

# Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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**Pakistan** will import two more nuclear power plants of 600MW each from China, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said. In his inaugural speech at the **first 'concrete pour' ceremony of Chashma nuclear power project Unit-2**, the prime minister further said Pakistan's survival in the coming decades would depend on its ability to increase nuclear and hydropower generation.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2005%5C12%5C29%5Cstory\\_29-12-2005\\_pg1\\_6](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2005%5C12%5C29%5Cstory_29-12-2005_pg1_6)

The U.S. NRC has published the following reports:

[NUREG/CP-0192](#), **Nuclear Fuels** Sessions of 2004 Nuclear Safety Research Conference  
[NUREG/CR-5385](#), Initial Assessment of the Mechanisms and Significance of Low-Temperature **Embrittlement of Cast Stainless Steels** in LWR Systems  
[NUREG/CR-6890](#), Reevaluation of Station **Blackout Risk** at Nuclear Power Plants  
[NUREG-0713, Vol. 26](#), **Occupational Radiation Exposure** at Commercial Nuclear Power Reactors and Other Facilities.

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## *NUCLEAR POLICY*

**Iran:** Russia's foreign ministry confirmed on Friday that a top envoy had talked to Iranian officials to **discuss a Russian proposal to enrich uranium for the Islamic Republic**, Itar-Tass news agency reported. According to the agency, Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov discussed "regulation of the situation around the Iranian nuclear program".  
[http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-12-30T112246Z\\_01\\_MCC040951\\_RTRUKOC\\_0\\_UK-NUCLEAR-RUSSIA-IRAN.xml&archived=False](http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-12-30T112246Z_01_MCC040951_RTRUKOC_0_UK-NUCLEAR-RUSSIA-IRAN.xml&archived=False)

## *URANIUM*

**SXR Uranium One Inc.** reported that the acquisition of all of the ordinary shares of **Aflease Gold and Uranium Resources Ltd.** was completed. **Press release:**

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/December2005/28/c3918.html>

Guilford Brett, President of **Consolidated Pacific Bay Minerals** summarized recent exploration activity and plans for 2006. Concerning e.g.: Mont-Laurier, south central Québec; Regalo property in Patagonia; Yukon's Finlayson Lake Belt. **Press release:**  
<http://www.freemarketnews.com/Press-Release.asp?nid=815>

## *NUCLEAR FUEL*

**Washington Group International** announced an agreement completing the acquisition of British Nuclear Fuels plc's rights to future profits of **Westinghouse Government Services Company and Westinghouse Government Environmental Services Company**.

Press release: <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=70435&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=799452&highlight=>

## *REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES*

**USA: NRG Energy, Inc.** and Texas Genco LLC announced that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted approval for NRG's proposed **acquisition of Texas Genco LLC**. The transaction remains subject to approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. **Press release:** [http://newark.dbusinessnews.com/shownews.php?newsid=56435&type\\_news=latest](http://newark.dbusinessnews.com/shownews.php?newsid=56435&type_news=latest)

**Interstate Power and Light Company**, a subsidiary of Alliant Energy Corp., received approval from the NRC to transfer the company's **Duane Arnold Energy Center's nuclear operating license** to FPL Energy LLC, a subsidiary of FPL Group, Inc. upon closure of the sale transaction. **Press release:** <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/12-28-2005/0004240222&EDATE>

## *NUCLEAR INDUSTRY*

**GE Energy's** nuclear business has been awarded a contract to support the next

phase of a Mexico utility's preparations for an **extended power uprate at the Laguna Verde Nuclear Power Plant** in Mexico. Originally designed by GE, each of Laguna Verde's two boiling water reactors (BWRs) has an output of 695 megawatts. **Press release:** [http://www.gepower.com/about/press/en/2005\\_press/122905.htm](http://www.gepower.com/about/press/en/2005_press/122905.htm)

**Franklin + Andrews** has been appointed by the Finnish electric utility company Teollisuuden Voima Oy as **contract consultants** on the construction of Europe's first new build nuclear reactor facility **Olkiluoto**. **Press release** published Dec.21: <http://www.franklinandrews.com/news/?id=83944>

## *DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP*

The U.S. DOE announced that **Paducah Remediation Services, LLC (PRS)** has been awarded a **\$191.6 million business contract** to perform environmental remediation and waste management activities at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Following a transition period, PRS will take over from **Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC**, whose contract expires April 23, 2006. **Press release:** [http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC\\_ID=19422&BT\\_CODE=PR\\_PRESSRELEASES&TT\\_CODE=PRESSRELEASE](http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=19422&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE)

**The German** Federal Minister for the Environment Sigmar Gabriel has okayed 12.4 Mio Euros in funding for the remediation of the **Chernobyl sarcophagus**. **Press release:** <http://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilungen/p>

[ressemitteilungen\\_ab\\_22112005/pm/36482.php](http://www.ohio.com/mld/beaconjournal/news/state/13510239.htm)

**USA: Some 1,200 cylinders of depleted uranium at the former enrichment plant Oak Ridge** are waiting on special shipping exemptions before they can be trucked to southern Ohio. The DOE and its Oak Ridge contractors have six exemption requests pending with the Department of Transportation to allow containers that are slightly overweight or otherwise don't meet transportation rules to make the 300-mile trip.

<http://www.ohio.com/mld/beaconjournal/news/state/13510239.htm>

### **REPOSITORIES**

**The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board published comments about the Yucca Mountain program.**

E.g.: The Board has continuing concerns about the DOE's technical basis for screening out deliquescence-based localized **corrosion of the waste package's** Alloy 22 outer barrier.

Concerning the decision to evaluate the development of the transportation, aging, and disposal canister system the Board comments: The Board believes that this system has the potential to address the Board's previously stated concerns related to **excessive fuel handling. The Board's letter to DOE:**

<http://www.nwtrb.gov/corr/bjg046.pdf>

### **ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE**

**Russia's former nuclear energy minister, Yevgeny Adamov** accused of stealing millions of dollars from U.S. programs intended to improve Russia's nuclear security, has won a legal victory in Switzerland and will not be extradited

to the United States, lawyers said. Instead he will be sent to Russia.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0512300260dec30,1,3629693.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true>

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**A New Breed of Nuclear Reactors?**

William H. Hannum, Gerald E. Marsh and George S. Stanford of Argonne National Laboratory have published an article in **Scientific American about the "Smarter Use of Nuclear Waste"**. A safer, more sustainable nuclear power cycle could be based on the advanced liquid metal reactor (ALMR) design developed in the 1980s by researchers at Argonne National Laboratory. Look at: [http://blog.sciam.com/index.php?title=a\\_new\\_breed\\_of\\_nuclear\\_reactors&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1](http://blog.sciam.com/index.php?title=a_new_breed_of_nuclear_reactors&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1)

### **AND FINALLY THIS**

The U.S. DOE and the National Nuclear Security Administration have issued a **Request for Proposals for advanced scientific computing research.**

Proposals are specifically requested in applications to: accelerator science, astrophysics, climate modeling, computational biology, fusion science, groundwater modeling, high energy physics, nuclear physics, quantum chromodynamics, materials sciences, radiation transport and turbulence.

**Petascale computers** will be capable of doing thousands of trillions of calculations per second. A simulation that would take 19 years to run on today's teraflop (1 trillion

calculations/second) computers will only require a single week on a petascale computer. **Request for details:**

[http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC\\_ID=19421&BT\\_CODE=PR\\_PR](http://www.doe.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=19421&BT_CODE=PR_PR)

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