

Nuc...*brief & link*

2006-02-10 UT 03:30

NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

There are no fundamental technical barriers to the safe transport of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste in the United States, but a number of challenges must be addressed, says a new report from a committee of the National Academies' National Research Council. It was compiled by the Council's Committee on Transportation of Radioactive Waste: The radiological risks associated with the transport of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste are well-understood and generally low, the report says, noting that spent fuel has been shipped worldwide for more than four decades without a significant release of radioactive materials during an accident. A separate, **independent study of the security of shipments against malevolent acts is needed**, said the committee, which was unable to make this examination because needed information was classified or otherwise restricted. The committee strongly **endorsed DOE's decision to ship spent fuel and high-level waste to Yucca Mountain using mostly trains rather than trucks**, since rail transport would reduce both the overall number of shipments and their interactions with people along routes. It also strongly endorsed the plan to use "dedicated" trains, which would carry only spent fuel or high-level waste and no other freight. **To implement it's "mostly rail" option, however, DOE must first build a 319-mile rail line in Nevada.** If the department fails to complete this step before the repository opens, it should not resort to large-quantity truck shipments as an interim measure, the committee said. Copies of "Going the Distance? The Safe Transport of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste in the U.S." will be available from the National Academies Press or on the Internet. Press release and more at:

<http://www4.nationalacademies.org/news.nsf/isbn/0309100046?OpenDocument>

The **NRC** welcomed the report and remarked: "The committee recommended that the NRC conduct **further research into the health and safety risks of long-duration fires engulfing spent fuel transportation casks.** Although the committee took note of the NRC's recent study modeling the effects of the 2001 Baltimore tunnel fire on spent fuel casks, that study was not completed in time to be considered fully by the National Academies report." <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-020.html>

NUCLEAR POLICY

China: DOE has prepared a study of the growing energy requirements of the People's Republic of China and the implications of such growth. China plans

to spend 400 billion Yuan (approx. US\$ 50 billion) on 30 additional nuclear reactors within the next 15 years. This will include a new 6-GW nuclear complex planned for construction in Guangdong province, and a second

facility is planned for Daya Bay.
Substantial and comprehensive report:
<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/subcommittees/emr/issues/GlobalDemand/DOEChinaStudy.pdf> A kind of summary:
<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/Press/releases/2006/0208Chinastudy.htm>

Russia: The formation of an integrated holding would allow Russia to become the world leader in the nuclear energy sector. "Such a step would allow for the implementation of Russia's strategy toward leadership in the nuclear sector and needs to attract significant investment," said Alexander Nyago, president of **TVEL** Corp. News:
<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20060209/43447288.html>

The **nuclear cooperation deal between India and the United States** has run into serious trouble, with Washington playing hard ball and India's atomic energy establishment raising objections to the terms of the deal. News:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/08/AR2006020800542.html>

URANIUM

Sxr Uranium One Inc. announced that the brokered private placement of common shares announced on January 13, 2006 has been **increased in size from US \$65 million to approximately US \$149 million**. Net proceeds of the offering will be used by the Corporation for the development of the **Dominion uranium project** and for general corporate purposes. Press release:
<http://www.uranium1.com/index.php?section=news&page=article.php&articleID=8>

Wealth Minerals Ltd. provided an update on the exploration of its **Argentinean** uranium properties.
<http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=579296>

CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT

The Board of Directors of **USEC Inc. has voted to cease paying a common stock dividend** in order to redirect those funds to reduce the level of external financing required for construction of the American Centrifuge Plant. "USEC expects to have good financial results in 2006, but the Board is taking a longer term view of our capital requirements. We know the cost of deploying the American Centrifuge technology will be significant," said Chairman James R. Mellor. Press release:
http://www.usec.com/v2001_02/Content/News/NewsTemplate.asp?page=/v2001_02/Content/News/NewsFiles/02-08-06.htm

NUCLEAR FUEL

Russia: Specialists of Slovenske elektrarne, a.s. and Mochovce NPP visited JSC Mashinostroitelnny Zavod. The aspects of inspection of nuclear fuel, manufactured by JSC MSZ for **Mochovce and Bohunice** NPPs, were agreed during the visit. It will make it possible to standardize the testing methodology of fuel. TVEL news:
<http://www.tvcl.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=74>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

The Vattenfall Group has presented its best annual results ever. Excluding items affecting comparability, profit increased by a record 28%. An item which affected comparability was the one-time 3-billion kronor (U.S. \$387 million) net payment from the Swedish government for the **early shutdown of the 600-MW Barsebaeck-2.**

