

Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has voted to approve a final design certification rule for the AP1000 advanced reactor design, submitted by Westinghouse Electric Co. in March 2002. The certification, which will be contained in the NRC's amended regulations, will be the fourth issued under the agency's new reactor licensing process for standard design certification and will be valid for 15 years. "Several utilities have said they're interested in applying for licenses to build new reactors," said Jim Dyer, Director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. "Once this design certification is published as a final rule, a utility can reference the AP1000 in a combined license application." Press release NRC: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-168.html>. Further information on the AP1000 review can be found on the NRC's web site at this address: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/design-cert/ap1000.html>. The AP1000 is the first Generation III+ plant to receive such certification. Westinghouse Senior Vice President Daniel S. Lipman said achieving Design Certification is another in a series of positive developments that will ultimately culminate in new plant construction in the United States. Press release by Westinghouse: http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TICK=WE&STORY=/www/story/12-30-2005/0004240715&EDATE=Dec+30,+2005

NUCLEAR POLICY

Iran will shortly resume nuclear fuel research, part of its controversial nuclear program which had been suspended during talks with the European Union. Mohammad Saidi, deputy head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, said the research would be supervised by the IAEA. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4577744.stm

Pakistan is negotiating the purchase of between six and eight nuclear power reactors from China during the next decade in the most ambitious expansion yet of the country's nuclear energy

capability. The deal could cost \$7bn-\$10bn and would involve adding 3,600-4,800 megawatts of capacity using a series of 600MW reactors. The plants are expected to be completed by 2025, with construction starting by 2015, a senior Pakistani official told the Financial Times. <http://news.ft.com/cms/s/0edd06ac-7bbe-11da-ab8e-0000779e2340.html>

URANIUM

SXR Uranium One reported that it has received a revised mineral resource estimation for its **Dominion uranium project in South Africa** which shows a significant increase in indicated and

inferred uranium resources, and a 50% increase in the indicated uranium resource grade. **Press release:** <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/January2006/03/c4446.html>

CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT

International Isotopes Inc. announced the completion of the construction and initial operational testing of its Fluorine Extraction Process production plant. In 2006, the company will begin fluoride gas production and work towards providing qualification samples as necessary to obtain supply agreement contracts. In addition to the fluoride gases, the company also believes there may be significant markets for the byproducts of the fluorine extraction process such as depleted uranium oxides. **Press release:** <http://www.intisoid.com/pr/PR01-03-06.pdf>

NUCLEAR FUEL

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission announced its decisions to renew the Operating Licences for General Electric Canada Company's two nuclear fuel facilities located in Toronto and Peterborough, Ontario. The licences for both facilities will come into effect on January 1, 2006 and will be valid for a five-year period. The Commission requests that CNSC staff present to the Commission status reports on the performance of each facility during the first half of the licence terms. **Press release:** http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/media/news/news_release.cfm?news_release_id=175

The Records of Proceedings, including the **Reasons for Decision** ([Toronto Facility](#), [Peterborough Facility](#)) and transcripts of the hearing are available on the CNSC Web site at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca.

Russia has reportedly agreed to release low-enriched uranium for the Tarapur nuclear plant in the first half of this year although last-minute negotiations are still on to clinch the deal. The Tarapur plant is at present functioning on what experts describe as a blend of India MOX fuel and Russia's LEU fuel supply that had last been released in 2001 in the face of strong criticism from the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Since then, Moscow had taken the position that it could not release any more fuel without required clearances from the NSG, which is however seen to be more favourable since the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal. <http://www.iht.com/getina/files/300174.html>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

Spain: A meeting of the Nuclear Safety Committee CSN has ratified a proposal from its regulatory committee to **fine the nuclear power station Vandellos II** for three serious faults. Nota de prensa: <http://www.csn.es/plantillas/index.jsp>

Seeking to boost its power output, expand its nuclear waste storage capabilities and add 20 years to its license, the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant is looking forward to a busy 2006. Dry cask storage - the plant's plan to store highly radioactive nuclear waste in concrete and steel casks on its grounds in Vernon - needs only to get approval

from the state Public Service Board, which could issue a decision by April. The casks themselves already have a generic license from the NRC.
<http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060103/REPOSITORY/601030312/1002/NEWS02>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Spescom Software Inc. a provider of enterprise content and configuration management solutions, announced that **NuStart Energy LLC has selected Spescom eB to provide a system to support NuStart in preparing its license application** to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. **Press release:**
http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release_html_b1?release_id=105038

REPROCESSING, MOX

The recent signing of a bill by President Bush that provides \$50 million for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel has rekindled a highly charged debate on how to deal with nuclear waste. The Center for Advanced Nuclear Fuel-Cycles at the University of Wisconsin, seeks to modify the PUREX process so that the uranium is separated and the plutonium remains mixed with the other waste. Before any money is spent on research there needs to be a good, plausible plan, said Frank von

Hippel, a nuclear physicist and professor of public and international affairs at Princeton.

<http://www.jsonline.com/alive/news/jan06/381471.asp>. More on the discussion:
<http://freeinternetpress.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=5347>

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

The projected cost of cleaning up the sites of Britain's old nuclear power stations is likely to leap to more than £70bn when new figures are published early this year. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), set up last April to supervise state-owned nuclear plants, said it was "almost certain" that its initial estimate of £56bn - itself the equivalent of a charge of £800 for every adult and child in the country - would have to be revised upwards.
<http://news.independent.co.uk/environment/article336256.ece>

AND FINALLY THIS

If you are looking for a specialty license plate for your car, the State of Nevada has just the ticket. An **atomic license plate** that commemorates the contributions made by the Nevada Test Site is now on sale. Pictures of the plate:
<http://www.klastv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4295950&nav=168Y>

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