

Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

The Dutch NPP Borssele can operate for 60 years until 2033, if the parliament approves an agreement submitted by State Secretary for Environment Pieter van Geel. In exchange the **utility EPZ and its shareholders Delta and Essent pledge to contribute 250-million euros for the development of CO2-free energy sources** between now and 2012. The State Secretary outlines the plan already in September: "The coalition agreement provided for decommissioning Borssele, but this would entail paying substantial compensation for losses. If the Lower House agrees that Borssele can be kept in operation, that in itself would contribute to climate-friendly electricity production after 2013, because there are technical possibilities to continue safe operations after 2013. The aim of this package is to double the climate benefit, in terms of reduced CO2 emissions, from keeping Borssele running. **Speech in English:**

<http://international.vrom.nl/pagina.html?id=9556>

Tuesdays statement of government and background material (in Dutch):

http://www.regering.nl/actueel/nieuwsarchief/2006/01January/10/0-42-1_42-75186.jsp

Press release of the ministry, letter to the parliament and draft of agreement available at:

<http://www.vrom.nl/pagina.html?id=22385>

Statement and history by the Foundation Borssele 2004+ <http://www.kerncentrale.nl/>

Enercon Services, Inc. has been awarded a multi-million dollar contract by NuStart Energy to prepare Combined License Applications for new nuclear power plants.

The project will be executed by a team of companies led by Enercon, which includes Burns and Roe Enterprises of Oradell, N. J., William Lettis and Associates of Walnut Creek Calif., MACTEC Engineering and Consulting of Charlotte, N. C. and McCallum/Turner of Evergreen, Colo. One application will be developed for the Westinghouse AP 1000 nuclear plant design for the two units at the TVA Bellefonte site in Alabama. The other application will be developed for the General Electric (GE) ESBWR at the Entergy Grand Gulf site in Mississippi. Press release:

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/01-11-2006/0004246911&EDATE=>

NUCLEAR POLICY

Pierre Goldschmidt, former Deputy Director General of the IAEA, called for the UN Security Council to adopt a generic and binding resolution that would automatically authorize three

steps if a state is found in non-compliance by the IAEA. Goldschmidt's argument follows **Iran's announcement that it will resume its nuclear research program and conduct experiments with nuclear fuel. Press release and paper:** <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publ>

[ications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=17868
&prog=zgp&proj=znpp](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/steo/pub/contents.html)

The U.S. Energy Information Administration published its **short-term energy outlook. In 2006 and 2007**, total domestic energy demand is projected to increase at an annual rate of 1.4 percent, contributing to continued market tightness and projected high prices for oil and natural gas. **Electricity demand is expected to increase by 1.3 percent in 2006 and an additional 1.6 percent in 2007.** Projected electricity prices to the residential sector range from 8.0 cents to 13.8 cents per kwh. **Outlook:** <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/steo/pub/contents.html>

URANIUM

Mega Uranium launched a friendly off-market bid for South Australian-based Hindmarsh Resources. Mega offered \$19.7 million for the recently listed company which had a market cap of just over \$8 million. A successful takeover, scheduled for March, would see Hindmarsh's tenements covering 13,600sq km across South Australia added to the rights already held by Mega. The \$213 million Canadian company also holds a number of uranium assets in Argentina, Mongolia, Africa and Canada. **Press release:** <http://www.mega uranium.com/database/2006-01-10-Hindmarsh.pdf>

Mega homepage: <http://www.mega uranium.com/news.asp>

Cash Minerals Ltd. released a review of its 2005 activities and announced its 2006 plans for further developing its coal and uranium projects. **Review:** <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/rele>

[ases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=574815](http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=574815)

Quincy Energy Corp. provided a review of its exploration programs in the United States and Canada. **Review:** http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release.html_b1?release_id=105664

Uranium Power Corp. provided an update on progress made during 2005 on its joint venture properties with US Energy Corp (USEG) and announced plans for 2006. **Update:** <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=574772>

Denison Mines Inc. has submitted the project description of the Midwest project to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, the Environmental Assessment Branch of Saskatchewan Environment and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. **Press release:** <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=574866>

