

# Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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**Toshiba confirmed that it has been selected as the preferred bidder in BNFL's sale of Westinghouse** and said: "This is an exciting opportunity for Toshiba that will enable the Company to take advantage of a number of strategic opportunities in a sector which we believe has tremendous growth potential.... We believe strongly in the future of this industry and look forward to reaching a definitive agreement as soon as possible." **Press release:** [http://www.toshiba.co.jp/about/press/2006\\_01/pr2401.htm](http://www.toshiba.co.jp/about/press/2006_01/pr2401.htm) Sources say that Toshiba is offering \$5-billion, more than twice what was expected. More news: [http://www.forbes.com/2006/01/24/toshiba-westinghouse-ge-cx\\_po\\_0124autofacescan01.html](http://www.forbes.com/2006/01/24/toshiba-westinghouse-ge-cx_po_0124autofacescan01.html)

**Progress Energy announced that its Progress Energy Carolinas subsidiary has selected its Harris Nuclear Plant site near New Hill, N.C. to evaluate for possible future nuclear generation expansion. The company also announced it has selected Westinghouse Electric Company to supply the reactors for the potential future expansion of Progress Energy's nuclear generation in the Carolinas.** "Since Progress Energy last added baseload generation in the mid-1980s in North Carolina, we have grown by about 500,000 total customers" said Bob McGehee, chairman and CEO, Progress Energy. "A renewed emphasis on conservation and energy efficiency is an important factor in planning for the future," McGehee said. "However, even with more conservation and energy-efficiency programs, energy use will continue to grow as more people move to this region. To meet that growing demand for electricity, we'll need to add significant new power generation." **Detailed press release:** <http://www.progress-energy.com/aboutus/news/article.asp?id=13622>.

**Westinghouse Electric Company** lauded Progress Energy for its proactive and forward-looking approach to possible expansion of its fleet of commercial nuclear power plants. "Progress' decision to select both a site and technology for expansion will facilitate both cost- and time-efficient construction and operation should Progress decide to expand its fleet," said Steve Tritch, Westinghouse President and CEO. **The AP1000 received Design Certification from the U.S. Nuclear regulatory Commission just last month. It is the only Generation III+ nuclear power plant to have received either Final Design Approval or Design Certification.** Competing technologies are still in the earliest stages (application or pre-application submittal) of the multi-year Design Certification process and cannot expect certification until late 2009 or 2010 at the earliest. **Press release and more:** [http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro\\_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TICK=WE&STORY=/www/story/01-23-2006/0004265528&EDATE=Jan+23,+2006](http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TICK=WE&STORY=/www/story/01-23-2006/0004265528&EDATE=Jan+23,+2006)

The organization **Public Citizen** urged that "Progress Energy should be denied taxpayer subsidies to build new nuclear reactors". **Press release** and more: <http://www.publiccitizen.org/pressroom/release.cfm?ID=2119>

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## **NUCLEAR POLICY**

**Great Britain: The future of UK energy policy has been opened up to public debate.** The consultation document has the title: "Our energy challenge: securing clean, affordable energy for the long term". Speaking at a launch event for a three month consultation, Trade Secretary Alan Johnson explained "that global fossil fuel prices are rising, while the UK is becoming a major importer of oil and gas. This raises obvious issues for the UK in the light of the recent dispute between Russia and the Ukraine. **By 2020, coal and nuclear power plants generating about 30% of today's electricity are expected to have closed.** Companies will need to decide how this capacity should be replaced." **Release:** <http://www.dti.gov.uk/news/newsarticle-230106a.html>

**Full and summary versions of the consultation document** are available: <http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review/>

The UK **Health and Safety Executive** is to produce a report on health and safety issues relating to significant energy sources and technologies, as a contribution to the Government's Energy Review. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has asked HSE for an expert report that assesses potential risks associated with new energy developments and sets out HSE's regulatory approach to ensuring these risks are sensibly managed by industry.

The **UK Chemical Industries Association** sees as crucial factor to the success of the review, that it gives **nuclear energy full consideration as**

**part of the energy mix.** **Press release:** [http://www.cia.org.uk/cgi-bin/dbman/db.cgi?db=news2&uid=default&view\\_records=1&ID=532&ww=1](http://www.cia.org.uk/cgi-bin/dbman/db.cgi?db=news2&uid=default&view_records=1&ID=532&ww=1)

**The French government published a memorandum for revitalizing European energy policy** with a view to sustainable development. **The paper proposes recognizing the contribution of nuclear power to EU security of supply and "contribution to the fight against global warming"** as a technology that does not release CO2. It suggests increasing R&D efforts for "future nuclear energy" and invites other countries to join research projects on the fourth generation nuclear reactor. **Text** (in English even it comes from France): [http://www.industrie.gouv.fr/cgi-bin/industrie/frame23e\\_loc.pl?bandeau=/energie/anglais/be\\_us.htm&gauche=/energie/anglais/me\\_us.htm&droite=/energie/anglais/memorandum-anglais.htm](http://www.industrie.gouv.fr/cgi-bin/industrie/frame23e_loc.pl?bandeau=/energie/anglais/be_us.htm&gauche=/energie/anglais/me_us.htm&droite=/energie/anglais/memorandum-anglais.htm) **Summary and links** to documents: [http://www.industrie.gouv.fr/cgi-bin/industrie/frame23e.pl?bandeau=/energie/politiqu/be\\_polit.htm&gauche=/energie/politiqu/me\\_polit.htm&droite=/energie/politiqu/memorandum-presentation.htm](http://www.industrie.gouv.fr/cgi-bin/industrie/frame23e.pl?bandeau=/energie/politiqu/be_polit.htm&gauche=/energie/politiqu/me_polit.htm&droite=/energie/politiqu/memorandum-presentation.htm)

