

Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

South Africa: Contingency plans put in place by the South African utility Eskom after last year's power shortages are "just not enough" to cope with the Western Cape's peak demand, which means more blackouts are likely. Koeberg NPP Unit 1 has been down since it was damaged in December by a loose bolt. The second unit was shut down on Sunday after the unit tripped, leaving the province to rely on power carried from the north by transmission lines. Eskom rolled out controlled blackouts in several areas to reduce the load. A live report:

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=14&art_id=vn20060220102611846C246718 Release by Eskom about the sequence of events

http://www.eskom.co.za/live/content.php?Item_ID=1027

Load shedding schedules are available here:

http://www.eskom.co.za/live/content.php?Category_ID=184

DOE announced that the **United States signed a sodium-cooled fast reactor systems arrangement with France and Japan**, providing the framework for collaboration among these countries on the research and development of these advanced nuclear reactors. This arrangement will support the development of technologies associated with the U.S.-led Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. <http://www.energy.gov/news/3218.htm>

France: The institutionalized public debate concerning the EPR Project at Flamanville was finished. The special commission published its report and assessment. The commission's chairman criticized that the debate was influenced by prior policy decisions of the French government and parliament in favor of the construction.

Summary: http://www.debatpublic-epr.org/presse/communiqués_presse.html Report:

<http://www.debatpublic-epr.org/docs/pdf/verbatim/synthese-epr-paris-170206.pdf>

NUCLEAR POLICY

In his weekly radio address President Bush spoke about his administration's plans to expand the use of safe and clean nuclear power: "Nuclear power generates large amounts of low-cost electricity without emitting air pollution or greenhouse gases. Yet nuclear power now produces only about 20 percent of America's electricity. It has the potential

to play an even greater role. [...] **Our goal is to start the construction of new nuclear power plants by the end of this decade.** [...] We must work together to address two challenges: **We must dispose of nuclear waste safely, and we must keep nuclear technology and material out of the hands of terrorist networks and terrorist states.**" Under the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, "America will work with

nations that have advanced civilian nuclear energy programs, such as France, Japan, and Russia. Together, we will develop and deploy innovative, advanced reactors and new methods to recycle spent nuclear fuel. This will allow us to produce more energy, while dramatically reducing the amount of nuclear waste and eliminating the nuclear byproducts that unstable regimes or terrorists could use to make weapons. As these technologies are developed, **we will work with our partners to help developing countries meet their growing energy needs** by providing them with small-scale reactors that will be secure and cost-effective. We will also ensure that these developing nations have a reliable nuclear fuel supply. In exchange, these countries would agree to use nuclear power only for civilian purposes and forego uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities." The president's **address:**
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/02/20060218.html>

Formalizing its position that India should be allowed to enter into civil nuclear cooperation with other leading nuclear powers, **France signed a declaration with India on the development of nuclear energy. Text:**
http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files_156/india_500/visits_3264/declaration-by-france-and-india-on-the-development-of-nuclear-energy-for-peaceful-purposes-bangkok-february-18-2006_3910.html

India/USA: In a letter to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, **former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh questioned Washington's motive behind the India/US nuclear**

deal. Singh who had earlier supported the agreement wrote that if the nuclear deal amounts to making India a camp follower of the US, it should be scrapped. Letter:
<http://in.rediff.com/news/2006/feb/21vps.htm>

URANIUM

China is studying the possibility of jointly developing foreign uranium reserves in countries whose resources have yet to be fully exploited, a senior official with the China National Nuclear Corp. said on the sidelines of a conference on China-European energy cooperation. News:
<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/3673631.html>

Finnish authorities and the representatives of the French uranium company Cogema got an unenthusiastic reception at the information meetings arranged for the citizens of the Eastern Uusimaa region. The residents grilled the company about exploration rights.
<http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Eastern+Uusimaa+residents+grill+uranium+company+about+exploration+rights/1135218857887>

UrAsia Energy Ltd. provided an update with respect to its Joint Venture Operations in the Republic of **Kazakhstan.** Substantial press release:
<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/February2006/20/c4527.html>

CONVERSION, ENRICHMENT

USEC reported 2005 results and its outlook 2006. Cost of sales in 2005 for

SWU and uranium was \$1,148.4 million, an increase of 7 percent on higher unit costs and higher volumes. Advanced technology costs for 2005, primarily related to the demonstration of the American Centrifuge technology, were \$94.5 million, an increase of 62 percent year over year. USEC expects to spend approximately **\$190 million on the American Centrifuge program in 2006**. USEC continues to demonstrate its next-generation American Centrifuge uranium enrichment technology. **Testing of individual machines** in special test equipment located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee continues as the company **prepares to build and install centrifuge machines in the Lead Cascade** at the Piketon, Ohio centrifuge demonstration facility. **Full report:** http://www.usec.com/v2001_02/Content/News/NewsFiles/USEC4Q2005Earnings.pdf

NUCLEAR FUEL

JSC TVEL made its first nuclear fuel shipment to South Ukrainian NPP in 2006. The scheduled supplies in 2006 and 2007 will make it possible to fully transfer power unit No.2 to TVSA fuel. Under the contract on nuclear fuel supplies to Ukraine in 2006 JSC TVEL will deliver fuel to all 15 Ukrainian power units. Besides, the TVSA fuel supplies are scheduled for 12 power units with VVER-1000 reactors. <http://www.tvcl.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=81>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

