

Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

Great Britain: The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), AMEC plc and CH2M HILL have formed a new alliance to target opportunities in the UK's £56 billion (£2bn a year) nuclear clean up market. The alliance heralds the start of an open and competitive market in UK civil nuclear decommissioning and responds to the government's landmark decision to open this market to competition. The alliance will initially target selected sites among the UK's 20 civil nuclear sites which are now being opened to competition by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). Around half of these are expected to be bid by the end of 2008. **Beyond this market, the partners will explore further international opportunities such as the multi-billion pound market in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union,** building on the alliance partners' experience in these regions. The move will enable UKAEA, a public sector company that has historically led a significant share of the UK's nuclear clean-up work, to compete on a new and stronger basis in this evolving market. **Press release:** http://www.ukaea.org.uk/news/2006/16_01_06.html

France: The French repository organization Andra has produced a report which concludes that the disposal of radioactive waste in geological clay formations seems to be technical feasible: L'IRSN a rendu début décembre à la DGSNR, son avis sur le dossier préparé par l'ANDRA, en application de la loi sur la gestion des déchets radioactifs, relatif à la faisabilité du stockage géologique en formation argileuse. Le rapport conclut qu'un stockage de déchets radioactifs dans la couche argileuse apparaît techniquement faisable. **Press release:** <http://www.irsn.org/>. See also: <http://www.andra.fr/sommaire.php3>

NUCLEAR POLICY

Europe: The European regulators in the organization Wenra (**Western European Nuclear Regulators Association**) have decided to harmonize the regulatory approach. The participating regulators are aiming to reach a goal to harmonize towards several hundred reference levels by the year 2010. **Three main areas of regulation are subject to the harmonization process; reactor safety,**

nuclear waste safety and decommissioning. Summary:

http://www.wenra.org/extra/news/?module_instance=1&id=6. The documents "Harmonisation of Reactor Safety in Wenra countries", "Decommissioning Safety Reference Levels Report", and "Waste and Spent Fuel Storage Safety Reference Levels Report" can be downloaded from the Wenra web page: http://www.wenra.org/extra/pod/?id=20&module_instance=1&action=pod_show

Germany: The Federal Ministry for Environment has stated that **switching remaining electricity production volumes from a younger NPP to an older plant** is only envisaged as an exception: "Under nuclear law, such a case needs the explicit approval of the environment minister."

Press release (in German):

http://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilungen/pressemitteilungen_ab_22112005/pm/36538.php

Britain's largest manufacturing union backed reviving the country's mothballed nuclear power program. Derek Simpson, general secretary of Amicus, said: "With renewable energy sources several decades away from providing more than a tiny minority of our energy needs we urgently need government policy to promote clean coal technology and nuclear power new builds." His **speech**:
<http://www.amicustheunion.org/default.aspx?page=3346>

URANIUM

SXR Uranium One hopes to raise up to \$85m to bring its South African project Dominion into production early next year as well as fund exploration and possible acquisitions, CEO Neal Froneman said. Construction of Dominion near Klerksdorp will cost \$112m and working capital of \$15m is also needed. Froneman said the uranium price is expected to peak to \$50-\$60/pound in the next couple of years before settling back to \$40-\$50. It is currently \$36.50. **Press release**:
<http://www.southerncrossres.com/files/sedar/Equity%20Financing.pdf>. More:

<http://www.miningmx.com/energy/806344.htm>

Australia: Shares in West Australian uranium explorers rocketed in response to the shock **resignation of the state's staunchly anti-nuclear premier, Dr Geoff Gallop**. Dr Gallop's fierce opposition to uranium mining has hampered opportunities for companies such as Rio Tinto, Paladin Resources, Redport Limited, Nova Energy and Uranex to make progress on their projects. News:
<http://www.smh.com.au/news/business/speculation-drives-uranium-miners-as-gallop-goes/2006/01/17/1137466989648.html>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

USA: NRG Energy Inc and Texas Genco LLC announced that they have received the required approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to transfer indirect ownership of the 44 percent interest in the South Texas Project Electric Generation Station. As a result of receiving this final required regulatory approval, both companies anticipate closing the transaction during last week of January. **Press release**:
<http://www.snl.com/irweblinkx/file.aspx?IID=4057436&FID=2059532>

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. is considering replacing the reactor vessel heads of the two nuclear reactors at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. "We are recommending that they be replaced based on what's happened at other plants." plant spokesman Jeff Lewis said. The replacements are expected to cost \$141 million and will be paid for by PG&E customers pending

approval by the state Public Utilities Commission. News:
<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/news/13626872.htm>

TRANSPORT

The tenth transport of vitrified nuclear residues from France to Belgium, announced by the Belgian utility Synatom and Cogema left the Cogema Logistics railway terminal in Valognes, France. It will be transported to the Belogprocess site in Dessel, Belgium. **Press release:**

http://www.cogema.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=cogema_en/communique/communique_full_template&c=communique&cid=1132047410824&p=1039482707194

STORAGE AND WASTE

Germany: The highest Bavarian Administrative Court has dismissed several lawsuits against intermediate storage facilities at NPPs Gundremmingen, Grafenrheinfeld and Isar. The complaints concerned the storage of casks **Castor V/52**. The court said that the necessary protection against **terrorist attacks** is guaranteed and excluded appeals. **Press release** of the court (in German):

<http://www.vgh.bayern.de/BayVGH/20060113.htm>

Great Britain: A nuclear waste dump on the Ayrshire coast is being examined to find out what is in it, after an inventory of its contents was accidentally destroyed. There is known to be about 6500 cubic meters of low-

level waste, mostly rubble, from the now defunct Hunterston A power station.

<http://www.sundayherald.com/53590>
<http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/54329.html>

REPOSITORIES

Finland: The Finish repository organization has published its working report [WR 2005-07 Host Rock Classification. Phase 3: Proposed Classification System \(HRC-System\)](#).

ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE

Philippe Garderet has been appointed **Scientific Vice President of Areva**. He will in particular be in charge of the ITER project for the group Alain Bucaille has replaced Philippe Garderet as Senior Vice President in charge of Research and Innovation. **Press release:** http://www.areva.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=arevagroup_en%2FPressRelease%2FPressReleaseFullTemplate&cid=1134047557479&p=1028798801053

MISCELLANEOUS

The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services seeking to make public a long-completed study of the **health effects of global nuclear weapons testing**. The report was produced by the **National Cancer Institute** and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **Press release:** <http://www.ananuclear.org/foia/fioaNR0106.html>

AND FINALLY THIS

Anti-Nimby-ism: Amid historically high energy prices, the prospect of rolling blackouts in Massachusetts this winter, and the absence of plans for

major new sources of in-state power, a diverse group has formed the Massachusetts Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance. **The group wants to counter NIMBY-ism (Not In My Backyard).** Website: <http://www.area-alliance.org/massarea/test/media.html>

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