Nuc...brief & link

2006-01-20 UT 02:20

NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

Great Britain: BAND alliance was selected by UKAEA for ILW conditioning & storage plant at Dounreay. The BAND consortium comprises British Nuclear Group Project Services, AMEC, NIS, DGP International and Weir Strachan & Henshaw. Further detailed contract start-up discussions continue between UKAEA and the consortium and, subject to DTI and NDA approval, a contract is expected to be signed in spring 2006. The contract will be delivered in two phases, design and construction. Press release: http://www.britishnucleargroup.com/content.php?pageID=31&nID=683

Great Britain's Department of Trade and Industry, Export Control Organization has published a guidance for exporters who want to export certain types of sensitive nuclear equipment, material and technology which are detailed in what is known as the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) "Trigger List", so called because exports of such material triggers the requirement for safeguards. The guidance can be downloaded from http://www.dti.gov.uk/export.control/applying/nsgtriggerlistguidance.htm

NUCLEAR POLICY

"Good and substantive progress" was made at the Sino-Australian talks on nuclear energy which concluded Thursday, a source from the Chinese delegation told Xinhua. "Both sides expressed their support for international non-proliferation efforts and commitment to cooperate in the peaceful use of nuclear energy while fulfilling their respective international obligations," said the source. News: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-01/19/content-4074439.htm

URANIUM

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will hold a hearing on the application by **COGEMA Resources** Inc. to extend the scope of its **Mining**

Equipment Development (MED) Program at the McClean Lake

Uranium Mine and Mill Operation. The MED Program is a small scale mining test program designed to determine the suitability of using specialized equipment on surface to extract ore from underground deposits. Notice of CNSC: http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/commission/pdf/2006-03-30-Notice2006-H-03-COGEMA-MEDProject-e.pdf

Cameco Corp's Crow Butte Resources solution uranium mine has received certification under the ISO 14001:2004 program, one of the most internationally recognized standards for environmental management systems. Press release: http://www.cameco.com/media_gateway/news_releases/2006/news_release.php?id=136

Paladin Resources Ltd has secured its first sales contract for a portion of its yellowcake production from the **Langer Heinrich Uranium** Mining Operation, scheduled for commissioning in September. This sales arrangement with a major US utility is subject to finalization of all necessary legal documentation. Wvatt Buck will assume the position of General Manager of Langer Heinrich Mining Operation based in Namibia. Press release: http://www.paladinresources.com.au/aur ora/assets/user content/File/01.19.06 99 78_%20Inaugural_Yellowcake_Sales%2 OContract_for_LH.pdf

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Germany's Commerzbank executives have expressed the bank's desire to finance the construction of the Bulgarian NPP in Belene. The bank executives told Bulgarian energy minister Rumen Ovcharov, currently on a visit to Munich, that Commerzbank would like to act as lead agent of the future syndicated loan for the construction of the NPP and to extend a 'substantial loan. News: http://news.dnevnik.bg/print.php?id=661

STORAGE AND WASTE

USA: The president of the Nuclear Energy Institute Frank Bowman expressed strong opposition to the bill "The Spent Nuclear Fuel On-Site Storage Security Act of 2005": "This legislation assumes that the Yucca Mountain repository will never open, while it offers no responsible alternative for the long-term safe disposal of used

nuclear fuel. Other provisions could cost billions of dollars since it does not meet the federal government's obligation to remove used fuel from nuclear facilities. And, new requirements for the on-site storage of this fuel could unnecessarily add hundreds of millions of dollars a year to nuclear plant operating costs." Letter to senators: http://www.nei.org/documents/Letter_B owman_Used_Fuel_1-17-06.pdf

The latest United Kingdom **Radioactive Waste Inventory was** published. It describes the stocks of radioactive waste held in the UK at 1 April 2004 (sic!), together with predictions of wastes arising into the future from the operation and decommissioning of current facilities. The forecast of total high level waste is 1,340 cubic metres, an 11% decrease from the last (2001) Inventory. For intermediate level waste the forecast is 217,000 cubic metres, a 2% increase and for low level waste the forecast is 2,060,000 cubic metres, a 35% increase. Summary and download of inventory: http://www.nirex.co.uk/index/inews.htm

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

DOE issued the waste determination for the treatment and stabilization of low activity salt-waste at the Savannah River Site allowing for significant reductions in environmental and health risks posed by the material. This clears the way for the removal and treatment of this waste. Stored in fortynine underground tanks, approximately 36 million gallons of radioactive waste is left over from plutonium production during the Cold War. Press release: http://www.doe.gov/news/3009.htm

REPOSITORIES

U.S. DOE's Office of Civilian
Radioactive Waste Management has
announced it will designate Sandia
National Laboratories as its lead
laboratory to integrate repository
science work for the Yucca Mountain
Project. That work, which is currently
overseen by OCRWM's contractor
Bechtel SAIC, will be led by Sandia.
Bechtel will continue to be responsible
for above ground design efforts, while
Sandia will concentrate on integrating all
post-closure science. Press release:
http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/newsroom/d
ocuments/sandia-lead pr.pdf

ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Chairman Nils J. Diaz has appointed
Jeanne Lopatto, a veteran of 22 years in
federal government, to the newly created
position of special assistant for Federal
and International Programs. Release:
http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-007.html

MISCELLANEOUS

World: The global annual temperature for combined land and

ocean surfaces in 2005 is 0.58°C (1.04°F), ranking 2nd, which is near the record global temperature that was established in 1998 under the influence of an extremely strong El Niño episode - although there was no such El Niño event in 2005. The annual report "Climate 2005" of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Climate Data Center is available at http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/2005/ann/global.html

AND FINALLY THIS

From next month, the nuclear power station Torness, Great Britain will have a film beamed on to the side of its main reactor hall. Thousands of motorists and rail passengers passing Torness every day will see a six-minute film, entitled Lumen De Lumine (Light Out Of Light), exploring the relationship between art and science. The film, which will be projected on to a space measuring 40 metres by 50 metres, was shot by film-maker Ken McMullen in conjunction with physicists at CERN, the European organisation for nuclear research.

http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=85882006

Nuc brief & link is a nuclear news service by NFCC distributed by e-mail three times a week. Chief Editor: Manfred Petroll, Director Research and Reports NFCC, Alexandria, USA, petroll@nfcc.ch. NFCC is not responsible for the content of sources and links. Your comments and observations are appreciated: nucbrief@nfcc.ch. © by NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting GmbH, Zürich, Switzerland, www.nfcc.ch. Redistribution is prohibited. Copyright infringement is a violation of national and international laws.