

# Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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**France: The Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN)** backed in principle a method for disposal of nuclear waste deep underground. IRSN experts said that the **underground storage technique submitted by scientists of the ANDRA laboratory "appears technically feasible"**. The National Agency for the Management of Nuclear Waste (ANDRA) has been studying ways of burying waste 490 metres below ground in 155-million-year-old **clay sediment** at Bure, in the Lorraine region. **Press release and experts' report** (in French): [http://www.irsn.org/vf/04\\_act/04\\_act\\_1/04\\_act\\_communique\\_irsn/04\\_act\\_communique\\_irsn\\_2006/04\\_act\\_060130.shtm](http://www.irsn.org/vf/04_act/04_act_1/04_act_communique_irsn/04_act_communique_irsn_2006/04_act_060130.shtm)

**Bulgaria, Belene: The preliminary offers submitted by Atomstroyexport JSC and the Consortium Skoda Alliance** in the invitation procedure on awarding a public procurement order for design, construction and commissioning of **Units 1 and 2 of NPP Belene** were opened. In the next several months the Evaluation Committee of the Bulgarian utility NEK will examine and evaluate the offers and conduct negotiations with each of the candidates. **Press release** of NEK: <http://www.nek.bg/cgi-bin/index.cgi?l=2&d=1235>. The **Bulgarian newspaper Devnik** writes: "**Czech utility CEZ** could join the company that will complete the construction of the NPP as a strategic investor. The offer was presented by Miroslav Fiala, chairman of the board of Skoda JS which is part of the Skoda Alliance. [...] **The selection procedure for Belene contractor is a win-win for Russia's Gazprom. Gazprombank**, the bank of Gazprom, owns 53.85% of **AtomStroyExport**. The rest of the company is owned by **Rosatom** and nuclear fuel producer **Tvel**. Gazprombank is also involved in the competing Czech consortium. **Skoda JS** is owned by Russian mechanical-engineering group **OMZ** which is, in turn, partially owned by Gazprombank. The other participants in Skoda Alliance are Skoda Praha, wholly-owned by **CEZ**, and the Czech Nuclear Research Institute wherein CEZ controls 51%." <http://news.dnevnik.bg/print.php?id=6767>

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## *NUCLEAR POLICY*

**The IAEA's special Board meeting on Iran's nuclear program is considering a resolution on the implementation of safeguards in Iran.** Director General Mohamed ElBaradei said: "We are reaching a critical phase but it is not a crisis situation. [...] All who have spoken on the issue, even those who are

supporting Security Council reporting, are making it very clear that the Security Council is not asked, at this stage to take any action, definitely not before I submit my report in March." **Remarks:** [http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2006/dg\\_bog020206.html](http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2006/dg_bog020206.html) Complete text of **draft resolution** from <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,183498,00.html> An **update brief** by the

Deputy Director General for Safeguards <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Statements/DDGs/2006/heinonen31012006.pdf>  
Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday visited the **Bushehr** NPP to get an idea on the progress made on the project.

In the context of **President Bush's State of the Union Address the Nuclear Energy Institute** published "Top Ten Reasons Nuclear Power Is Vital to America's Energy Policy". The paper: [http://www.nei.org/documents/Top\\_10\\_Reasons\\_To\\_Support\\_Nuclear.pdf](http://www.nei.org/documents/Top_10_Reasons_To_Support_Nuclear.pdf)

**Sergei Kiriyyenko, head of Rosatom, said Russia needs to build about 40 new nuclear reactors** in order to bring the share of nuclear energy in the nation's energy balance to 25 percent. <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2006/02/02/043.html> Kiriyyenko also said that Rosenergoatom's **payments for SNF storage should be increased.** <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20060201/43273032.html>

**Lithuania: Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas has urged Lithuania's Baltic neighbors to help take up the burden of building a new NPP** that would ensure a degree of energy independence for the region after the second reactor of the existing plant in Ignalina is shut down in 2009. He told an international energy conference in Vilnius that he would try to enlist Poland's help as well. News: [http://www.baltictimes.com/art.php?art\\_id=14547](http://www.baltictimes.com/art.php?art_id=14547)

**Slovakia: The Italian power utility Enel, the new owner of a 66-percent stake in Slovak dominant power company Slovenské Elektrárne, is**

**interested in completing the third and fourth blocks of the nuclear power plant in Mochovce.** "We think everybody sees the potential benefits of this project. Enel and the Economy Ministry have agreed upon a shared program related to the completion of a detailed feasibility study of the third and fourth reactors of the nuclear power plant Mochovce," Enel's press department told the SITA news agency. <http://www.slovakspectator.sk/clanok.asp?cl=22245>

