

# Nuc...brief & link

2006-01-23 UT 05:40

NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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The FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC), has agreed to pay \$28 million in penalties, restitution, and community service projects as part of an agreement to defer prosecution of the company, the U.S. Justice Department announced. Under the terms of the deferred prosecution agreement, FENOC admits that the government can prove that its employees, acting on its behalf, knowingly made false representations to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in the course of attempting to persuade the NRC that its Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station was safe to operate beyond December 31, 2001. "By misleading the NRC about its prior safety inspections, FENOC failed to meet its regulatory obligations and violated the public's trust," said Assistant Attorney General Sue Ellen Wooldridge for the Justice Department's Environmental and Natural Resources Division. "The deferred prosecution agreement entered today involves a full admission of responsibility by FENOC and includes a financial penalty that reflects the revenue that FENOC realized by misleading the NRC and delaying required safety inspections at the Davis-Besse facility." **Detailed press release of Justice Department:**

[http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2006/January/06\\_enrd\\_029%20.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2006/January/06_enrd_029%20.html). **Reaction of NRC:**  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-003iii.html>

**FirstEnergy regrets** "the significant performance deficiencies that led to the reactor head issue and accepts full responsibility for the failure to accurately communicate with the NRC. We have learned much from this experience, and FENOC is a better and stronger company today than in 2001 when this occurred," said FENOC President and Chief Nuclear Officer Gary R. Leidich. **Press release:**

[http://www.firstenergycorp.com/cache/fe\\_latestdevelopments.nsf/0\\_6F5C79024058E8CB852570FC005B0DAB\\_file\\_20060120DOJ-DBNewsReleaseWeb.pdf](http://www.firstenergycorp.com/cache/fe_latestdevelopments.nsf/0_6F5C79024058E8CB852570FC005B0DAB_file_20060120DOJ-DBNewsReleaseWeb.pdf)

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## **NUCLEAR POLICY**

An overview of political statements concerning **Iran**: <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,1864693,00.html>

**The U.S. Chamber of Commerce applauded progress by U.S. and Indian** negotiators that would result in India agreeing to segregate its civilian nuclear facilities from its strategic

facilities, a key step in achieving the broader goal of allowing the United States to share civilian nuclear technology with India. The Chamber is hosting a Coalition for Partnership with India (CPI) to marshal a broad public advocacy campaign. **Press release:**  
<http://www.uschamber.com/press/releases/2006/january/06-07.htm>.  
Remarks from a press conference with **Under Secretary of State Mr. Nicholas Burns in New Delhi** about his talks:

<http://www.state.gov/p/us/rm/2006/59491.htm>

## **URANIUM**

**Golden Valley Mines Ltd.** announced the principal terms of a letter of intent with Ditem Explorations Inc. allowing Ditem to earn up to a 60% interest in the Beartooth Island prospect, an uranium exploration property located in the the **Athabasca Basin**, Saskatchewan.

**Saskatchewan now accounts for 100% of Canadian production of uranium**, and is the world's largest producing region (producing approximately 30% of global supply), and hosts reserves of approximately 40 years at current production rates. Several world-class deposits are located in the **Athabasca Basin** including Rabbit Lake, Cluff Lake, and Key Lake. **Press release:** <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=576675>

**Triex Minerals Corp.** provided updates for ongoing exploration programs at its West Carswell, Mann Lake and Wollaston NE properties located in the Athabasca Basin. **Press release:** <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=576457>

## **NUCLEAR FUEL**

**Ukraine and Russia are preparing a new agreement on nuclear fuel supplies** to Ukrainian NPPs in 2006-2010 inclusive, Russian Atomic Energy

Agency (Rosatom) chief Sergei Kiriyeiko said. News: <http://www.interfax.kiev.ua/eng/go.cgi?31.20060121007>

## **REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES**

**South Africa: Unit 1 at Eskom's Koeberg nuclear power station outside of Cape Town is likely to remain shut down for a minimum of three months** while Eskom works to make repairs and find replacement parts for the generator, Eskom CEO Thulani Gcabashe disclosed. Unit 1 had been shut down for scheduled maintenance in December, with Unit 2 at Koeberg supplying the majority of the Western Cape's power supply. As the unit was returning to service on December 25, however, generator problems were experienced that caused an automatic shutdown, and the unit has remained out of service ever since. The CEO He cautioned that the **risk of further power outages in the region had risen**, however, due to Eskom's reliance on only one unit for baseload power generation over the next three months. **Press conference:** <http://iafrica.com/news/sa/825784.htm>

One of three reactors at the Palo Verde nuclear power plant could operate at significantly reduced power levels for weeks as **Arizona Public Service Co. explores ways to fix a vibrating emergency pipe. Palo Verde Unit 1** restarted although crews failed to find a quick fix for an "acoustical impact" that causes a shutdown cooling line to vibrate too much. APS officials say the plant can operate safely at reduced power levels until the problem is fixed. News: <http://www.azcentral.com/business/articl>

