

Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

The world's nuclear generators in 2005 have matched their record 2004 output, according to Platts Nucleonics Week. Platts calculated the nuclear **total at 2.75-billion** gross megawatt-hours (MWh). The largest generators were led by German nuclear power plant **Brokdorf** with 11.987 MWhs (capacity factor 95.03 %). The best capacity factor for the whole year was reached by the U.S. plant **Nine Mile Point 2** with 99.67 % (generation 10.37 MWh). **Press release:** <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-10-2006/0004279295&EDATE=>

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G), principal subsidiary of SCANA Corp. and Santee Cooper, a state-owned electric and water utility in South Carolina, announced that they have selected the preferred site and preferred reactor design should they go forward with a new nuclear facility. They **have selected the Westinghouse AP1000** pressurized water reactor technology, which would be built on the V.C. **Summer Nuclear Station** site near Jenkinsville, South Carolina. "Even with modest load growth projections, both companies will need to add new base load electrical generation within the next 10 years," said Neville Lorick, president of SCE&G. **Press release:** <http://www.scana.com/SCEG/News+and+Issues/SCEG-2006-02-11.htm?mypath=> **Westinghouse** said the selection of the AP1000 marks the third time in three weeks and the fourth time since October that major utilities or nuclear generating companies have picked Westinghouse. The AP1000 will now be the technology basis for 10 combined construction and operating license (COL) applications. **Press release:** http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TICK=WE&STORY=/www/story/02-10-2006/0004279272&EDATE **Shaw Stone & Webster** Nuclear Services unit will provide engineering support: <http://ir.shawgrp.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=61066&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=815503&highlight=>

NUCLEAR POLICY

Europe: The first official meeting on the work on harmonizing nuclear safety in Europe was held in Brussels. Regulators, government bodies, industry and other stakeholder received information on the results achieved. By the year 2010 the nuclear safety of nuclear power in Europe should be

harmonized. That is what **WENRA**, Western European Nuclear Association, has as its goal. **Press release:** http://www.wenra.org/dynamaster/file_archive/060210/a3cbc22e68f99f28235dc22be58f5a63/WENRA%2520press%2520release.pdf

Experts of International Atomic Energy Agency have concluded that the **Swiss physical protection of nuclear facilities**

and nuclear material against sabotage meets the necessary and appropriate standards. Press release (German): <http://www.swiss-energy.ch/imperia/md/content/medienmitteilungen/mm01-062006/10.pdf>

In an article published in the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter, Minister for Sustainable Development Mona Sahlin, presents a **Swedish program to break oil dependence by 2020**. In English: <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/5992/a/51058> Commission on Oil independence: <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2058/a/57732;jsessionid=aT5ARmQEU2e>

URANIUM

Australia: The number of uranium mines in Australia could double to eight or more if the Federal Government approves exports to China. Industry, Tourism and Resources Minister Ian Macfarlane has revealed for the first time that three or four new uranium mines would likely be needed to meet extra demand from the waking giant. "China would absorb all our exports at the moment, so we have a potential doubling of the industry," he said. News: http://www.thecouriermail.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,18109746%255E953,00.html

Fronteer Development Group Inc. announced that Aurora Energy Resources Inc. will be launched by way of an initial public offering. Aurora is currently owned by Fronteer and Altius Minerals Inc. and was created to take ownership of the Labrador uranium portfolio held by the two partners. <http://www.fronteergroup.com/s/NewsR>

[eleases.asp?ReportID=128574& Type=News-Releases& Title=Fronteer-to-Launch-Aurora-by-way-of-IPO](http://www.fronteergroup.com/s/NewsR)

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

Ontario Power Generation Inc. reported its financial and operating results for the year 2005. President and CEO Jim Hankinson said: "Throughout 2005, OPG successfully pursued its strategy of improving the performance of its generating assets in a cost effective manner. The reliability of our nuclear, hydroelectric and fossil assets improved". Financial results: <http://www.opg.com/ir/reports/2005Earnings.pdf>

The NRC has asked Dominion Nuclear North Anna to supplement its revised application for an Early Site Permit. Dominion submitted its initial application on Sept. 25, 2003, and submitted the revised application on Jan. 13, 2006. The revision reflects a substantial design change to the cooling water system; the proposal now includes a cooling tower rather than lake water to cool discharged water. Press release: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-022.html>

FirstEnergy announced that Unit 1 of the **Beaver Valley NPP** will begin a regularly scheduled outage to replace the **reactor head, steam generators and about one-third of the reactor's fuel assemblies** on. The plant is expected to return to service in May. Press release: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-10-2006/0004279517&EDATE=>

