

# Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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**The French CEA has reacted to the announcement of President Jaques Chirac concerning a new G4 NPP:** "La conception de ce prototype est assurée par le CEA. La décision du chef de l'Etat de mettre en service pour 2020 un réacteur de recherche pour la 4ème génération de réacteurs nucléaires va ainsi permettre au CEA de tester un de ces concepts. Avec ce calendrier, les premiers réacteurs de génération IV devraient voir le jour à l'horizon 2040." **Press release and a press kit** about future reactor systems: <http://www.cea.fr/fr/actualites/articles.asp?id=706>

The French president also announced the **creation of an independent surveillance agency:** "J'ai demandé au Gouvernement de créer par la loi sur la transparence nucléaire, dès cette année, une autorité indépendante chargée du contrôle de la sécurité nucléaire, de la radioprotection et de l'information." **Statement of the president:** [http://www.elysee.fr/elysee/francais/interventions/discours\\_et\\_declarations/2006/janvier/allocation\\_du\\_president\\_de\\_la\\_republique\\_a\\_l\\_occasion\\_des\\_voeux\\_aux\\_forces\\_vives.37533.html](http://www.elysee.fr/elysee/francais/interventions/discours_et_declarations/2006/janvier/allocation_du_president_de_la_republique_a_l_occasion_des_voeux_aux_forces_vives.37533.html)

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## **NUCLEAR POLICY**

**Ukraine is looking to develop more nuclear power capabilities to reduce its reliance on Russian gas,** Ukrainian Prime Minister Yuri Yekhanurov said in an interview with a German newspaper. "We are already meeting more than half our energy needs via nuclear power (and) must increase the capacity of our nuclear power stations," he said. <http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2006/01/06/afx2432288.html>

**Germany: After the natural gas crisis with Russia the Federal Minister for the Environment Sigmar Gabriel confirmed the policy of phasing out nuclear energy.** His complete statement during a press conference (in German):

[http://www.bmu.de/reden/bundesumweltminister\\_sigmar\\_gabriel/doc/36495.php](http://www.bmu.de/reden/bundesumweltminister_sigmar_gabriel/doc/36495.php)

**Turkey:** Although the gas crisis did not affect the country directly, it caused a great deal of anxiety. Almost 40 percent of electricity is produced from natural gas. The Turkish Ministry of Energy began preparations for a 10-year action plan. The aim is to increase the number of varieties of energy sources, including nuclear and decrease its dependence on foreign energy sources.

<http://www.zaman.com/?bl=economy&alt=&hn=28405>

**Lithuania could extend the life of its Soviet-era Ignalina nuclear power plant. Talks to build a power bridge with Poland have failed,** meaning the Baltic country could be cut off from

Western Europe, the government said in a statement after a high-level meeting with energy experts. "Therefore, after the closure of Ignalina AE, Lithuania would be isolated from the European Union's electricity grid. Therefore ... this raises the possibility of extending the operation of Ignalina AE." Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas was quoted as saying.

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L06621220.htm>

## **URANIUM**

**The number of companies exploring for uranium in Australia has jumped from five in 2003 to more than 70** today. But while exploration is legal across the country, no new mines can come online in the states without a change to Australian Labor Party policy. The Shadow Minister for Industry and Resources Martin Ferguson is heading a push to have the policy overturned.

<http://s7digital.com/signature/sign-stories.php?id=540>

**Zimbabwe: A consortium of small-scale miners** has lined up foreign companies as partners in uranium mining. The Zimbabwe Miners Federation (ZMF) president, George Kawonza, said that the small-scale miners had started consultations on the exploration of uranium.

