

# Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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**Japan agreed with Kazakhstan to cooperate in developing uranium mines** in the central Asian country, which has the world's second-largest uranium ore reserves, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said. In addition to government officials, representatives from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation as well as Kansai Electric Power Co. and other major Japanese companies attended the meeting where the agreement was reached: <http://metalsplace.com/metalsnews/?a=3080>

**Germany:** Gesellschaft für Anlagen- und Reaktorsicherheit has now web-published its annual report. Key aspects of its working fields “**Waste Management**” and “**Radiation Protection**” are connected with repositories for nuclear waste, laboratory experiments on the development of geotechnical models for repository formations as well as radiation exposure during the transportation of radioactive material. Other tasks are the "Updating of Nuclear Rules and Regulations" and the major project “**G8 Global Partnership – Physical Protection**”. GRS is using “Knowledge Management” and “**Maintenance of Competence**” systems in order to effectively face up to the knowledge loss resulting from the great number of experts retiring. Press release:

[http://www.grs.de/en/press\\_and\\_news/informationen\\_detail.html?nd\\_ref=1723](http://www.grs.de/en/press_and_news/informationen_detail.html?nd_ref=1723). The report can be downloaded chapter by chapter in German and English [http://www.grs.de/publikationen/publikationen\\_view.html?pe\\_id=148&pcon\\_list=41](http://www.grs.de/publikationen/publikationen_view.html?pe_id=148&pcon_list=41)

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## NUCLEAR POLICY

Director General Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei opened the meeting of the **IAEA's Board of Governors**. He said: "In October 2005, the Russian Federation became the 36th country to ratify the *Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management*. The 2nd review of the contracting parties will be held next May. This Convention still has only a limited number of Parties, despite the fact that almost all states have radioactive waste, and therefore wide adherence to this Convention would be of clear benefit." **Statement:**

<http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Statements/2005/ebsp2005n018.html>

**Canada:** The Ontario government is leaning towards a multi-billion-dollar **expansion of its Darlington nuclear generating facility** as part of an ongoing effort to expand the province's energy supply. The province is investigating the potential construction of two 700-megawatt Candu reactors.

<http://www.canada.com/businesscentretory.html?id=c9bec12d-a5fa-4ff0-b994-30afaafc7316>

## URANIUM

**BHP Billiton has defended its move into the nuclear fuel industry** through its acquisition earlier this year of WMC Resources, telling shareholders at its annual meeting in Perth that uranium had an important role to play in meeting the world's growing energy needs. Chairman Don Argus claimed that along with clean coal technologies, renewables and other energy-efficient programs, uranium also had the potential to help address global climate change. The acquisition of WMC delivered BHP ownership of the monster **Olympic Dam** project in South Australia. **Chairman's address** and archived webcast: <http://www.bhpbilliton.com/bb/investors/AndMedia/home.jsp>

Shareholders of **Aflease Gold and Uranium Resources** have voted overwhelming in favor of the acquisition of Aflease by TSX-listed Southern Cross Resources Inc. Aflease President and CEO Neal Froneman welcomed the decision "which will enable us **to create a global uranium group**, with assets in South Africa, Canada and Australia." **Press release** and statement: <http://www.aflease.com/index.php>

**Denison Mines Inc.** announced that it has received a new report on the mineral resources and reserves on its 22,5% owned **McClellan Lake** property in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan which shows an increase in Denison's share of proven and probable reserves of 1,0 million pounds of U3O8. **Press release**: <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releasesfr/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=569059>

**Russia has to increase its annual uranium production** nearly twofold from the current 3,200 metric tons to 7,500 metric tons by 2020, state-owned company TVEL said in a report. <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20051124/42201008.html>

### *CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT*

A German businessman was sentenced to seven years and three months in prison for illegally **supplying Pakistan companies with "dual use"** equipment. <http://www.dawn.com/2005/11/25/top17.htm>

**South Africa** has launched a feasibility study to build a 30 000 t/y to 50 000 t/y hydrogen fluoride and **aluminumtrifluoride plant**. "The feasibility study will cost between R3-million and R6-million," explains South African Nuclear Energy Corporation business development manager Theo Scholtz. Driving Necsa's involvement in the project is the fact that HF is used in the conversion process for the enrichment of uranium. <http://www.miningweekly.co.za/min/news/thisweek/?show=77319>

### *REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES*

**Russia**: In the Zheleznogorsk, **Krasnoyarsk** region electricity is again produced by the **Mining and Chemical Combine's underground nuclear power plant**. The Combine's specialists refueled the 40 years old reactor ADE-2 and improved the operation safety, ITAR-TASS reported. The reactor is one of three weapons grade plutonium producing reactors which will be decommissioned within the next six years, effectively ending Russia's

capability to produce weapons grade plutonium.

