

# Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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**Constellation Energy** Group reported record full year 2005 results. The majority of the productivity gains came from the generation group, including **\$41 million in better management of planned nuclear outages and another \$30 million due to CEG's fleet management approach** that reduced labor and material expenses. In 2006, CGE plans to deliver an incremental \$40 million in productivity gains by leveraging the fleet management model and further reducing outage days. **Press release** (long!):

[http://www.corporate-ir.net/ireye/ir\\_site.zhtml?ticker=CEG&script=416&layout=0&item\\_id=810395](http://www.corporate-ir.net/ireye/ir_site.zhtml?ticker=CEG&script=416&layout=0&item_id=810395)

**Areva reported 2005 sales were up 3.1%. The nuclear divisions posted 4.6% by:**

- Growth in the Front End division (+5.2%) linked to the favorable price effect for uranium supplies and to climbing volumes in its businesses;
- New projects in Finland, France and China and strong performance in services, the growth driver for the Reactors & Services division (+10.8%);
- The drop in sales for the Back End division (-2.9%) following the 2004 completion of the support contract with Japanese customer JNFL; a contract extension for 2006 and 2007 was signed in late 2005. **Press release:**

<http://www.areva.com/servlet/BlobProvider?blobcol=urluploadedfile&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=Downloads&blobwhere=1134047561483&filaname=2005+Sales%2C0.pdf&csblobid=1033582133999>

**The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued its final design certification rule for the AP1000 advanced reactor design, submitted by Westinghouse Electric Co.** The rule certifying the AP1000 design will become effective Feb. 27. Available at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/design-cert/ap1000.html>

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## **NUCLEAR POLICY**

**In his State Of The Union Address, President Bush outlined *The Advanced Energy Initiative*** to help break America's dependence on foreign sources of energy: "I announce the Advanced Energy Initiative -- a 22-percent increase in clean-energy research -- at the Department of Energy, to push for breakthroughs in two vital areas. To change how we power our homes and

offices, we will invest more in zero-emission coal-fired plants, revolutionary solar and wind technologies, and **clean, safe nuclear energy.**" Complete speech: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/01/20060131-10.html>.

More on the *Advanced Energy Initiative* <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/01/20060131-6.html>. The president refrained from announcing an **expected major shift in spent nuclear fuel policy** (towards reprocessing). Background about this development:

<http://edison.fp.factiva.com/viewarticle.asp?AN=IEPA000020060117e21i00001>

**John Deutch** and **Ernest Moniz** (former CIA Director resp. Undersecretary of Energy) proposed a new policy for used nuclear fuel management. They urged: "The government should take **title to the spent fuel** stored at commercial reactor sites across the country and consolidate it at one or more federal sites.

The president should continue his broad diplomatic **effort for supplier countries to supply fresh fuel (and remove spent fuel)** for countries with small nuclear power programs if they agree to forgo dangerous and costly fuel cycle facilities for a significant period."

They warned: "A successful waste-**disposal program** has to survive many administrations; a program based on reprocessing will not." Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/29/AR2006012900719.html>

The Foreign Ministers of China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK, the USA and the High Representative of the EU met in London to discuss **Iran's nuclear program**. **Statement** available: [http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2006/e3\\_eu\\_iranstatement.html](http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2006/e3_eu_iranstatement.html)

## **URANIUM**

**Northwestern Mineral Ventures Inc.** announced that it has commenced the filing process to obtain the permit required to enter its past-producing **Firefly** uranium-vanadium mine. Once a permit has been granted, a geological team will enter the mine to determine the **requirements for reactivating production**. **Press release:**

[http://www.northwestmineral.com/news/read\\_news.asp?newsid=1507](http://www.northwestmineral.com/news/read_news.asp?newsid=1507)

Uranium miner **Energy Resources** of Australia Ltd said drummed uranium oxide output from its Ranger mine in Australia's Northern Territory rose to a record 5,910 metric tons in calendar 2005 from 5,137 tons in 2004. Stock exchange **announcement:**

<http://www.energyres.com.au/showpdf.php3?id=211>

**Fronteer Development Group Inc.** announced that Roscoe Postle Associates has completed a new resource estimate for the Michelin uranium deposit, located in coastal Labrador. **Michelin** has increased from an historic resource of 18.3 million pounds, to a **new measured and indicated resource of 22.2 million** pounds with an additional inferred resource of 13.4 million pounds.