## *URANIUM*

**Cameco Co. reported its unaudited financial results for 2005.** CEO Jerry Grandey, commenting on another successful quarter ending Cameco's best-ever year for revenue and cash flow, said, "Market fundamentals remain strong" for the world's largest uranium producer. **Press release, results:** [http://www.cameco.com/media\\_gateway/news\\_releases/2006/news\\_release.php?id=139](http://www.cameco.com/media_gateway/news_releases/2006/news_release.php?id=139)

UEX Co. announced that **Cameco has advised it will participate in UEX's previously announced private placement.** **Press release:** <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/January2006/31/c2438.html>

**Oxiana Ltd. and Minotaur Exploration Ltd. announced the proposed float of Toro Energy Ltd.** formed through the amalgamation of their uranium interests in the Gawler and Curnamona Cratons of South Australia, one of the world's most prospective uranium regions. Toro Energy proposes to raise \$18 million through an initial public offering. **Press release:**

[http://www.acnnewswire.net/article.asp?Art\\_ID=31152&lang=](http://www.acnnewswire.net/article.asp?Art_ID=31152&lang=)

**Denison Mines** Inc. reports that its board of directors has approved its operating and **exploration plans for the 2006 fiscal year**. Exploration spending for 2006 is expected to total nearly 5 million CDN\$ (**Wheeler River**, Wolly, Midwest, McClean Lake, Waterfound uranium projects and Mongolia). **Press release:**

<http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=578186>

### *NUCLEAR FUEL*

**Canada: Cameco Co. has completed the acquisition of a 100% interest in Zircatec** Precision Industries Inc. for \$108 million. Zircatec's primary business is manufacturing nuclear fuel bundles for sale to companies that generate electricity from Candu reactors. Cameco used cash to fund this acquisition. **Press release:**

[http://www.cameco.com/media\\_gateway/news\\_releases/2006/news\\_release.php?id=138](http://www.cameco.com/media_gateway/news_releases/2006/news_release.php?id=138)

### *REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES*

The U.S. NRC staff has issued a **Generic Letter asking all U.S. NPP operators for additional information on how they continue to ensure the reliability of offsite electrical power sources** and how they continue to comply with NRC regulations on maintaining offsite power to safety-related systems. The blackout of Aug. 14, 2003, caused nine U.S. nuclear

power plants to shut down. The NRC's review of the events surrounding the blackout raised several issues, including how plants prearrange for backup power from local sources and how they monitor the grid in real time. **Summary at and generic letter** from:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-013.html>

NRC staff has reached the preliminary conclusion that there are **no environmental impacts which would preclude renewal of the operating license for the Monticello NPP** located at Monticello, Minn. The plant is operated by Nuclear Management Co. **Summary and the draft EIS** and other documents are available from:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-004iii.html>

### *DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP*

**Slovakia: Slovenské Elektrárne has published several invitations for expression of interest** concerning decommissioning projects of **Bohunice** NPP (documentation, environmental impact assessment, conceptual plan, spent fuel management): **Procurement page of the company:**

<http://www.seas.sk/company/project-management-unit/procurement/>

**Russia:** Sergei Antipov, deputy head of the Federal Atomic Energy Agency, quoted by Interfax said **17 submarines would be decommissioned in 2006** while 19 had been scrapped in 2005. Antipov also criticized foreign donors for failing to provide promised financing to decommission nuclear vessels. News: <http://www.mosnews.com/news/2006/02/02/scrapsub.shtml>

## MISCELLANEOUS

NRC has proposed a revision of its Regulatory **Guide concerning "Design-Basis Tornado and Tornado Missiles for Nuclear Power Plants"**. Available at (look for DG-1143):

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/reg-guides/power-reactors/draft-index.html>

Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute of Optics and Electronics have built **China's first robot for searching and retrieving underwater foreign objects in NPPs**. The equipment is now being used in the **Guangdong Daya Bay NPP**, one of the largest commercial nuclear installations in China. **Press release:**  
<http://english.cas.ac.cn/Eng2003/news/detailnewsb.asp?infoNo=25875>

## AND FINALLY THIS

**Australia: War on fruit fly turns nuclear. Scientists are using sex** as their latest weapon in the battle against marauding fruit flies along the Murray River. Up to two million fluorescent pink sterile fruit flies will be released between now and April to prevent wild female flies from mating and laying fertile eggs. The **flies irradiated at Lucas Heights' nuclear facility** to end their reproductive ability, have about a two week life cycle and are expected to outnumber the wild males by at least 100 to one.

[http://www.bordermail.com.au/newsflow/pageitem?page\\_id=1129502](http://www.bordermail.com.au/newsflow/pageitem?page_id=1129502)

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