[http://www.bellona.no/en/international/russia/nuke\\_industry/siberia/zheleznogorsk/40990.html](http://www.bellona.no/en/international/russia/nuke_industry/siberia/zheleznogorsk/40990.html)

**Bulgaria will ask the European Union for an additional 280 million euros to finance the closure of four reactors at its Soviet-designed Kozloduy nuclear power plant** as it gears up for entry in 2007. The state's new Socialist-led cabinet has granted a mandate to Foreign Minister Ivailo Kalfin and Economy Minister Rumen Ovcharov to lead talks with the EU's executive Commission for additional financial support.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/33662/story.htm>

A precautionary **shutdown of the Koeberg nuclear power plant** in Cape Town led to a "rolling blackout" across the Western and Eastern Cape. The disruption was the third shutdown at the nuclear plant in as many weeks. After a day electricity supply had resumed in all the affected areas.

[http://www.theherald.co.za/herald/news/n10\\_25112005.htm](http://www.theherald.co.za/herald/news/n10_25112005.htm)

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission decided to renew the non-power reactor **operating licence for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's MAPLE 1 and 2** medical isotopes reactors. The renewed licence will permit the completion of the commissioning activities and the operation of the MAPLE reactors. The licence is valid until November 30, 2007. **Press release:**  
[http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/media/news/news\\_release.cfm?news\\_release\\_id=129](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/media/news/news_release.cfm?news_release_id=129)

## **TRANSPORT**

**48 tons of spent nuclear fuel from Bulgarian Kozloduy nuclear power plant** arrived at Mining Chemical Combine in Zheleznogorsk, Krasnoyarsk region. According to ITAR-TASS, the shipment went on without incidents.

[http://www.bellona.no/en/international/russia/nuke\\_industry/siberia/zheleznogorsk/41024.html](http://www.bellona.no/en/international/russia/nuke_industry/siberia/zheleznogorsk/41024.html)

## **STORAGE AND WASTE**

A senior official at the Russian Atomic Energy Agency, Rosatom, says Russia still has to unload **nuclear fuel from 50 decommissioned submarines**. Sergei Antipov, Rosatom deputy director, said Russia has so far decommissioned 195 nuclear submarines.

<http://www.rferl.org/featuresarticle/2005/11/2ADD40A7-86F3-4D3E-A03B-2111B6551AF9.html>

## **DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP**

**USA:** An administrative law judge recommended that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission sustain Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Co.'s 456 percent **rate hike to cover the costs of decommissioning its Haddam Neck plant**. The judge concluded that Connecticut Yankee has prudently decommissioned the plant and is justified in hiking the annual ratepayer decommissioning charge to \$93 million.

<http://www.courant.com/news/local/hc-nukejudge1123.artnov23,0,7727690.story?coll=hc-headlines-local>

## **REPOSITORIES**

**U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici, once a strong advocate of Yucca Mountain, has offered some of his harshest words yet about the proposed nuclear waste repository.** But Domenici, a vocal advocate of nuclear power and considered the Senate leader on nuclear issues, has distanced himself from Yucca in recent public comments. "For years, Yucca Mountain was the answer, and we ran around talking about it as if it were the singular answer," Domenici said. "While Yucca was created as the final resting place, there can be no doubt that it is not the final answer."

[http://www.abqtrib.com/albq/nw\\_national/article/0,2564,ALBO\\_19860\\_4264519,00.html](http://www.abqtrib.com/albq/nw_national/article/0,2564,ALBO_19860_4264519,00.html)

The president of the Australian and New Zealand Association of **Physicians in Nuclear Medicine say a nuclear repository would benefit all Australians.** "The important thing to recognise about the low level repository is that it benefits all Australians as does nuclear medicine".

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200511/s1516848.htm>

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Canada: MDS Nordion and Rosenergoatom,** Russia, announced they have entered into a long-term agreement for the **supply of cobalt-60.** It ensures the continued supply of cobalt-60 for use in medical device sterilization and related applications to prevent infection and disease. **Press**

release:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/051123/to163.html?.v=15>

### **AND FINALLY THIS**

**Moldava:** President Vladimir Voronin asserts that no energy crisis will threaten Moldova this winter, even though the power supplies from the Cuciurgan Power Station have been ceased and the Russian natural gas suppliers intend to increase prices. Moldova produces 30-35 percent of the electric power it consumes. **About 70 percent of the necessary electricity will be imported** from the nuclear power stations of Ukraine, and Romania will provide electric power for southern Moldava. <http://politicom.moldova.org/stiri/eng/6814/>

In the **UK, power stations and factories have reduced their production drastically** this week so as to buy less gas in the wake of wholesale prices surging 40 per cent to record highs. Analysts attributed the rise to a delay for bringing on-stream some North Sea oil fields until 2006 and 2007, panic buying and the long-term cold break. <http://www.viploan.co.uk/article/Business-1667.shtml>

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