<http://www.vattenfall.com/index.asp?nosup=2>

Wisconsin Energy Corp. says it is studying whether to sell the Point Beach NPP now that three of six nuclear plants once managed jointly for Upper Midwest utilities have been put up for sale. Beth Martin, a spokeswoman for the Milwaukee-based utility, said her company is evaluating Point Beach along with other power plants to assess their role in the company's long-term power needs. News:

<http://www.htrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060207/MAN0101/602070555/1358>

Duke Energy and Cinergy announced that the U.S. NRC granted approvals related to the companies' planned combination. Specifically, on Feb. 7, the NRC approved an application filed by Duke Energy in connection with the merger that transfers certain operating licenses from Duke Energy to its utility, Duke Power. Press release:

<http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2006/feb/2006020701.asp>

Something non-nuclear: The **FutureGen Industrial Alliance announced a site selection process to determine the host site for the world's first coal-fueled**

"zero emissions" power plant. A draft Request for Proposals will be issued in the latter part of February 2006, with a final RFP targeted for release in March 2006. Proposals for the host site will be due by May 2006. Based on an evaluation of the proposals received, the Alliance will develop a list of candidate sites by summer of 2006. Press release: http://www.futuregenalliance.org/news/releases/pr_02-08-06.pdf

A new section of NRC's NUREG-0800, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of Safety Analysis Reports for Nuclear Power Plants -- LWR Edition," is now available viz.: "Review of **Transient and Accident Analysis Methods.**" http://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/idmws/doccontent.dll?library=PU_ADAMS^PBNTAD01&ID=060340133:8

RECYCLING, MOX

AREVA is delighted by the United States' new commitment to used fuel recycling, a sustainable and praiseworthy approach to management of the back end of the nuclear cycle. Among other benefits, recycling will optimize the final repository at the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada in terms of capacity and safety. Press release: http://www.areva.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=arevagroup_en%2FPressRelease%2FPressReleaseFullTemplate&cid=1134047564494&p=1028798801053

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

The cost to build a waste treatment plant at the **Hanford nuclear reservation in south-central Washington could top**

\$10 billion, according to a new report. In addition, the plant wouldn't be ready to begin treating toxic and radioactive waste until 2017, six years after the legal deadline. The cost and schedule estimate were contained in report prepared by Bechtel National, the contractor hired to build the plant. News: <http://www.kgw.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D8FLATD80.html>

ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE

Washington Group International announced that **Arthur G. Lembo has been named president of SGT LLC**, its joint venture with AREVA's Framatome ANP. SGT is one of only two firms providing services for large component replacement projects for nuclear power clients in the United States. <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-07-2006/0004276528&EDATE=>

The NRC has appointed **Otto L. Maynard to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards**. Press release: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-019.html>

MISCELLANEOUS

U.S. Energy Secretary Bodman discussed **DOE's 2007 budget request**. Keywords: Biofuels, hydrogen, solar, ITER, FutureGen (co-producing

electricity and hydrogen from coal), Yucca Mountain, Advanced Nuclear Fuel Cycle Initiative, Generation IV, Linac Coherent Light Source, Spallation Neutron Source, Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC), Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF), University Reactor Infrastructure and Educational Assistance, Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant. Bodman's complete **statement**: <http://www.doe.gov/news/3176.htm>

The Energy Information Administration has released a brief on **Argentina** including highlights on its role as a **net energy exporter**. Country energy brief: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Argentina/Background.html>. Another brief on **South Africa**: http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/South_Africa/Electricity.html

AND FINALLY THIS

Argentina is poised to expand its export markets for apples, pears and other fruit from the agricultural fields of Patagonia. US Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service officially recognized **Patagonia as a fruit fly free** area. The achievement culminates ten years of IAEA and FAO technical backstopping to Argentina in terms of implementing the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) as part of an area-wide integrated pest management approach. http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2006/argentina_export.html

Nuc brief & link is a nuclear news service by NFCC distributed by e-mail three times a week. Chief Editor: Manfred Petroll, Director Research and Reports NFCC, Alexandria, USA, petroll@nfcc.ch. NFCC is not responsible for the content of sources and links. Your comments and observations are appreciated: nucbrief@nfcc.ch. © by NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting GmbH, Zürich, Switzerland, www.nfcc.ch. Redistribution is prohibited. Copyright infringement is a violation of national and international laws.