

Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

EnergySolutions announced that three companies will join together with significant technologies and services in the nuclear waste management industry. The companies are BNG America, Envirocare of Utah, and Scientech D&D. The combined companies have provided specialized nuclear services in the U.S. market for over 20 years including high level waste management, spent fuel handling and transportation; complex D&D projects of nuclear reactors and highly radioactive nuclear facilities; technical challenges such as fuel sludge treatment and high level waste treatment; and major decommissioning of both government and commercial nuclear facilities. Recently, DOE has identified Savannah River in South Carolina as a test site for the reprocessing or recycling of spent nuclear fuel. "The government's renewed focus on recycling and the DOE strategy of using new technologies for spent fuel will make the need for high level waste storage facilities like the proposed PFS site in Utah unnecessary. EnergySolutions looks forward to working with the government and industry to help provide the technology and expertise to help make recycling of spent fuel a reality in the United States," said Steve, President and CEO. <http://www.energysolutions.com/media.php>, also <http://www.britishnucleargroup.com/content.php?pageID=31&nID=715> Press release by The Salt Lake Tribune reports: "Steve Creamer is anything but done building a nuclear-waste empire" http://www.sltrib.com/utah/cj_3475079

New feature of Nucbrief: **The NRC broadcasts some meetings over the Internet** as a means of improving communications. Today's webcast at UT 14.30 concerns issues of **materials degradation and fuel reliability**. (Swiss and Swedish operators are involved e.g. in EPRI program on BWR Vessel and Internals Program (BWRVIP). Go to <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/webcast-live.html> and then slides.

NUCLEAR POLICY

The **IAEA Board of Governors** passed a resolution requesting the IAEA Director General to report to the UN Security Council all IAEA reports and resolutions, as adopted, relating to the implementation of safeguards in **Iran**: <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Board/2006/gov2006-14.pdf>

DOE announced that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 budget requests \$4.1 billion

for its Office of Science, a \$505 million (14.1%) increase over FY 2006. This budget puts **DOE's Office of Science on the path to doubling its budget by FY 2016**. Highlights are design and construction of the **Linac**, the world's first x-ray free electron laser; **nanoscale** research; the Hydrogen Fuel Initiative; the first full year of operations of the **Spallation Neutron Source**; high energy physics; nuclear physics; fusion including the **ITER project**. <http://www.doe.gov/news/3148.htm>

New research based on surveys conducted by global energy information service Platts shows that **over 100 gigawatts of new gas-fired power stations are either being planned or are being built across Europe.** Platts research shows that over 20,300 megawatts (MW) of combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) capacity is in construction in western Europe, a further 20,000MW are approved to proceed and around 70,000MW are proposed or applying for permits. **Press release:** <http://www.prnewswire.co.uk/cgi/news/release?id=163108>

CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT

The NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will begin an evidentiary hearing March 6 on a proposed uranium enrichment plant. The ASLB will receive testimony concerning the **proposed National Enrichment Facility to be built by Louisiana Energy Services near Eunice, New Mexico.** The LES partnership is made up of Urenco, Exelon, Duke Power, Entergy, and Westinghouse. The partnership intends to use Urenco's sixth generation gas centrifuge technology that is being used in Europe. <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-014.html>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

Finland: Fortum published its financial statements 2005 and signaled performance improvement in all business segments. The generation division's profit went up 17%. http://www.fortum.com/news_section_it

[em.asp?path=14022;14024;14026;14022;25730;551;31660](http://www.fortum.com/news_section_it)

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

The supplier of the Olkiluoto 3 NPP, a consortium comprising Framatome ANP and Siemens, confirmed that the reactor building civil works and the manufacture of certain primary components are delayed. The **delays, which presently exceed 6 months,** are due to delays in detailed engineering and to the need to correct deviations in the manufacture of components. Notwithstanding these delays, TVO's Project Director, Senior Vice President Martin Landtman, estimates that Olkiluoto 3 will still produce electricity in 2009. **Release:** <http://www.tvo.fi/757.htm>

Areva has completed phase one of its U.S. EPR design certification pre-application process with the NRC. "We have made excellent progress in our interactions with the NRC," said Ray Ganthner, senior vice president, New Plants Deployment for Framatome ANP, Inc. "We have advanced their technical understanding of the U.S. EPR's proven design and familiar technology and increased our understanding of the NRC's expectations for our DC application." **Press release:** <http://www.us.framatome-anp.com/newsreleases/newsrelease.asp?NewsNumber=229>

