the final solution to climate change – but it might be a crucial stepping stone towards reaching a global consensus. **Speech:**

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/05/712&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

#### *AND FINALLY THIS*

**Mugabe goes nuclear:** The Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, has told state radio that Zimbabwe has recently discovered uranium deposits and will process the mineral to resolve its chronic power shortages. "The discovery of uranium will go a long way in further enhancing the government's rural electrification program," he said on Sunday, according to AP.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/mugabe-goes-nuclear-with-power-plan/2005/11/21/1132421603812.html>

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