

Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said Friday on national television: "We must cooperate with international allies on a serious political and economic level so that we can have a full cycle of processing and production of nuclear fuel." Yushchenko said providing Ukraine the capability of producing its own nuclear fuel was part of his plan for creating "an independent energy balance" within five years. News: <http://www.forbes.com/business/businessstech/feeds/ap/2006/01/13/ap2449627.html>

At the same day Victor **Yushchenko met with Hans Blix**, Head of the Chernobyl Shelter Fund Donor Assembly. http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/data/1_5503.html. **The Ukraine/EBRD Joint Committee overseeing Chernobyl Shelter Fund (CSF) and EBRD-administered Nuclear Safety Account projects discussed issues** such as VAT reimbursement procedures, Ukraine's contribution to the CSF and necessary provisions in Ukraine's state budget to support the project. Both sides had agreed to reestablish the Joint Committee as a top level coordination group at a moment where the Shelter Implementation Plan reaches a crucial point. The awarding of the contract for the construction of a New Safe Confinement, the single most important project, is expected within the next few months. **Press release by EBRD:** <http://www.ebrd.com/new/pressrel/2006/2jan13.htm>

NUCLEAR POLICY

The Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate met at Sydney. It "recognized that renewable energy and nuclear power will represent an increasing share of global energy supply." **Communiqué:** <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/or/2006/59158.htm>. **Charter:** <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/or/2006/59162.htm>. The **work plan** does not mention nuclear power: <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/or/2006/59161.htm>. In his statement **U.S. Energy Secretary Bodman** confirmed the goal to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of the U.S. economy by 18 percent by 2012. The U.S. has initiated or joined a

number of multilateral technology collaborations, including the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum, the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy, the Generation IV International Forum, the Methane to Markets Partnership, and the ITER fusion project. **Bodman's speech:** <http://www.doe.gov/news/2964.htm>

France: A joint press release by Francois Loos, deputy minister for industry, and Nelly Olin, minister of ecology and sustainable development, reports about **some conclusions of the ongoing debate on nuclear waste policy. Among them is the need to develop a "regional project"** for counties that are willing to help in the

search for long-term waste management solutions. **Press release** (in French – click *actualités* and *industrie*): <http://www.minefi.gouv.fr/minefi/actualites/index.htm>. Look also at **homepage** of the organization responsible for the debate: *Commission Particulière du Débat Public Gestion des Déchets Radioactifs*: <http://www.debatpublic-dechets-radioactifs.org/>

The **U.S. and India concluded a workshop on civilian nuclear energy**. “These discussions are an important step in establishing a foundation for cooperation on civil use of nuclear energy,” said R. Shane Johnson, director of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Nuclear Energy. **Press release**: <http://nuclear.gov/home/01-12-06.html>

URANIUM

Uranerz Energy Corp announced that it has entered into an Option and Purchase Agreement with Excalibur Industries on six mineral properties located in the **Powder River Basin** of Northeast Wyoming. **Press release**: <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=575199>

Laramide Resources Ltd announced that it has committed to become the lead investor in a **new Australian uranium company called Uranium Equities Ltd**. UEL will be the new name of an existing publicly listed ASX explorer and developer called Bullion Minerals Ltd and will focus its activities solely on uranium exploration and development. The new company will be headed up by Mr. Mark Chalmers. **Press release**:

<http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=575339>

NUCLEAR FUEL

India: Nuclear Fuel Complex, an industrial unit under the Department of Atomic Energy, has bagged international environmental and occupational health and safety standard certifications from Det Norske Veritas (ISO 14001:2004, OHSAS 18001: 1999). News: <http://www.hindu.com/2006/01/11/stories/2006011108120400.htm>

Novastar Resources Ltd., a mining firm engaged in the exploration of Thorium, has announced that it is in formal discussions relating to a business combination with **Thorium Power Inc**. Novastar COO Dr. Charles Merchant said "We expect the merger to allow for the production of nuclear power with enhanced proliferation resistance and the ability to produce electricity through the elimination of existing plutonium stockpiles." **Press release**: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/060110/2006010006119.html?.v=1>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Russia: The practical implementation of the project of a pioneer **floating nuclear heating and power plant of small capacity** (NHPP of SC) in Severodvinsk will start in 2006, read an official statement of Rosenergoatom published on Thursday, Jan. 12. News: <http://www.mosnews.com/money/2006/01/13/floatingnuclear.shtml>

