

# Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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## NUCLEAR POLICY

**India: Two more units of 1,000 MW each are likely** to be put up at the Kudankulam Nuclear Power project. a top official said. The two new units are in addition to the two plants of 1,000 MW each, one of which is nearing completion and is expected to be commissioned in 2006. The second unit is expected to be ready by 2008, Executive Director, Nuclear Power Corporation of India, S K Agrawal said. <http://us.rediff.com/news/2005/dec/20nplant.htm?q=tp&file=.htm>

In a rebuff to non-proliferation hawks in the US, **Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran ruled out changes in the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal.** Addressing the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Saran shot down the notion that there could be some "improvements" in the now agreed upon cooperative framework. The **Secretary's prepared remarks** are available at: <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/events/index.cfm?fa=eventDetail&id=839&&prog=zgp&proj=znpp,zsa,zusr>

The Institute for Science and International Security ISIS has published "Separating Indian Military and Civilian Nuclear Facilities". It gives a good **overview of the major Indian nuclear facilities.** Report at [http://www.isis-online.org/publications/southasia/indian\\_nuclearfacilities.pdf](http://www.isis-online.org/publications/southasia/indian_nuclearfacilities.pdf)

NATO General Rapporteur Pierre Claude Nolin released a report to organization's Parliamentary Assembly about "**The security of WMD related material in Russia**". Report at: <http://natopa.ibicenter.net/default.asp?SHORTCUT=695>

During a press conference in Kiev, President Victor Yushchenko said **Ukraine needed to change its energy policy.** "We should more actively produce energy (oil, gas, uranium ore, etc.)" <http://en.for-ua.com/news/2005/12/20/140011.html>

A group of scientists from the **University of Melbourne**, led by Associate Professor of Physics Martin Sevier, has released a study of the **energy problems confronting Australia** in the future. It endorses the use of nuclear energy and attacks some of the data used by anti-nuclear campaigners. **Summary** at: <http://www.nuclearinfo.net/Nuclearpower/FullSummary>

## URANIUM

**Tournigan Gold Corp.** announced acquisition of mining claims covering three highly prospective uranium areas in the Southern Black Hills of South Dakota (21.8 square km). **Press release:** <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&sea>

[rchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=573224](#)

## **NUCLEAR FUEL**

The Omaha Public Power District has secured the **fuel supply for Fort Calhoun NPP for the next 10 years**. The OPPD board authorized management to enter into contracts with UGUSA, Inc. of Springfield, Va., Globe Nuclear Services and Supply of Switzerland and Cameco, Inc. of Canada which are worth \$66 million.  
<http://www.enterpriseub.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=8944>

**Russia: JSC TVEL and NAEK Energoatom discussed experience of nuclear fuel operation** at Ukrainian NPP and advanced projects in the field of its improvement. Presently 16 power units operate **TVSA-design fuel**. According to V. Makeev, chief engineer of Khmelnisky NPP, the TVSA fuel introduction makes it possible to reduce the volume of spent nuclear fuel and its storage area by 25 %. The advanced TVSA burnup amounts to 68 MWd/kgU, operational life is extended from 4 to 6 years. **News release:**  
<http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=48>

On December 12-15, the **inspection of fuel rods & fuel assemblies' manufacture for the German NPP Neckarwestheim** was performed at Mashinostroitelny Zavod (JSC MSZ Electrostal, Moscow region). It was performed by the Franco-German Framatome ANP representative. No violation was found. **Press release:**  
<http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=47>

## **NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

**AREVA** via Framatome ANP and Washington Group International announced that their joint venture, SGT LLC, has been awarded a **contract by PSEG Nuclear to provide services for replacing steam generators at Salem Nuclear Unit 2**, located at Hancocks Bridge, N.J. The work is scheduled to take place during a refueling outage in the spring of 2008. **Press release:**  
<http://www.us.framatome-anp.com/newsreleases/newsrelease.asp?NewsNumber=226>

**South Africa's Pebble Bed Modular Reactor Company** signed a US\$2.6 million contract with Westinghouse concerning the basic design of automation safety sub-systems for its Demonstration Power Plant at Koeberg in the Western Cape. The contract with **Westinghouse Electric Company** (WEC) is for the basic design of the Reactor Protection System, the Manual Shutdown System and the Post-event Instrumentation System. **Release:**  
<http://www.pbmr.co.za/index.asp?Content=10&MState=DT&Article=68>