<http://www.zimbabwechronicle.com/inside.aspx?sectid=1073&cat=8>

## **NUCLEAR FUEL**

At the University of Idaho engineers are working to develop a thermocouple that will measure high temperatures during

**irradiation tests at the INL's Advanced Test Reactor.** Professor John Crepeau: "Currently the U.S. government is trying to develop a new generation of reactors to operate at higher temperatures. **Irradiation data are needed to verify the performance of the new fuels and materials** that will be used in these reactors. What we're trying to do is develop thermocouples – essentially thermometers that measure higher temperatures in a radiation environment." **Statement:**

<http://www.today.uidaho.edu/details.aspx?id=3367&sctn=news>

## **REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES**

**The French nuclear safety authority published the complete regulations concerning nuclear emergencies:** "La circulaire complétant les dispositions de la directive interministérielle du 7 avril 2005 sur l'action des pouvoirs publics en cas de situation d'urgence radiologique est en ligne." Texts available at:

<http://www.asn.gouv.fr/textes/indexThe matiqueV2.asp?UrgenceRadiologique=TRUE&itemUrgence1=TRUE&index7=TRUE#haut>

**Exelon Corp.'s proposed acquisition of Public Service Enterprise Group Inc. to create the largest U.S. utility** would save New Jersey customers up to \$1.5 billion over 10 years, Exelon chief executive officer John W. Rowe said yesterday. The Chicago-based company is offering to refund \$120 million to customers of Public Service's PSE&G, New Jersey's largest utility, after the \$15.5 billion deal closes, Rowe said during a hearing in Newark. Purchase of the Newark utility would make Exelon the largest U.S. electricity producer and

**the largest operator of nuclear power plants in the USA.**

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/business/13551570.htm>

**South Africa: A loose bolt has apparently been bouncing around inside a generator at Koeberg nuclear power station and may have caused the "major equipment failure".** The generator fault was discovered during the unit's return to service after a scheduled shut-down for refueling, maintenance last month. Specialists from France are currently in Cape Town to try to establish the cause of the fault at Koeberg's Unit 1.

[http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=14&art\\_id=vn20060108130233485C155993](http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=14&art_id=vn20060108130233485C155993)

The U.S. NRC staff has issued **orders to four individuals prohibiting their involvement in NRC-regulated activities.** "The four individuals subject to the Orders, including three former utility managers, engaged in deliberate misconduct by providing inaccurate and incomplete information about the extent of reactor vessel **head cleaning and inspection,**" at Davis-Besse NPP said James Caldwell, NRC Regional Administrator. **Press release and more** <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-001iii.html>

The NRC provided to Entergy Corp. a draft confirmatory order that would require **Entergy to install back-up power to the emergency notification system at its Indian Point nuclear power facility.** The confirmatory order, once issued, will require the Indian Point plant to install back-up power for its entire alert and notification system, ranging from activation command to the

actual alert devices, including sirens, receivers, transmitters and sensors. **Press release:** <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-003.html>

## ***NUCLEAR INDUSTRY***

**AREVA has chosen ANSYS as a preferred supplier of simulation software** for three years. ANSYS software provides design optimization solutions for a wide variety of equipment used in AREVA's nuclear projects and is used to perform multi-field analyses, such as seismic calculations of concrete buildings, thermo-mechanical fatigue of pressure vessels, and cask transport calculations," said Pierrick Brehier, Structural Calculation Manager at SGN (AREVA companies). **Press release:** <http://www.ansys.com/default.asp>

## ***TRANSPORT***

**Switzerland:** A transport and storage cask with 52 spent fuel elements was transported without incidents from the Swiss nuclear power plant **Leibstadt to the central storage facility Würenlingen (Zwilag).** **Press release:** [http://www.zwilag.ch/infocenter/news\\_media\\_detail.asp](http://www.zwilag.ch/infocenter/news_media_detail.asp)

## ***REPROCESSING, MOX***

**Japanese power companies said a maximum amount of 6.5 tons of plutonium can be burned annually** at nuclear plants. The 11 companies released for the first time their plans on how they will use plutonium. The Federation of Electric Power Companies

of Japan plans to put the pluthermal power generation under way at 16 or 18 power plants by the end of fiscal 2010. <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20060108a5.htm>

