

# Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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When fashion magazine *Elle* lists nuclear energy among its top ten "cool, new things" for 2006, you know public opinion is shifting. Scott Peterson, Vice-President of Communications at the Nuclear Energy Institute, told the industry conference PIME in Vienna that rising energy prices had triggered a more popular and positive view of nuclear power. Press release: <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2006/pime.html>. Most presentations of the conference **PIME** – "Defining tomorrow's vision of nuclear energy" are available online. A selection: Fatih Birol, OECD/IEA spoke about "**Global energy outlook**: What role for nuclear?" Other topics included **Chernobyl** (e.g. the true scale of the accident, lessons for radiation protection); International Event Scale **INES**; **Incident management** routines at **SKB, Ljubljana** Nuclear Information Center; Volunteering for **repository in Slovenia**; Cooperation for **radwaste disposal in the Leningrad** region; Communications on **Cernavoda**; Women in nuclear. Presentations available at <http://www.pime2006.org/>, then click presentations.

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## *NUCLEAR POLICY*

**Vietnam will put its first nuclear power plant with a capacity of 2,000 MW into operation in 2020**, said Deputy Minister of Science and Technology Tran Quoc Thang speaking at a press briefing in Hanoi on the Strategy on Nuclear Power Application for Peaceful Purposes. News: [http://www.nhandan.com.vn/english/business/180206/business\\_nuclearpower.htm](http://www.nhandan.com.vn/english/business/180206/business_nuclearpower.htm)

**Pathfinder Resources Ltd., Gold-Ore Resources Ltd. and Santoy Resources Ltd.** report that a uranium exploration program has commenced on recently acquired **mineral concessions in Guatemala**. The two contiguous concessions cover 169 square kilometers. Press release: <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionForm=580671>

## *URANIUM*

**Uranium Energy Corp has commenced trading** on the OTC Bulletin Board. **Harry Anthony** was appointed as the Company's Chief Operating Officer. Press releases: <http://www.uraniumenergy.com/>

## *NUCLEAR FUEL*

**Russia**: The inter-agency acceptance commission assessed the readiness of JSC NCCP for the production of the components of new **improved fuel assemblies for the VVER-1000 reactors of Balakovo NPP**. The initial batch of fuel elements will be

manufactured by late February, 2006. Fuel assemblies of this new type TVS-2M have larger uranium charge. Press release by TVEL:

<http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=79>

**Ukraine:** The U.S. will continue the program of testing experimental nuclear fuel in Ukraine, said U.S. Commerce Deputy Secretary David Sampson. In 2002 the governments of Ukraine and the U.S. set up a joint project called **Qualification of the Alternative Supplier of Ukraine's Nuclear Fuel** to test nuclear fuel viewed as an alternative to Russian-made fuel. News: <http://www.interfax.kiev.ua/eng/go.cgi?31,20060218003>

## **REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES**

**NRC is sending an Augmented Inspection Team to review security issues at the Turkey Point NPP,** operated by Florida Power & Light Company, about 30 miles southeast of Miami. An AIT is formed to review the circumstances surrounding more significant issues at NRC- licensed facilities. Details of NRC inspections of security are not publicly available. The NRC has determined that certain security information should **not be made public if it could reasonably be useful to an adversary.** Press release: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-003ii.html>

NRC has issued its **final safety evaluation (SER) for the Clinton early site permit** application. Exelon will have 14 days to review the SER for proprietary information. The report will then be **available electronically** to the

public. <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-027.html>

The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission clarified its standards of conduct requirements to make clear that **transmission providers may communicate essential information to nuclear power plants to preserve power grid reliability.** “This order eliminates any ambiguity as to whether Commission rules impede communication with nuclear plant operators regarding safety and reliability,” said Chairman Joseph T. Kelliher. <http://www.ferc.gov/press-room/press-releases/2006/2006-1/02-16-06-E-11.asp>

