

Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Toshiba Corp. have joined the final round of bidding for U.S. nuclear power plant manufacturer **Westinghouse Electric Co.**

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200512230133.html>

2005 was a year of highs and lows on the world's nuclear scene. Some January to December **highlights** provided by IAEA are available at:

http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2005/year_in_review.html

The Inspector General of the U.S. DOE has published a report "**Status of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility**": The cost of the MOX facility will significantly exceed the amounts reported to Congress. As of July 2005, the National Nuclear Security Administration's unvalidated estimate for the design and construction of the MOX Facility was about \$3.5 billion, which is 2.5 billion more than reported to Congress in 2002. **Report:** <http://www.ig.doe.gov/pdf/ig-0713.pdf>

NUCLEAR POLICY

China next year will begin building two nuclear plants with two reactors each, in Northeast China's Liaoning Province and East China's Shandong Province. The Chinese Government has included both projects at Dalian and Haiyang in the country's Five-Year Plan (2006-2011), a CNNC spokesman said. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/english/doc/2005-12/27/content_506929.htm

A report on the **electricity market in Finland and the Nordic region** says that speculation of a sixth commercial nuclear reactor for Finland is unnecessary. The report commissioned by the Ministry of Trade and Industry analyses the performance of electricity markets and emissions trading from Finland's perspective. The EU Emissions Trading Scheme has reduced

Finnish condensation-electricity production and increased electricity imports, especially from Russia.

Summary and report:

<http://www.ktm.fi/index.phtml?c=www&i=1455&l=en&s=222>

The United Kingdom's Treasury is facing a potential **£800m bill to protect the pensions of thousands of nuclear industry workers** it plans to move into the private sector. The Government has pledged to put about half the maintenance and decommissioning contracts, currently run by the state-owned British Nuclear Fuels and Atomic Energy Authority, out to tender by 2008. The contracts include work at the Sellafield and Magnox power stations. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?xml=/money/2005/12/27/cnpens27.xml&menuId=242&sSheet=/money/2005/12/27/ixcitytop.html>

URANIUM

Western Prospector Group completed the initial phase of a multiphase exploration and resource definition program within its approximate 2000 square kilometre holdings in the Saddle Hills Basin of northeastern **Mongolia**.

Press release:

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/December2005/23/c3636.html>

CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT

Iran acknowledged receiving a proposal to enter a joint-venture to enrich uranium in Russia. The plan is aimed at easing international concerns that Tehran is trying to build a nuclear arsenal. The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday it had submitted a formal offer to Iran that would allow it to establish a civilian nuclear program but transfer enrichment to Russia.

<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/spages/663037.html>

NUCLEAR FUEL

TVSA-fuel assemblies will be loaded into the reactor of Unit No. 3 at **Rivnenskaya** NPP, where scheduled maintenance has started. The alternative design makes it possible to transfer to a five-year cycle. **Press release:**

<http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=53>

TVEL supplied nuclear fuel containing low-enriched uranium (less than 20 %) to the IRT-1 research reactor at Tajoura Nuclear Research Center in **Libya**. The delivered fuel was manufactured by the Novosibirsk

Chemical Concentrate Plant. The supplies were carried out within the U.S. – Russian Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR) Program. **Press release:**

<http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=54>

JSC TVEL, the managing company of TVEL Corp. has started developing, putting into effect the corporate quality management system on the basis of **ISO 9000** international standards. **Release:**

<http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=55>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

The NRC has **renewed the operating licenses of the Point Beach** Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, for an additional 20 years. The licensee, Nuclear Management Co. LLC, submitted its license renewal application Feb. 25, 2004. With the renewal, the license is extended to 2030 resp. to 2033. **Release, safety evaluation report** and more:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-167.html>

The NRC staff has determined that **potential flooding issue at the Kewaunee NPP was of “substantial importance to safety.”** The plant is operated by Dominion Generation Co. The issue was determined to be a "yellow" inspection finding. The company must respond to the by Jan. 20. **Press release and more:**