## **TRANSPORT**

The **EU Commission has adopted a proposal for a Directive on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel**. The new Commission proposal extends existing rules for authorizing the trans-border movement of radioactive waste and extends them to spent nuclear fuel. **Press release and more:**  
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1661&format=>

[HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](#)

### **REPROCESSING, MOX**

On December 20, 2005, **JNFL and AREVA signed an agreement to extend the technical assistance contract** for the startup of the used nuclear fuel **reprocessing plant at Rokkasho-Mura** in Japan's Aomori province. This amendment extends the initial cooperation agreement, signed in July 2001 by AREVA and JNFL, by two years. **Press release:**

[http://www.aveva.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=arevagroup\\_en%2FPressRelease%2FPressReleaseFullTemplate&cid=1134047550828&p=1028798801053](http://www.aveva.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=arevagroup_en%2FPressRelease%2FPressReleaseFullTemplate&cid=1134047550828&p=1028798801053)

### **STORAGE AND WASTE**

**Ukraine:** On Dec. 26 Energoatom and the winner of an international tender, the U.S. firm Holtec International, will sign a contract for the design and construction of a centralized **storage facility for spent nuclear fuel from three Ukrainian nuclear power plants.** <http://www.mosnews.com/news/2005/12/21/ukrainenuclear.shtml>

The NRC staff has proposed a \$96,000 civil penalty against Pacific Gas & Electric Company for **violations of NRC requirements related to the storage of spent radioactive fuel** and other radioactive material in the spent fuel storage pool at the Humboldt Bay Unit 3 nuclear power plant near Eureka, California. **Press release** and more: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-040iv.html>

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

**Great Britain:** The Board of the **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority NDA has endorsed a proposed Strategy** to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and the Scottish Ministers for their consideration. The proposed strategy, which will be published once approved by government, sets out how the NDA intends to shape its decommissioning and clean-up programme over coming years. **Press release:**

[http://www.nda.gov.uk/News--News\\_\(1317\).aspx?pg=1317](http://www.nda.gov.uk/News--News_(1317).aspx?pg=1317)

**Draft strategy** for consultation at:

[http://www.nda.gov.uk/Our\\_Business--Strategy\\_-\\_Draft\\_for\\_Consultation\\_\(782\).aspx?pg=782](http://www.nda.gov.uk/Our_Business--Strategy_-_Draft_for_Consultation_(782).aspx?pg=782)

The **dismantling of two old uranium enrichment plants at Oak Ridge** is about to accelerate. DOE has cleared cleanup contractor Bechtel Jacobs to begin the next phase of demolition (K-25 and K-27 plants).

<http://www.wate.com/Global/story.asp?S=4272497&nav=0RYv>

### **ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE**

**European Union: Matthias Ruete was appointed Director-General of the Energy and Transport Directorate-General.** In his new function, Mr. Ruete will provide, under the guidance of Vice-President Barrot and of Commissioner Piebalgs, responsible for Transport and for Energy, the overall strategic direction, management and governance of the Directorate-General and lead the policy development of the

energy and transport areas, including nuclear safety and security. **Release:**  
<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1667&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

### *MISCELLANEOUS*

U.S. Secretary of Energy Bodman announced that Los Alamos National Security LLC has been selected to be the **management and operations contractor for Los Alamos National Laboratory** in New Mexico. Los Alamos National Security LLC is a limited liability corporation made up of **Bechtel National, the University of California, BWX Technologies, and the Washington Group International.**

**Press release:**

[http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC\\_ID=19408&BT\\_CODE=PR\\_PRESSRELEASES&TT\\_CODE=PRESSRELEASE](http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=19408&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE) **Background** by companies:  
<http://www.bechtel.com/newsarticles/484.asp>

A selected preview of IAEA **meetings and events for 2006** is to be found at:  
[http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2005/look\\_ahead.html](http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2005/look_ahead.html)

### *AND FINALLY THIS*

The recent American hurricanes and German elections helped to prove the

**existence of a new element.** In early October 2005, a major research institution announced the discovery of the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element has been named "**Governmentium. (Gv)**". Gv has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by forces called 'morons' which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called 'peons.' Since Gv has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A minute amount of Gv causes one reaction to take over four days to complete, when it would normally take less than a second! Gv has a normal half-life of 4 years; it does not decay; but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Gv's mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming 'isodopes.' This characteristic of moron promotion leads most scientists to believe that Gv is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as 'Critical Morass.' When catalyzed with money, Gv becomes "Administratium" (Am) - an element which radiates just as much energy as Gv, since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

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