

Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

FPL Group Inc. and Constellation Energy announced that they have signed a definitive agreement to create the USA's largest competitive energy supplier and its second-largest electric utility portfolio. The transaction will create a company with a market capitalization of approximately \$28 billion (based on current market values), combined annual revenues of \$27 billion, and \$57 billion in total assets. The combined company will be named Constellation Energy. The takeover will double FPL's nuclear power business, adding low-cost production after prices for natural gas and other generator fuels soared. **Press release:**

<http://www.fpl.com/news/2005/contents/05266.shtml>

U.S. Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign introduced legislation mandating that nuclear waste be stored on-site where it is produced and requiring the federal government to take responsibility for possession, stewardship, maintenance, and monitoring of the waste. The legislation would eliminate the need for a single repository, ensuring nuclear waste can be safely stored on-site and under control of the federal government: "**The Yucca Mountain project is never going to open,**" Reid, the Senate Democratic Leader, said. The bill would:

- Require commercial nuclear utilities to transfer nuclear waste from spent nuclear fuel pools into dry storage casks within 6 years after enactment or 6 years after the waste is produced, whichever comes first.
- Require the Department of Energy (DOE) to take title of all spent nuclear fuel currently in on-site dry cask storage within 30 days of enactment.
- Expenditures from the Nuclear Waste Fund would compensate utilities for expenses associated with transferring, storing and securing the waste.

Press release: <http://reid.senate.gov/record2.cfm?id=249893>

Text of proposed bill: [http://reid.senate.gov/pdfs/Take Title 2005.pdf](http://reid.senate.gov/pdfs/Take_Title_2005.pdf)

NUCLEAR POLICY

Canada urged India to allow nuclear inspectors access to a Canadian-supplied reactor where experts say the country produces a significant amount of its weapons-grade plutonium. Lack of independent access to the Cirus research reactor, located north of Mumbai (Bombay), is one of the issues slowing

implementation of a sweeping nuclear cooperation deal that the United States. <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N19287456.htm>

The Turkish government will announce by the end of January a decision to build between three and five nuclear power plants with a total 5,000 megawatts capacity, sources close to the government said.

<http://www.energia.gr/indexengr.php?newsid=9119&lang=en>

URANIUM

Namibia: Capital expenditure of approximately N\$715 million over two years will **extend the operations of Roessing's uranium mine for about another 10 years** - was announced by Roessing Uranium Ltd. managing director Michael Leech.
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200512190431.html>

Resource Capital Research has published a report covering 26 global uranium exploration and development companies with a focus on Australia, Canada and the USA. Over 130 junior and mid cap explorers and development companies are identified with a total market capital exceeding US\$6 billion.
Press release:
http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release_html_b1?release_id=104491
Summary of report at:
www.rcresearch.com.au/feature.

India: Two new uranium deposits, one in Karnataka and the other in Rajasthan, have been identified by the Atomic Mineral Division of the department of atomic energy. Furthermore the general manager of Uranium Corp. of India Ltd. said: "In Andhra Pradesh, mining operation will be undertaken in two districts (Nalgonda and Cuddapah) while West Khasi hills in Meghalaya has been identified for mining operations there."
http://www.telegraphindia.com/1051220/asp/jamshedpur/story_5622851.asp

Zimbabwe: Explorations for uranium are expected to begin early next year

following recommendations of investors by the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development.

<http://www.sundaynews.co.zw/inside.aspx?sectid=309&cat=8>

Russia: What happens at the Krasnokamensk uranium mine depends on decisions by the new head of the Federal Atomic Energy Agency Segei Kiriyyenko.
<http://www.moscowtimes.ru/stories/2005/12/20/040.html>

Aflase has changed its name to SXR Uranium One. Interview with its Chief Executive Neal Froneman:
<http://www.resourceinvestor.com/pebble.asp?reid=15498>

CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT

USEC Inc. updated its 2005 earnings guidance and provided an outlook for the American Centrifuge program in the coming year. USEC expects full year revenue to total \$1.55 billion. USEC has made progress in resolving issues related to the quality of materials and performance of some centrifuge components. USEC is testing individual prototype machines in test equipment located in Oak Ridge. **Press release:**
http://www.usec.com/v2001_02/Content/News/NewsTemplate.asp?page=/v2001_02/Content/News/NewsFiles/12-19-05.htm

