

Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

Germany: 12 casks with vitrified waste coming from LaHague arrived at the intermediate storage facility in Gorleben. Press release in German: Wie in den vergangenen Jahren ist auch der jüngste Transport von 12 CASTOR® -Behältern mit verglastem Wiederaufarbeitungsabfall (HAW-Glaskokillen) aus der französischen Wiederaufarbeitungsanlage von La Hague bestimmungsgemäß auf dem Gelände des Zwischenlagers in Gorleben eingetroffen. Die Tieflader mit den Behältern passierten am Dienstag, den 22.11.05 gegen 6:00 Uhr die Einfahrt zum Betriebsgelände der BLG.
<http://www.gns-gnb.de/generator.aspx/templateId=renderPage/lang=de/id=35708.html>

Russia: The new head of the Federal Atomic Energy Agency (Rosatom) Sergei Kiriyenko has announced plans to build new-generation nuclear power stations and expand Russian nuclear power engineering exports to Southeast Asia. "I believe this [construction of new nuclear power stations] is inevitable. The old stations were built quite a long time ago and will gradually be taken out of service. They should naturally be succeeded by new-generation stations," Kiriyenko said in an interview published in the *Moskovskiy Komsomolets* daily.
<http://www.mosnews.com/money/2005/11/22/nuclearenergy.shtml>

NUCLEAR POLICY

Germany: Excerpt of coalition treaty between Christian Democrats and Social Democrats concerning nuclear power (in German) at Ministry website:
<http://www.bmu.de/atomenergie/aktuell/doc/36263.php>

U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary Clay Sell spoke at the US-Japan Nuclear Energy Conference. He said: "**If we don't expand nuclear power in the U.S., its percentage of our electricity production would drop from its current 20 percent to about 14 percent by 2025.** The solution we must seek, then, is finding ways to expand the use of nuclear power." He elaborated how

the administration is addressing these challenges. **Speech:**

http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=19242&BT_CODE=PR_SPEECHES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASEASE

Tony Blair says Britain faces 'difficult and controversial decisions' on climate change and energy supply. Questioned on nuclear power, he replied: "With some of the issues to do with climate change, and you can see it with the debate about nuclear power, there are going to be difficult and controversial decisions government has got to take."
Statement: <http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page8565.asp>

URANIUM

Summit Resources will make a submission in favour of uranium mining to the Labor Party's national conference in February 2007. The mining company is pushing for a change in policy so development of its stalled Valhalla uranium mine near Mount Isa, in north-west Queensland, can proceed. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200511/s1515155.htm>

The Western Australian state government should lift its ban on uranium mining to allow the state to profit from its A\$7 billion (\$5.2 billion) of viable deposits of the fuel, **Australian Trade Minister** Mark Vaile said. <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000081&sid=aDcaAA4fLCL4&refer=australia> . **Federal Treasurer** Peter Costello says Western Australia is missing out economically because of the State Government's refusal to lift its ban on uranium mining. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200511/s1514285.htm>. **Western Australia's Premier** Geoff Gallop has rejected calls by the Opposition to lift a ban on uranium mining. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200511/s1514224.htm>

Dejour's Athabasca Basin uranium holdings approaches 1,0 mio acres. Robert L. Hodgkinson, Chairman & CEO, reports the Company has successfully staked eight strategic, 100% owned uranium claims in the Athabasca Basin adding 32,000 hectares to the company's holdings. **Press release:** <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/w>

[ww/story/11-22-2005/0004221879&EDATE=](http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200511/s1515155.htm)

BHP Billiton is seeking approval to mine up to a million tonnes of copper a year at Olympic Dam, potentially more than quadrupling output and making it the biggest copper and uranium mine in the world. The new **production ceiling for uranium would mean a six-fold increase to nearly 30,000 tonnes at the Roxby Downs mine.** <http://finance.news.com.au/story/0,10166,17320263-462,00.html>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

Interstate Power and Light Company, a subsidiary of Alliant Energy Corporation received an **oral decision regarding the sale of the Duane Arnold Energy Center** to Florida Power & Light. from the Iowa Utilities Board. In its oral decision, the IUB closed the case and determined by 2-1 margin that the sale of DAEC was not detrimental to IP&L's Iowa electric customers and the public interest. **Press release** and more from: http://www.alliantenergy.com/stellent/groups/public/documents/pub/news_rnr_014912.hcsp#TopOfPage

The Government Accountability Office provided Delaware's Congressional Delegation with more information regarding the scope of the **upcoming investigative study of the nation's 103 nuclear power plants.** **The Delegation requested that the GAO review the NRC Reactor Oversight Process.** The ROP has been in place since 2000 and has yet to undergo an independent review of its effectiveness. The GAO study will

determine how, and to what extent, the ROP allows the NRC to effectively measure whether the nuclear power plants are operating safely, and what changes, if any, could be implemented to help identify and correct problems more quickly. **Press release:**