The French government has ruled out changes to the group structure of state-controlled nuclear energy group Areva, Les Echos newspaper reported. There have been persistent rumors that the government favors a tie-up between Areva's Framatome nuclear reactors

division and Alstom's conventional power plant business. News: <http://www.forbes.com/business/feeds/afx/2006/02/03/afx2497872.html>

The **U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** proposed new guidelines for independent transmission organizations in developing a framework for **providing long-term firm transmission rights in organized electricity markets**. Long-term firm transmission rights are an important issue, particularly to wholesale power customers who want to make long-term supply arrangements in the face of unpredictable transmission congestion. Long-term firm transmission rights are also important to development of the grid. <http://www.ferc.gov/press-room/press-releases/2006/2006-1/02-02-06-E-3.asp>

TRANSPORT

An eleventh shipment of vitrified residues to Japan left Cherbourg on February 1st, 2006. The Pacific Sandpiper, carrying seven casks containing 164 canisters of vitrified residues will transit to Japan via the Panama Canal route. She will arrive in Japan during the second half of March 2006. **Press release:** http://www.cogema.fr/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=cogema_en/communique/communique_full_template&c=communique&cid=1132047413604&p=1039482707194

REPROCESSING, MOX

France: Francois Loos, junior minister for industry, announced the opening of a

public inquiry to **increase the MOX fuel production capacity of Melox from 145 to 195 metric tons heavy metal per year**. The minister's speech during a visit in Marcoule is available: http://www.industrie.gouv.fr/portail/une/index_une.html (These French ... use frames, therefore you have to click!)

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

Great Britain: BIL Solutions, part of the decommissioning business of British Nuclear Group Project Services, has developed an innovative approach to the **radiological measurement of Plutonium Contaminated Material (PCM) waste drums** currently stored at the National Low Level Waste Repository in West Cumbria. <http://www.britishnucleargroup.com/content.php?pageID=31&nID=714>

A team of safety representatives from BP have visited Dounreay to carry out safety reviews. The BP safety reps formed into twelve groups and concentrated on specific areas of decommissioning work, including the Dounreay Fast Reactor, the Prototype Fast Reactor and facilities within the site's waste management complex. They will report their findings to the site management. **Press release:** http://www.ukaea.org.uk/news/2006/02_02_06.html

ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE

Great Britain: David Hayes, currently Interim Commercial Director of the **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**, has been appointed to the newly created role of Director of Special Projects.

Terry Selby has been confirmed as Director of Strategy. DNA categorically refutes claims in that there is a rift between its chairman and chief executive on the proposed sale of British Nuclear Group. **Statements:**
[http://www.nda.gov.uk/News--News_\(42\).aspx?pg=42](http://www.nda.gov.uk/News--News_(42).aspx?pg=42)

MISCELLANEOUS

U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman announced **regulations aimed at improving worker safety across the DOE complex**. This rule establishes a uniform set of standards that will require department-wide compliance and monetary **finances for contractors who fail to apply these regulations**. **Release:**
<http://www.doe.gov/news/3147.htm> The final rule, 10 CFR 851 (Worker Health and Safety Rule), is posted on the Office of Environment, Safety and Health at:
<http://www.eh.doe.gov/rulemaking>.

Germany: The Federal Office of Radiation Protection is now cooperating center for radiation protection of WHO World Health Organization in the areas of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. German release:
<http://www.bfs.de/bfs/presse/pr06/pr0604.html>

The U.S. project office for ITER is relocating from Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory to Oak Ridge National Laboratory so that the U.S. ITER program can take better advantage of the project management experience developed by ORNL during the construction there of the Spallation Neutron Source. Ned Sauthoff of PPPL remains the U.S. ITER Project Manager.
http://www.sc.doe.gov/Sub/Newsroom/News_Releases/DOE-SC/2006/ITER/ITER%20project%20office%20final%202-1-06.pdf

AND FINALLY THIS

The French CEA now web-published a new site dedicated to nuclear physics. Among others there is an **electronic nuclide chart**. Almost 7000 nuclei calculated *ab initio*: http://www-phynu.cea.fr/science_en_ligne/carte_potentiels_microscopiques/carte_potentiel_nucleaire.htm. Homepage nuclear physics: <http://www-phynu.cea.fr/>

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