NUCLEAR FUEL

The United States has backed a plan by Australia to sell uranium to China for nuclear power as long as there are strict safeguards to stop it falling into the hands of terrorists. US Energy Secretary Sam Bodman gave the backing as he attended a major international climate change conference in Sydney. <http://www.theage.com.au/news/Nationa>

[/US-backs-Australias-uranium-plan/2006/01/11/1136863279473.html](http://US-backs-Australias-uranium-plan/2006/01/11/1136863279473.html)

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

Canada: Aecon Group Inc. announced that a joint venture in which its industrial division is a 50% partner has secured a \$204 million contract at Bruce A generating station. The contract is part of Bruce Power's refurbishment and restart of units 1 and 2 at the Bruce A station located near Tiverton, Ontario. Work on the project begins immediately and will take approximately 3 1/2 years to complete. Under the contract, the joint venture will complete a large number of specific refurbishment projects throughout both nuclear units. **Press release:** <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/January2006/10/c1288.html>

Bruce Power has launched a new-look **website to provide a quick and easy way to stay current on the Bruce A restart project.** "The restart represents one of the most complicated engineering projects Ontario has seen since Bruce A was built more than 30 years ago", Chief Executive Officer Duncan Hawthorne says in a video introduction.

Press release: <http://www.brucepower.com/pagecontent.aspx?navuid=1211&dtuid=83013>

GSE Systems Inc. a provider of real time simulation and training solutions announced that Rosenergoatom and Leningrad NPP issued a letter of intent and authorization for GSE to proceed on a major upgrade to the **Leningrad Unit 1 Full Scope Simulator.** The Leningrad nuclear plant is undergoing significant

upgrades which are required to be reflected in the simulator for operator training. **Press release:** <http://www.gses.com/pdf/LNPPUnit1PR1.pdf>

TRANSPORT

A French court has found Greenpeace guilty of obstruction and material damage. Orders to pay fines and damages were given to leaders and militants of the association who, following orders given from the highest level of **Greenpeace, blocked plutonium transports** between the La Hague processing plant and the Melox recycling plant. **Press release:** http://www.aveva.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=arevagroup_en%2FPressRelease%2FPressReleaseFullTemplate&cid=1134047554896&p=1028798801053

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

U.S. DOE and the State of Washington have entered into a settlement agreement that will lead to a final order and the dismissal of the challenge to **Hanford's Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** in a lawsuit. DOE, with Washington State as a cooperating agency, will prepare a new EIS that will include updated, site-wide groundwater analysis. **Press release and agreement:** <http://www.energy.gov/news/2929.htm>

ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE

The U.S. NRC's **Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards** has re-elected **Dr. Graham B. Wallis** as **Chairman,**

Dr. William J. Shack as Vice-Chairman, and John D. Sieber as Member-at-Large. The ACRS advises the Commission independently from the NRC staff on the safety and safeguards aspects of nuclear facilities and the adequacy of safety standards. **Press release:** <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-005.html>

Michel Bouvet was appointed new director of strategy and external relations of the French Institut de Radioprotection et du Surete Nucleaire. **Press release** (click presse): <http://www.irsn.org/>

MISCELLANEOUS

Oak Ridge National Laboratory will consolidate and expand the lab's research and development in radiation detection technologies. The goal of a new Center for Radiation Detection Materials and Systems is to establish ORNL as the central U.S. laboratory for innovation and development in the field of radiation detection materials and systems. **Press release:** http://www.ornl.gov/info/press_releases/get_press_release.cfm?ReleaseNumber=mr20060109-00

AND FINALLY THIS

The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission found that reliability standards are not being met during certain conditions, and that the long-term **reliability of the regional power grid in the Washington D.C., area is compromised.** FERC directed the PJM Interconnection and Potomac Electric Power Co. to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to preserve reliability in the region. **Release:** <http://www.ferc.gov/press-room/press-releases/2006/2006-1/01-09-06-pepco.asp>

USA: The Oyster Creek nuclear power plant will receive additional oversight. During an event at the plant on Aug. 6, a large amount of sea grass built up on screens of the plant's water intake structure meeting the values for the declaration of an unusual event and subsequently an alert. While an unusual event was declared – even though conditions had returned to normal – an alert was never declared. **Press release:** <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-002i.html>

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