NUCLEAR FUEL

JSC Mashinostroitelny Zavod and Framatome ANP (AREVA & Siemens joint venture) extended the nuclear fuel supply contract for West-European

NPPs. The administration of **Swiss NPPs selected JSC MSZ as fuel supplier for Gosgen NPP till 2016 and for Beznau NPP till 2020. Press release by Tvel:**

<http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=45>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

Molten metal splashing from a smelter at the **nuclear plant near St. Petersburg** killed one worker and severely burned two others. The smelter is operated by the scrap metal reprocessing company Ekomet-S. **Press release Rosatom:**

<http://eng.rosatom.ru/?razdel=11&id=199> More at:

<http://www.mosnews.com/news/2005/12/17/updateaccid.shtml>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

China will miss a year-end deadline for handing out an \$8 billion contract to build four nuclear reactors, and plans to postpone its choice indefinitely, an industry source close to the bidding said according to Reuters. Westinghouse Electric Co., France's Areva and Russia's Atomstroieksport are vying for the contract to build China's first third-generation reactors. Beijing's original plan was to make a final decision by the end of this year but officials have decided to put it off because of the high price of the foreign reactors was said.

http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2005-12-20T111553Z_01_MOL040507_RTRUKOC_0_US-UTILITIES-CHINA-NUCLEAR.xml

The **Ontario government** sent shock waves through the nuclear industry last week by suggesting it **will consider foreign designs for new stations.**

It would be a dramatic change, as all of Canada's reactors are Candus, the Canadian atomic reactor with the patriotic-sounding name. Press report:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20051219/RNUCLEAR19/TPBusiness/TopStories>

STORAGE AND WASTE

Skoda JS (Czech Republic), a part of the Nuclear Power Plant Division of OMZ (Uralmash-Izhora Group), has completed the **delivery of 60 Castor model 440/84 containers for spent nuclear fuel produced according to engineering by GNS Essen** (Germany).

The containers are designed for temporary storage at the **Dukovany Nuclear Power Plant** (Czech Republic).

Press release:

<http://www.omz.ru/eng/media/release/article.wbp?news-article-id=3359D1DD-AD82-4B0B-90FA-9A284153F2AF>

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) received a letter from **Entergy announcing it will withdraw its financial support for the plan to store spent nuclear fuel at Skull Valley, Utah.** Entergy joins Xcel Energy, Southern Company and Florida Power and Light, who have also withdrawn their support in the last few weeks. **Press release** by Hatch and letter of Entergy:

http://hatch.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=1501&Month=12&Year=2005

A plan to try to prevent development of the nuclear waste storage site with a **federal wilderness area designation** is

now all but a done deal, Utah's congressional lawmakers said. **Press release** by Senator Hatch: http://hatch.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=1496&Month=12&Year=2005

Ukrainian President Yushchenko said he proposed building a **nuclear waste disposal plant in the Chernobyl area**. <http://nyjtimes.com/cover/12-19-05/NuclearWastePlantAtChernobyl.htm>

MISCELLANEOUS

A new **18-country opinion survey sponsored by the IAEA** and conducted by Globescan Inc. shows that "six in ten citizens (**62%**) **overall believe that existing nuclear reactors should continue to be used, yet six in ten (59%) do not favour new nuclear plants** being built." Stressing the climate benefits of nuclear energy positively influences [only!] one in ten people to be more supportive of expanding the role of

nuclear power. The countries surveyed included: Argentina, Australia, Cameroon, Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and the United States. **Press release and full report:** <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/PressReleases/2005/prn200516.html>

AND FINALLY THIS

Looking for a thoughtful Christmas gift that's small, doesn't cost much and saves lives? Here is the proposal of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection: "**Give a radon test kit this holiday season** and help jumpstart January as national Radon Action Month." **Press release:** <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/news/cw/view.asp?a=3&q=483913>

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