**A majority of EU citizens (47% [sic]) would prefer European level decisions on the new energy challenges** such as energy supply security, growing energy consumption and climate change, 37% and 8% prefer energy decisions on a national or local level respectively. This is one of the conclusions of a Eurobarometer poll presented today by **Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs.** **Press release, opinion poll:** <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesA>

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## **URANIUM**

**Kazakhstan: Kazatomprom, Sumitomo Corp. and Kansai Electric Power Inc. entered into an agreement** which provides creation of a tripartite joint venture in Southern Kazakhstan for the development of **West Mynkuduk** deposit and to produce and sell uranium products from that mine. It is seen as the first part of a strategic partnership among the companies. **Press release:** <http://www.kazatomprom.kz/cgi-bin/index.cgi?nc79&version=en> Kazakhstan is going to become the world's biggest uranium producer, Mukhtar Dzhakishiev, President of Kazatomprom said.

**Russia: The investments in the development of JSC Priargunsky Mining and Chemical Production Association – the leading enterprise of TVEL Corp.'s ore-mining complex – can reach about 600 million rubles in 2006 (increase of 22% as compared with 2005). In 2005 the volume of investments of JSC TVEL in its ore-mining enterprises amounted to about 60 % of the entire corporate investment program. Press release:** <http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=65>

## **CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT**

**Brazil's first uranium enrichment factory is ready to be inaugurated.** It is located in Resende, state of Rio de Janeiro, where it will be operated by

Indústrias Nucleares do Brasil (INB). When the factory goes into operation, at the end of this month, Brazil will be the ninth country in the world with the capacity to enrich uranium on an industrial scale. News: [http://internacional.radiobras.gov.br/ingles/materia\\_i\\_2004.php?materia=253642&q=1&editoria](http://internacional.radiobras.gov.br/ingles/materia_i_2004.php?materia=253642&q=1&editoria)

## **NUCLEAR FUEL**

**The Ukrainian company Energoatom and the Russian company TVEL have approved a pricing mechanism for nuclear fuel** to be supplied to Ukrainian atomic power stations in 2006 and beyond. The agreement was reached at the talks between Ukrainian Fuel and Energy Minister Ivan Plachkov and the head of Russia's Federal Atomic Energy Agency, Sergei Kiriyenko. News: <http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/level2.html?NewsID=2815464&PageNum=0>. More on the talks: <http://www.kommersant.com/page.asp?idr=528&id=642673>

**Japan: The Atomic Energy Commission concluded that Japanese utilities' recently unveiled plans to use plutonium** for power generation are "appropriate" from the viewpoint of improving transparency of its uses. The conclusion was drawn at a regular meeting of the commission open to the public. News: <http://www.tmcnet.com/submit/-nuclear-energy-panel-says-utilities-plutonium-plans-appropriate-/2006/01/24/1308722.htm>

**U.S. DOE is preparing to consolidate the plutonium at Savannah River Site** in a single location. The site is to receive

at least 34 tons of the material to be converted into fuel for commercial nuclear reactors. Another 13 tons of the material to be shipped to SRS that is not clean enough to be converted to reactor fuel. News:

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/13691487.htm>

### **STORAGE AND WASTE**

**The construction of the interim dry spent fuel storage facility on the site of Bulgaria's Kozloduy nuclear power plant will miss its 2009 launch target by 6 months, the NPP's executive director Ivan Ivanov said. In May 2004, a consortium of RWE Nukem and GNB had won the order to build the facility.**  
<http://news.dnevnik.bg/print.php?id=6645>

### **DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP**

**British Nuclear Group completed the last transfer of historic liquid waste from one of its oldest plants at Sellafield, preventing more than 22 years of radioactive sea discharges and saving taxpayers up to £300m in potential new building costs. The liquid waste known as medium active concentrate, which is a by-product of spent Magnox fuel reprocessing, has been stored at a facility called the Medium Active Tank Farm at Sellafield since the early 1980s. Press release:**  
<http://www.britishnucleargroup.co.uk/content.php?pageID=31&nID=706>

BNG also announced further advances on the decommissioning of the **Trawsfynydd** reactor site. Work on the site's new **Intermediate Level Waste store** has started. **News feature:**  
<http://www.britishnucleargroup.co.uk/content.php?pageID=33&nID=693>

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

NRC has published its draft report "**Operational Radiation Protection Program (NUREG-0800, Section 12.5 Rev.3)**". **Abstract and more:**  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr0800/s12.5r3/>

More than 1,000 people are expected to attend the **NRC's Regulatory Information Conference**, March 7-9, in Rockville, a suburb of Washington DC.  
<http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/ric/>

### **AND FINALLY THIS**

**Miss Nevada is cheerleader for Yucca Mountain.** Miss Nevada Crystal Wosik apparently tried to put to rest any concerns about the safety of the proposed nuclear repository during the preparation for the Miss America pageant in Las Vegas. She lost (no relation)!  
<http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nevada/2006/jan/21/012110615.html>

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