### **STORAGE AND WASTE**

**Teledyne Technologies Inc.** announced that Teledyne Brown Engineering, Inc., a producer of nuclear-quality containers since 2000, has been awarded a **\$7.9 million subcontract by Washington Savannah River Company (WSRC) to deliver an additional 1,056 containers** over the next four years. The canisters built by Teledyne Brown will be used to contain vitrified high-level nuclear waste for permanent storage and disposal. **Press release:** <http://www.teledyne.com/news/wsra.asp>

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

Following a European-wide competitive tendering process, **UKAEA has selected the BAND Alliance to deliver a plant to treat liquid and solid radioactive wastes that are a legacy of reprocessing fast reactor fuel at Dounreay.** The Alliance consists of prime contractor AMEC and British Nuclear Group Project Services Ltd, NIS Ltd, DGP International and Weir Strachan & Henshaw. **The new plant is expected to cost in the region of £100 million to design and build.** Its primary role will be to condition wastes arising from the clean-out of underground tanks used to store liquids from the historical reprocessing of fast reactor fuel. **Press release:** [http://www.ukaea.org.uk/press/2006/06\\_01\\_06.html](http://www.ukaea.org.uk/press/2006/06_01_06.html)

**Great Britain: The removal of the final fuel element from Bradwell Magnox Reactor 2** marks the successful completion of a 33 month defuelling programme which began back in March 2003. Staff will now begin to concentrate on dispatching fuel stored in the Site's ponds to the reprocessing plant at Sellafield. **Press release:** <http://www.britishnucleargroup.com/content.php?pageID=33&nID=675>

**AmerenUE** and the Missouri Public Service Commission agreed that the company's current electric rates contribute enough to its nuclear **decommissioning trust fund.** The company estimates it will cost \$586.5 million in 2005 dollars to decommission the Callaway nuclear plant. [http://stlouis.bizjournals.com/stlouis/stories/2006/01/02/daily53.html?jst=b\\_in\\_hl](http://stlouis.bizjournals.com/stlouis/stories/2006/01/02/daily53.html?jst=b_in_hl)

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**The Swiss Nuclear Safety Inspectorate HSK published a review of year 2005** in German: Die schweizerischen Kernanlagen waren 2005 in gutem Zustand und wurden korrekt und sicher betrieben. Die HSK klassierte 14 Vorkommnisse (Vorjahr: 8) in den fünf Kernkraftwerken sowie 2 Vorkommnisse (Vorjahr: 1) im Paul Scherrer Institut. **Press release** (you have to click News): <http://www.hsk.psi.ch/deutsch/infos/start2.htm>

**Environmental monitoring of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory** indicates no adverse impact to public health or the environment. **Summary and full report:**

[http://www.llnl.gov/pao/news/news\\_releases/2006/NR-06-01-01.html](http://www.llnl.gov/pao/news/news_releases/2006/NR-06-01-01.html)

The U.S. National Science Foundation published research results which provide evidence that **global climate change may have quickly disrupted ocean processes and lead to drastic shifts in environments around the world. Scientists probed a four- to seven-degree warming period that occurred some 55 million years ago** during the closing stages of the Paleocene and the beginning of the Eocene eras. They uncovered a monumental reversal in the circulation of deep-ocean patterns around the world. It was triggered by the global warming the world experienced at

the time. News:

[http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=105692&org=olpa&from=news](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=105692&org=olpa&from=news). And more from:

[http://scrippsnews.ucsd.edu/article\\_detail.cfm?article\\_num=708](http://scrippsnews.ucsd.edu/article_detail.cfm?article_num=708)

### *AND FINALLY THIS*

**Even for space exploration you need to study environmental impacts.**

NASA has published a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Development of Advanced Radioisotope Power Systems: <http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewsr.html?pid=19184>

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