## **NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

**General Electric Co. plans to double or triple sales at its nuclear business over the next decade** in an effort to catch up with rival Westinghouse Electric Co. Nuclear will be 20% to 30% of sales at the GE Energy unit in a decade, up from 10% today, GE Nuclear chief executive officer Andrew White said in an interview with *Bloomberg*. News: [http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=73265&version=1&template\\_id=48&parent\\_id=28](http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=73265&version=1&template_id=48&parent_id=28) *Bloomberg Markets* features an article focusing on GE's makeover: <http://www.ge.com/files/usa/company/investor/downloads/GEsmakeover.pdf>

## **TRANSPORT**

NRC now has **two reports concerning cask behavior in tunnel fire accidents**

available online. Last September NRC released a report modeling the **Baltimore rail tunnel fire**. A new study concerns transportation package response to the **Caldecott tunnel fire scenario**. Summary and reports see: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-026.html>

Colorado State Patrol and Department of Health officials worked to clean-up a road of a **uranium ore spill** that occurred when the driver lost control of the semi-trailer truck in a hairpin turn. More than 25 tons of ore spilled. The ore was on its way to the Cotter Corp. uranium mill. News: <http://www.themountainmail.com/main.asp?SectionID=4&SubSectionID=4&ArticleID=7321&TM=39438.42>

**Great Britain:** A lead safety plug was left off a 2.5 ton container carrying radioactive material on a truck. The flask belonging to AEA Technology was being used to **transport a piece of decommissioned cancer treatment equipment** 130 miles from a hospital to the Sellafield complex in Cumbria on March 11, 2002. Dr Michael Clark, of the Health Protection Agency's radiation protection division, said that those in the vicinity of the trailer, and particularly its driver, were "very fortunate" to have escaped unharmed. "The doses — and the dangers — drop off with distance, but this was a very large source, potentially lethal," said Dr Clark. News: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2045640,00.html> and <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-2046104,00.html>

## **STORAGE AND WASTE**

Under a global security initiative, an IAEA-supported operation has safely **conditioned, packaged, and shipped radioactive neutron sources from three African countries to the United States for ultimate disposition**. The neutron sources were recovered from South Africa, Sudan and Côte d'Ivoire before their repatriation in January 2006 to the U.S. the country from which they originally came. Press release: [http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2006/africa\\_radsources.html](http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2006/africa_radsources.html)

## **REPOSITORIES**

**DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management released a 144-page report confirming the technical soundness of infiltration modeling for Yucca Mountain**. The report, which was reviewed by three outside experts, found no problems with the water infiltration rates estimated by the USGS scientists. The conclusions were corroborated by other data and were comparable to findings by other scientists studying similar environments around the country, the report said. It found no problem with the basis for the Energy Department's 2002 recommendation of Yucca Mountain as the site for a nuclear waste dump. However, **Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico will redo the computer models because quality assurance rules weren't complied with, Paul Golan, acting director of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management said**. The lab started the work in September and will finish this spring or summer. **Report:**

[http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/newsroom/documents/tech\\_report\\_pr.pdf](http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov/newsroom/documents/tech_report_pr.pdf)

### **ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE**

According to a decree by S. Kirienko, Head of Rosatom, **M. Solonin, Research Manager of JSC TVEL's Technology & Innovation Center, has become the leader of Rosatom's Task Group "Processing Platform of Future Development of Atomic Power Industry"**. Press release: <http://www.tvcl.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=78>

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Cancer Institute published a *REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A STUDY OF THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES TO THE AMERICAN POPULATION FROM*

*NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS*. The report itself makes only crude estimates of **doses and health risks from exposure to radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons tests** conducted from 1951 through 1962. Materials available <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/radiation/fallout/default.htm>

**The Pew Center on Global Climate Change released the first comprehensive plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the U.S.** It states that nuclear power currently provides a substantial amount of non-emitting electricity, and is therefore important to keep in the generation mix. The report recommends **support for advanced generation of nuclear power**, while noting that issues such as safety and waste disposal must also be addressed. Summary and report: [http://www.pewclimate.org/press\\_room/sub\\_press\\_room/2006\\_releases/agenda\\_release.cfm](http://www.pewclimate.org/press_room/sub_press_room/2006_releases/agenda_release.cfm)

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