**Press release:**

<http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=577816>

## **CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT**

**International Isotopes** has started its **high purity germanium tetrafluoride gas production** operations. INIS produced germanium tetrafluoride (GeF<sub>4</sub>) at their newly completed state-of-the-art production facility in Idaho Falls, Idaho using the Fluorine Extraction Process (FEP). FEP is a process that allows fluorine to be extracted from depleted uranium tetrafluoride. **Press release:**

<http://www.intisoid.com/pr/PR01-25-06.pdf>

## **REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES**

**Entergy** reported its 2005 earnings. Entergy Nuclear results increased as a result of **higher generation due to uprates and fewer planned outages**, higher pricing, lower operation and maintenance expense, and accretion. Entergy's non-nuclear wholesale assets business had improved results due to the sale of SO2 allowances. **Press release:** [http://www.entergy.com/news\\_room/newsrelease.aspx?NR\\_ID=806](http://www.entergy.com/news_room/newsrelease.aspx?NR_ID=806)

**PNM Resources** reported unaudited 2005 ongoing earnings. "**Disappointing plant performance at Palo Verde [NPP]** limited us for the year" said Jeff Sterba, PNM Resources chairman. Performance at Palo Verde, where the extension of the Unit 1 planned refueling outage and forced outages for Units 2 and 3 resulted in approximately 1,100 more outage hours, compared with the same period in 2004. The three units at Palo Verde combined for an equivalent availability factor of 59.8 percent during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, resulting in additional wholesale purchases and reduced sales for the third straight quarter. **Release:** [http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20060130006085&newsLang=en](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20060130006085&newsLang=en)

**Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. submitted applications for 20-year renewals of the operating licenses for its Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim nuclear power plants.** Their current operating licenses expire in 2012. The renewal applications are available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-011.html>

**South Africa: Repairs at Koeberg NPP** could take - in "a worst-case scenario" - nine months to carry out, says Eskom's acting chief executive, Jacob Maroga. Maroga said Eskom is still looking for the required parts to repair the unit-one generator at Koeberg, and while the intention is to return the generator to service in the shortest possible time to meet electricity demand, it will take a minimum of three months to repair. News: [http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=262741&area=/breaking\\_news/breaking\\_news\\_business/](http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?articleid=262741&area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_business/)

## **NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

**Siemens has increased its stake in the Russian company Power Machines.** Power Machines is the leading manufacturer of power equipment in Russia. The company manufactures turbines, generators and other components for hydraulic, thermal, gas and nuclear power plants power plants. **Press release:** [http://www.siemens.com/index.jsp?sdc\\_p=fmls5uo1349562ni1079175pcz3&sdc\\_bcpath=1327899.s\\_5.&sdc\\_sid=3037859867&](http://www.siemens.com/index.jsp?sdc_p=fmls5uo1349562ni1079175pcz3&sdc_bcpath=1327899.s_5.&sdc_sid=3037859867&)

## **ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE**

A Moscow court rejected an application lodged by the defense team of **ex-Nuclear Power Minister Adamov**, charged with embezzlement and abuse of office, to release him from custody. <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20060130/43248936.html>

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **The U.S. NRC is proposing to amend its employee protection regulations.**

"The activities of contractors and subcontractors can clearly affect the safe operation of a licensed facility, such as a nuclear power plant," said Mike Johnson, Director of the NRC Office of Enforcement. "It is important that the Commission be able to bring the full scope of enforcement actions to bear on them if they demote, terminate or otherwise discriminate against their employees for raising safety concerns."

**Press release and more at:**

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-009.html>

NRC has published on its website:

Technical Basis for Regulatory

### **Guidance on Lightning Protection in Nuclear Power Plants** at

[http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/contract/cr6866/;](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/contract/cr6866/)

Sections of the "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants. LWR Edition" concerning the issues:

Mass and energy release analysis for postulated **LOCAs**; **containment spray** as a fission product cleanup system; reactor **operator training**; training for **nonlicensed plant staff**; operating and **emergency procedures**. From:

<http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/new-content.html>

### **Great Britain: An international group of scientists has now published the**

### **study: Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change.**

"It is clear from the work presented that the risks of climate change may well be greater than we thought," **Prime Minister Tony Blair** said of the study, which forecasts the melting of the Greenland ice sheet and a resultant rise in sea-levels of up to 16 feet over the next millennium. In response, the scientists argue, governments must use a wide range of tools, **nuclear power included**. In his foreword, the Prime Minister writes:

"This book will serve as more than a record of another conference or event. It will provide an invaluable resource for all people wishing to enhance global understanding of the science of climate change and the need for humanity to act to tackle the problem." **Media toolkit:**

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/pressoffice/adcc/index.html>

## **AND FINALLY THIS**

### **The Radiological-Nuclear Countermeasures Test and Evaluation Complex in the Nevada desert** is

working on a \$33 million program to perfect devices that can more accurately detect nuclear devices and "dirty bombs." In the first test the equipment failed to identify the plutonium in a container. On a second try, it worked.

Homepage of the Rad/NucCTEC:

<http://www.nv.doe.gov/nationalsecurity/homelandsecurity/radnuc.htm>

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