Arizona Public Service has had to shut down units of Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station 18 times since February 2004, primarily because of worn equipment, design problems or delayed maintenance. An overview: <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/0212paloverde12.html>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Russia: Press release of OMZ: "On 7 February Sergey Skaterschikov, member of the Board of Directors of OMZ (Uralmash-Izhora Group) (OMZ) was informed by **Gazprombank**, in its capacity as a representative and a member of a group of investors of OMZ, about the fact that the aforementioned group of investors has consolidated **control of more than 75% of OMZ's stock**. The group of investors is coordinating its activities with the management of the **Federal Agency for Nuclear Energy of Russia**. The group of investors believes that the recent reform process in the nuclear energy industry in Russia is likely to affect the structure of OMZ and its nuclear equipment division. Such a development could potentially lead to a de-listing of OMZ's securities on domestic and international exchanges and a reorganization of the company from an open joint stock company into a closed joint stock company. In order to minimize potential loss to minority shareholders in the event of de-listing, the group of investors is planning to make a **public offer to the rest of OMZ's shareholders to purchase the outstanding shares**. The offer price will not exceed the average price of OMZ's shares for the last 6 months." [http://www.omz.ru/eng/media/release/art](http://www.omz.ru/eng/media/release/article.wbp?news-article-id=AAE1079B-2FC6-4209-A6D6-886B002766E5)

[icle.wbp?news-article-id=9214C329-EC86-4E21-BDF3-17AF8DD12639](http://www.omz.ru/eng/media/release/article.wbp?news-article-id=9214C329-EC86-4E21-BDF3-17AF8DD12639)

Following the announced consolidation of control over more than 75% of OMZ's shares by a group of investors including Gazprombank, **two of OMZ's Board of Directors have submitted their resignations**. In their resignation notices Mr. Sergey Skaterschikov and Mr. Alan Kazbekov mention the **planned de-listing of the Company from local and international exchanges** as well as the announced corporate **restructuring of OMZ from an open joint stock company into a closed joint stock company** as the main reasons for their resignation.

<http://www.omz.ru/eng/media/release/article.wbp?news-article-id=AAE1079B-2FC6-4209-A6D6-886B002766E5> .

A question from the editors: Is anti-nuke former German chancellor still consultant of Gazprom?

RECYCLING, MOX

British Nuclear Group has made progress with the work necessary to get Thorp reprocessing facility fully operational again. John Clarke, Director of Thorp, said: "Before restarting the plant we will need to assure ourselves that we have done everything necessary to address the issues that led to the current outage and prevent future similar events. We then need to demonstrate to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate that we have strengthened our operating regime sufficiently to give them confidence to allow the plant to restart. The decision to restart is one for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in conjunction with the DTI." The plant ceased production in April 2005.

<http://www.britishnucleargroup.com/content.php?pageID=31&nID=744>

STORAGE AND WASTE

Sweden: After final inspections in the expanded interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel (Clab 2), which is not yet in operation, SKB has found that a component in the facility does not fully comply with the stipulated design requirements. SKB is currently devising a program for the required remedial measures. Press release:

http://www.skb.se/upload/Foretaget/Media/Pressmeddelanden/Press%20release_Clab_Feb2006.pdf

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

British Nuclear Group Project Services will develop the decommissioning strategy for Kurchatov Institute. The contract, worth approximately £300k, began in January and is planned to last 20 months. It will be delivered as part of British Nuclear Group's implementation of the UK DTI Nuclear Safety Program. <http://www.britishnucleargroup.com/content.php?pageID=31&nID=743>

MISCELLANEOUS

The **NRC** is proposing to amend its regulations for the **licensing, inspection and annual fees** it charges applicants and licensees. Hourly rates would increase from \$205 to \$217 for the Nuclear Reactor Safety Program, and from \$197 to \$215 for the Nuclear Materials and Waste Safety Program. Press release:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-021.html>

AND FINALLY THIS

Two Greenpeace images have won awards at the World Press Photo Awards: Among them an image of two children from Belarus, allegedly suffering the effects of the **Chernobyl** nuclear disaster. Press release:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/world-press-photo-awards>

Ukrainian parliament speaker Vladimir Litvin said his country could **develop extreme tourism in the 30-kilometer exclusion zone surrounding the Chernobyl NPP**. "I think we must do everything in our power to extract practical benefits from that disaster, and extreme tourism in the exclusion zone is one of the measures," Litvin said.

<http://www.tass.ru/eng/level2.html?NewsID=3091212&PageNum=0>

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