[es/0120paloverde21.html](http://www.aps.com/general_info/newsrelease/newsreleases/NewsRelease_306.html) Two weeks ago APS filed for an emergency rate relief with the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) and sent a letter detailing the company's position to nearly 160,000 APS customers. The letter highlights **APS' need for emergency rate relief to recover costs for fuel and purchased power** to serve its customers. **Press release and letter:** [http://www.aps.com/general\\_info/newsrelease/newsreleases/NewsRelease\\_306.html](http://www.aps.com/general_info/newsrelease/newsreleases/NewsRelease_306.html)

OKG in Sweden has contracted **Westinghouse Electric Company to deliver components and systems for the power uprate of the third unit at Oskarshamn.** The project will continue for three years and when completed in mid-2008, Oskarshamn 3 will deliver 20 percent more electrical power than the unit does today, having a thermal power of 3900 MWth and an electrical output of 1450 MWe. **Press release:** [http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro\\_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TI CK=WE&STORY=/www/story/01-20-2006/0004264346&EDATE=Jan+20,+2006](http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TI CK=WE&STORY=/www/story/01-20-2006/0004264346&EDATE=Jan+20,+2006)

**Unit 1 of Exelon's LaSalle NPP has been operating more than 707 days without a shutdown.** The company announced at 1:49 a.m. Friday Unit 1 had set a world's record for continuous operation by a light water nuclear reactor. The 1,190 megawatt boiling water reactor reached 707 days, 17 hours and 29 minutes without a shutdown. <http://www.morrisdailyherald.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=58&ArticleID=16917&TM=32772>

Westinghouse Electric completed the design, installation and inspection of a **structural weld overlay for a**

**pressurizer spray nozzle for Dominion Nuclear Connecticut Inc.'s Millstone Power Station Unit 3.** The Millstone repair was the second pressurizer top nozzle ever to require an overlay repair.

**Press release:**

[http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro\\_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TI CK=WE&STORY=/www/story/01-19-2006/0004263875&EDATE=Jan+19,+2006](http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TI CK=WE&STORY=/www/story/01-19-2006/0004263875&EDATE=Jan+19,+2006)

Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd announced that "**Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) Unit 1** has been given a fresh lease of life with En Masse Coolant Channel Replacement (EMCCR) program, increasing its life span by **another 30 years**". News: [http://news.webindia123.com/news/showdetails.asp?id=226936&n\\_date=20060121&cat=India](http://news.webindia123.com/news/showdetails.asp?id=226936&n_date=20060121&cat=India)

## **NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

**Hitachi** announced that it has developed radio frequency identification (**RFID**)-based technologies applicable to **nuclear power plant construction.** Specifically, the company has developed two new systems, an RFID tag system used in the processes of manufacturing and installing pipes, and an RFID-based cable connection navigation system. [http://www.japancorp.net/Article.Asp?Art\\_ID=11721](http://www.japancorp.net/Article.Asp?Art_ID=11721)

**USA / China: Intergraph Corporation announced that Chinergy,** the organization commissioned to build the world's first commercial, modular **high-temperature, gas-cooled reactor in China's Shandong Province,** has selected SmartPlant® 3D and SmartPlant Enterprise as the core

technology for project design and implementation requirements. **Release:** <http://www.intergraph.com/news/pressrelease.asp?id=693>

Finnish telecommunications firm **Lännen Puhelin** has signed a deal comprising the telecommunications solutions for the nuclear power plant **Olkiluoto 3**. News from Finland: <http://newsroom.finland.fi/stt/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=11478&group=Business>. More (in Finnish): <http://newsroom.finland.fi/stt/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=11478&group=Business>

### **ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE**

**CH2M HILL** announced that **Jessie H. Roberson**, will join its executive leadership as President of the Nuclear Services Business Group. **Press release:** <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060120/laf046.html?.v=32>

**USEC Inc.** announced that it has chosen **Robert S. Eby** to direct its **American Centrifuge** engineering and manufacturing operations in Oak Ridge, Tenn. **Press release:** [http://www.usec.com/v2001\\_02/Content/News/NewsTemplate.asp?page=/v2001\\_02/Content/News/NewsFiles/01-19-06.htm](http://www.usec.com/v2001_02/Content/News/NewsTemplate.asp?page=/v2001_02/Content/News/NewsFiles/01-19-06.htm)

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

The fissioning of uranium results in a variety of unstable neutron-rich nuclei. A team of scientists from the University of Jyväskylä in Finland has for the **first time made high-precision mass measurements of a number of isotopes produced in proton-induced fission** reactions of uranium. Summary: <http://www.aip.org/pnu/2006/split/762-1.html>

### **AND FINALLY THIS**

**Plutonium on the way to Pluto:** The first mission to distant planet Pluto (and the Kuiper Belt) is under way after the successful launch of NASA's New Horizons spacecraft from Cape Canaveral, Fla. The 1,054-pound, piano-sized spacecraft is the fastest ever launched, speeding away from Earth at approximately 36,000 miles per hour. A radioisotope thermoelectric generator (RTG) provides the electrical power to operate the spacecraft's mechanical and electronic systems. RTGs consist of two major elements: a heat source that contains plutonium dioxide in the form of ceramic pellets and a set of solid-state thermocouples that convert the plutonium's heat energy to electricity. See: <http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/index.php>  
The 24 pounds of plutonium heat sources were fabricated at Los Alamos National Laboratory. More about it: [http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2006/01/20/headline\\_news/news03.txt](http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2006/01/20/headline_news/news03.txt)

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