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-047iii.html>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries has received two orders from PBMR (Pty) related to the core barrel assembly (CBA) of the company's demonstration power plant pebble bed modular reactor. One contract calls for MHI to undertake the basic design of the CBA, an integral component of the reactor pressure vessel, and another is for provision of forgings and procurement of items for the CBA. **Press release:**
<http://www.mhi-ir.jp/english/new/sec1/200512071087.html>

REPROCESSING, MOX

Japan plans to build a new fast-breeder reactor around 2030 for practical operation succeeding the existing prototype fast-breeder reactor "Monju," sources at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said. MITI's Agency for Natural Resources and Energy filed the plan during a session of an advisory body on energy and natural resources. The plan also envisages construction of a new fuel-reprocessing plant which will reprocess spent nuclear fuel to produce uranium-plutonium mixed oxide fuel.
<http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/-japan-eyes-new-fast-breeder-reactor-around-2030-/2005/dec/1240103.htm>

STORAGE AND WASTE

First full-scale **emergency incident at the Torness** nuclear power station: British Energy said the fire brigade and police were called to the plant after staff noticed "anomalous behaviour" during the **disposal of radioactive fuel rods**. Willie Waddell, the station's director,

said that workers had found debris preventing a graphite-clad spent uranium fuel element being properly located in the ponds of water used to cool radioactive material.
<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=2455972005>

Entergy Nuclear may delay the decommissioning of **Vermont Yankee** nuclear power plant for 60 years after it finally shuts down as a way of earning enough money from the plant's \$350 million decommissioning trust fund to pay for the storage of its old, highly radioactive fuel. Meanwhile, the state has gone on the record saying it is dissatisfied with the financial plans offered by Entergy Nuclear about the **long-term financing of the nuclear waste facility proposed for the site**.
<http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051226/NEWS/512260375/1002>

Global Matrechs Inc. is exploring the possibility of strategic acquisitions or technology transfers for businesses or products currently generating revenues and complimentary to the licensed **NuCap(TM) (nuclear storage and containment) and HNIPU (non-toxic polyurethane) technologies**. Release: http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_vie_w&newsId=20051222005337&newsLang=en

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

The U.S. DOE will operate its toxic-**radioactive-waste incinerator** for at least three more years and possibly beyond that. Operations will continue as long as needed to support the nuclear

cleanup missions at Oak Ridge and other DOE sites in the United States.

<http://www.rctimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051225/NEWS01/512250369/1006/MTCN0301>

REPOSITORIES

The Department of Energy notified Washington TRU Solutions (WTS) that it will fine the company for **violations of safety requirements**. The notification cites a number of deficiencies that led to a series of low-level plutonium uptakes by workers at a WTS mobile facility (MOVER) stationed at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. WTS is the contractor that operates the department's **Waste Isolation Pilot Project** in New Mexico. **Press release:** http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=19410&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE

The fourth meeting of the International Advisory Group for Olkiluoto Investigations took place. The purpose of the meeting was to examine various elements of **Posiva's research and investigation program**. **Press release:** <http://www.posiva.fi/englanti/index.html> Povisa published [Posiva Report 2005-08 Simulation of Hydraulic Disturbances Caused by the Underground Rock Characterisation Facility in Olkiluoto](#) and [Posiva Report 2005-07 Simulation of Hydraulic Disturbances Caused by the Decay Heat of the Repository in Olkiluoto](#).

MISCELLANEOUS

Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont announced an agreement to implement the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative designed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. The initiative advances what the states describe as “**the first mandatory cap-and-trade program in the U.S.**” to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**. In the memorandum of understanding nuclear energy and renewable generation are treated equally. Background: <http://www.rggi.org/agreement.htm>

Fusion: The **ITER Joint Work Site in Cadarache** was inaugurated. The offices will start to be occupied from January 2006 onwards. News from ITER: http://www.iter.org/index_newsroom.htm

AND FINALLY THIS

FBI agents monitored radiation levels at mosques and Muslim-run businesses for several years to determine whether nuclear or chemical bombs were being assembled, US law enforcement officials have admitted. No suspicious radiation levels were ever detected. <http://smh.com.au/news/world/mosques-tested-for-radiation/2005/12/25/1135445486659.html>

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