TRANSPORTS

A new round of testing has found that casks used to transport nuclear waste are capable of surviving a catastrophe such as **Baltimore's Howard Street Tunnel fire** with no more than minor releases of radioactivity, according to a report presented to the NRC's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste. News: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.nuclear11jan11,1,5524664.story?coll=bal-local-headlines&ctrack=1&cset=true>

STORAGE AND WASTE

Great Britain: A team of the National Decommissioning Agency NDA visited the US to investigate **decommissioning and low level waste disposal methods**. The main purpose of the trip was to investigate how US contractors and the DOE deal with the task of low level waste treatment and disposal and to incorporate this key learning into the forthcoming **Invitation to Tender documentation for the LLW repository site at Drigg** which is scheduled to be competed in summer 2006. The team will play an instrumental role in the development of a robust and cohesive LLW strategy, including a "Driggcentric" strategy. **Summary and report about U.S. waste disposal:** [http://www.nda.gov.uk/News--News_\(1360\).aspx?pg=1360](http://www.nda.gov.uk/News--News_(1360).aspx?pg=1360)

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

U. S. DOE anticipates issuing a **solicitation for performance of waste**

management, decontamination, deactivation, and disposition of facilities, and infrastructure/landlord activities at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) site. West Valley Nuclear Services Company LLC is the incumbent contractor and its contract currently expires on December 31, 2006. The estimated annual value of the anticipated contract is in the range of \$75 million per year through CY 2010. **Details** at DOE website: <http://www.fbo.gov/spg/DOE/PAM/HQ/DE%2DRP30%2D06CC30000/SynopsisP.html>.

Great Britain: Having passed the half way mark in its first financial year the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has reviewed the progress of projects across all twenty of its sites. **NDA now offers workforce incentive for accelerated clean-up.** News release: [http://www.nda.gov.uk/News--News_\(1270\).aspx?pg=1270](http://www.nda.gov.uk/News--News_(1270).aspx?pg=1270)

The U.S. DOE will replace the **Hanford contracts** held by Fluor Hanford and CH2M Hill Hanford Group with three new contracts. News: <http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/-doe-plan-includes-replacing-2-major-hanford-contracts-/2006/jan/1285276.htm>

REPOSITORIES

Great Britain: Scientists and technical experts who have been advising the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) have now **completed their assessment of the various options of nuclear waste options** short listed by the Committee. CoRWM is now inviting stakeholders to

comment on their findings, marking a major milestone in CoRWM's work towards recommending **a strategy for the long term management of the UK's radioactive waste**. Press release: <http://www.corwm.org.uk/content-901>

The Nirex report "The viability of a phased geological repository concept for the long-term management of the UK's radioactive waste" and the Environment Agency's review of it, are both public domain documents (contrary to a press report). The 'viability report' is [available](#) on the Nirex website and the Agency's response can be obtained via its website www.environment-agency.gov.uk. **Clarification** by Nirex: <http://www.nirex.co.uk/index/inews.htm>

Exhibitions about **radioactive particles in the marine environment near Dounreay** opened in Caithness. It is part of a program to involve the public in identifying a future strategy for particles. It coincides with the publication by UKAEA of its most comprehensive account yet of the history of the particles and the extensive research undertaken in recent years, including independent assessment of the hazard and risk. The 60-page Dounreay Particles Technical Resume summarizes the work contained in several hundred reports and archive material. **Press release:** http://www.ukaea.org.uk/news/2006/09_01_06.html. **Dounreay Particles Technical Resume** and a newsletter issued last month, can be found at

http://www.ukaea.org.uk/dounreay/particles_in_marine_environment.htm

MISCELLANEOUS

The U.S. DOE initiated the process to **compete the management and operating contract for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory** for the first time since LLNL's creation. Parties interested in competing for the contract have to submit an Expression Of Interest (EOI) that describes their capabilities. **Press Release:** http://www.nnsa.doe.gov/docs/newsreleases/2006/PR_2006-01-13_NA-06-01.htm. A website has been established for the dissemination of all **information related to the competition:** <http://www.doeal.gov/llnlCompetition>.

AND FINALLY THIS

Friday 13th: Greenpeacers have produced a video clip, which does *not* show how the **airplane crashes into the nuclear power plant**. They are obviously convinced that alluding and implying works better, than anything else. Video can be download from <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/>

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