USA: Operators at Exelon's LaSalle Generating Station declared a "site

area emergency" at 12:28 a.m. Monday during shutdown of the Unit 1 reactor for a scheduled refueling outage and exited the emergency condition at 4:27 a.m. Monday. The emergency was declared after plant personnel were unable to confirm the position of 3 of the 185 control rods following a shutdown of the reactor. **Exelon press release:** <http://www.exeloncorp.com/news/pressrelease/powergen/pr+2006+02+20.htm> The NRC conducts a **special inspection at the LaSalle NPP following the problem with control rod instrumentation during the automatic shutdown** of the Unit 1 reactor. The utility declared a Site Area Emergency at the plant early Monday when reactor instrumentation showed that three control rods failed to insert fully into the reactor core during an automatic reactor shutdown. The plant was at 6 percent power when the automatic shutdown occurred. NRC press release and more: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-005iii.html>

Electricite de France SA, Europe's largest utility, said it's **in talks with potential partners about building the U.K.'s first nuclear power plants** in more than 10 years. Paris-based EDF has held "informal" discussions with German utilities **E.ON AG and RWE AG, Constellation Energy Group of the U.S. and British Energy Group Plc**, Bruno Lescoeur, EDF's senior vice president of international businesses, said in an interview in London. News: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?id=10000102&sid=a6TID05Ad5BA&refer=uk>

France: EDF has published its results for 2005. As at 31 December, 2005, the EDF Group's consolidated annual

revenues stood at 51.1 billion euros (compared with 46.1 billion euros -pro forma - as at December 31, 2004), i.e. an increase of 10.6%. Excluding the effects of changes in consolidation, method and currency effect, this represents an increase of 8.3%. **Report:** <http://www.edf.com/70866d/Homefr/Press/Pressreleases/Strongrevenuegrowthin2005Revenues>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has been awarded a multi-million dollar contract to design, test and manufacture Emergency Core Cooling (ECC) Strainers for the V.C. Summer nuclear power station owned and operated by South Carolina Electric & Gas. ECC strainers are designed for use in emergency situations to filter debris from the water used to maintain the cooling of the reactor core. Release: <http://www.aecl.ca/index.asp?layid=55&csid=168&csid1=162&menuid=48>

A Chinese group led by **Huaneng Power Int. plans to start construction this year of the world's first commercial nuclear power plant using pebble-bed technology.** The 200-megawatt reactor, which is 50 percent owned by Huaneng, will be built in Shandong Province in eastern China and cost about \$375 million, said Wu Zongxin, a professor at the Institute of Nuclear and New Energy Technology at Tsinghua University. The institute developed the prototype and will own 5 percent of the project. News and more: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/02/21/business/chinuke.php>

TRANSPORT

Great Britain: Leeds Crown Court imposed a fine and costs of about 151,000 £ on AEA after it pleaded guilty to a number of breaches in transporting a container holding decommissioned cancer treatment equipment to the Windscale site at Sellafield in Cumbria from a hospital in Leeds. News: <http://www.forbes.com/markets/feeds/afx/2006/02/20/afx2539047.html>

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

Japan: The Atomic Energy Agency has developed a method for dismantling nuclear facilities that involves jets of ultrahigh-pressure water shot from a special device. **JAEA plans to use the new method to cut pipes during the decommissioning of the Fugen advanced thermal converter reactor in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, which was shut down in March 2003.** News: <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20060220TDY03003.htm>

ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE

Russia: Following the resignation of two members of the Board of Directors of **OMZ (Uralmash-Izhora Group), Mr. Horst Wiesinger, an independent board member, resigned** citing the consolidation of control over more than 75% of OMZ's shares by a group of investors including **Gazprombank**, and the announced plans to de-list and restructure OMZ as the main reasons for his resignation. **Press release:** <http://www.omz.ru/eng/media/release/article.wbp?news-article-id=F9100B7E-D4AB-4A14-83C5-1C5C91D9DB0B>

MISCELLANEOUS

The **loss of ice from Greenland doubled between 1996 and 2005**, as its glaciers flowed faster into the ocean in response to a generally warmer climate, according to a NASA/University of Kansas study published in *Science*: "The Greenland ice sheet's contribution to sea level is an issue of considerable societal and scientific importance." These findings **call into question predictions of the future of Greenland in a warmer climate from computer models** that do not include variations in glacier flow as a component of change. Actual changes will likely be much larger than predicted by these models." http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2006/feb/HQ_06066_Greenland_ice_melting_corrected.html

Andris Piebalgs, Energy Commissioner spoke at the opening of the China-EU Energy Conference in Shanghai: *Towards a closer EU-China co-*

operation in the field of Energy.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/06/105&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en> During his visit Andris Piebalgs will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chinese government on **near-zero emissions power generation technology**. More: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/190&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

AND FINALLY THIS

The UK's leading energy experts are worried about blackouts during London's 2012 Olympics as a serious concern, according to a new survey by **Mitsui Babcock**. The survey by Mitsui: <http://www.mitsuibabcock.com/live/documents/energy%20brief.pdf>

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