<http://biden.senate.gov/newsroom/details.cfm?id=249230&&>

AmerenUE's **Callaway Nuclear Plant** has returned to service. The outage duration of 63 days and 13 hours set a new world record for the shortest time it took to conduct an outage that included **replacement of four steam generators**. The previous record was 64 days and 17 hours, set by the South Texas Project in October 2002. **Press release:**

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/051121/cgm039.html?v=28>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Canada: SNC-Lavalin Nuclear Inc. has been awarded an engineering, procurement and construction contract to **replace the steam generators at Units 1 and 2 of Bruce Power's Bruce A** nuclear power station. The contract is part of an extensive restart and refurbishment project as part of an agreement between Bruce Power A.L.P. and the Ontario Power Authority. **Press release:**

http://www.snclavalin.com/en/8_0/8_1_1.aspx?id=188. A detailed description of the overall restart project, and the steam generator replacement project in particular, can be found at <http://www.brucepower.com>

SGL Carbon and the South African nuclear energy company Pebble Bed Modular Reactor Ltd. have signed a **major contract** in Pretoria. This

agreement is under the framework of cooperation in the construction of pebble bed modular reactors in South Africa, which was announced on August 22, 2005. The partial agreement covers the **production of graphite for a demonstration reactor** that is to supply electricity beginning in 2011. **Press release:**

<http://www.sglcarbon.com/ir/press/press/news/051122.html>

Bulgaria: The construction of Bulgaria's second nuclear power plant at Belene might solve the deadlock of Bulgaria's and Turkey's electricity trade. On his return from a visit to Ankara, Economy and Energy Minister Roumen Ovcharov said **Turkey was interested in taking part in the construction of Belene**, as well as some infrastructure projects in Bulgaria.

http://www.sofiaecho.com/article/bulgaria-solves-power-deadlock-with-turkey/id_12770/catid_23

REPROCESSING, MOX

The Australian *Weekly Global Report* says **Thorium fuels provide the most practical alternative to fission away more of the weapons-grade plutonium** at lower cost. Using thorium fuels, the destruction of the surplus stockpile could be achieved for at least 75 percent less money than what the MOX vendors need to "complete the mission". See <http://www.thoriumpower.com/english/latestnews/updates.htm>

STORAGE AND WASTE

Russia: Last month the **Kola NPP** welcomed the representatives of the

German firm **RWE Nukem**, a supplier of a number of systems for the newly constructed **Liquid Waste Treatment Plant**. The main purpose of the visit was negotiating on warranty services of the supplied equipment.

<http://www.bellona.no/en/international/russia/npps/kola/40938.html>

REPOSITORIES

The NRC has published its report *Soil and Groundwater Sample Characterization and Agricultural Practices for Assessing Food Chain Pathways in Biosphere Models*. The report describes work performed and summarizes observations to date on the NRC's project *Assessment of Food Chain Pathway Parameters in Biosphere Models*, which was established to assess and evaluate a number of **key parameters used in the food-chain models used in performance assessments of radioactive waste disposal facilities**. This food-chain pathway data may be used by the NRC staff to assess dose to persons in the reference biosphere of waste disposal facilities and decommissioning sites. Download complete **report** Nureg CR-6881 from <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/contract/cr6881/>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has finished the period for public **comments on the proposed radiation protection standards for the Yucca Mountain project**. The agency has to create a new standard after a federal appeals court threw out the existing ones last year.
<http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2005/nov/21/519698173.html>

Australia: The most powerful indigenous body in the Northern Territory has backed a bid for a nuclear waste dump on its land, breaking ranks with the Territory Labor Government and environmentalists. The backing given by Darwin-based Northern Land Council chief executive Norman Fry at a Senate inquiry in Canberra yesterday also put it at odds with its erstwhile ally, the Alice-Springs-based Central Land Council, which opposes the proposed dump for low-level waste.

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,17335132-2,00.html> More controversy: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/ndump-set-to-get-highlevel-waste/2005/11/22/1132421665958.html>

MISCELLANEOUS

Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of High Energy Physics have developed the first Radio Frequency Quadruple accelerator in China. The accelerator is a major component of the project "Basic Research for Physics and Technologies Related to an **Accelerator Driven Clean Nuclear Energy System**." **Release:** <http://english.cas.ac.cn/Eng2003/news/detailnewsb.asp?infoNo=25787>

The **Indian** Department of Atomic Energy has published **highlights** of last year. Press release: <http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=13461>

AND FINALLY THIS

USA: Hanford clean-up: As part of a \$6 billion contract from DoE, Bechtel is

building treatment plants to convert the waste through vitrification. Michael Maier, information security and technology manager for the Waste Treatment Plant Project, has storage problems that have nothing to do with radioactivity. His team has to **secure the data for the 10-year project**. “We started in January 2001 and grew to

about 13 Tbytes within three years,” Maier says. “We were backing up 7 Tbytes by June 2003. Now **we have about 33 Tbytes and we’re backing up 16 Tbytes**.” Interesting!

http://www.byteandswitch.com/document.asp?doc_id=84652&WT.svl=news2_1

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