

Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

Texas: An elusive fix for a vibrating emergency pipe at the Palo Verde nuclear plant means the Valley's main source of cheap power will operate at reduced output until mid-April and possibly beyond. Palo Verde Unit 1 has run at about 25 percent of capacity since late December because of a vibrating pipe that operator Arizona Public Service Co. hasn't been able to repair quickly. APS will take another stab at a potential fix in mid-April, when it shuts down the reactor and installs shock absorbers to reduce the vibrations in the emergency shutdown line. If that doesn't work, APS likely will close the reactor in June to relocate a valve, which is seen as the surest way to fix the problem, and crank the reactor back up to full power. News:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/0225paloverde25.html>

South Africa: Koeberg NPP: Power cuts have left homes and businesses in the Western Cape reeling for five days. **Eskom chief executive and Western Cape Premier held a media briefing on the matter in the Western Cape legislature – and were left literally in the dark after the lights went off during the briefing.** The National Energy Regulator (Nersa) called an urgent meeting to consider Eskom's response to the enquiry following a wave of electricity outages. News and more links from

<http://iafrica.com/news/sa/918395.htm> Phil Nkhwashu, spokesperson for the **National Nuclear Regulator**, dismissed fears of a meltdown. He said that in the event of a problem **there were three layers of barriers to protect the plant, one of which were the emergency generators. Nkhwashu said he was not at liberty to reveal what the other two were.** A source at Koeberg, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed that there had been general concern about the diesel generators having to run for about five hours. He said the four diesel generators were the only power to both of the unit's console rooms during this period.

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=14&click_id=14&art_id=vn20060225120158158C945707

NUCLEAR POLICY

Iran reached a preliminary agreement that Russia will enrich uranium for the Islamic Republic, a compromise designed to allay international concerns about Iran developing nuclear weapons. "We have reached an agreement in principle for the creation of a joint

company," Iranian Vice President for Atomic Energy Qolam-Reza Aqazadeh said at a joint press conference with Sergei **Kiriyenko**, the head of Russia's Federal Agency for Nuclear Energy, in **Bushehr**. News:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?id=10000087&sid=awZwlOMZCh.4&ref=top_world_news

United Kingdom: Delegates at **Labour's Scottish conference have endorsed a resolution backing the replacement or renewal of nuclear power stations.** The Amicus engineering union, who had called for the move, said it should be part of a balanced energy policy. News: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4753534.stm>

Australia: Prime Minister John Howard backed nuclear power for Australia provided it was economically feasible. "I am not saying that we should have it tomorrow. What I am saying is that if the economics of energy lead us to embracing nuclear power than we should be willing to do so." News: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/National/Howard-backs-nuclear-power/2006/02/24/1140670228585.html>

URANIUM

World Wide Minerals Ltd. announced that it had started a process aimed at commencing **arbitration proceedings with the Republic of Kazakhstan** and certain agencies of Kazakhstan. The issues in dispute relate to demand loans made by World Wide to Kazakhstan in 1996 and 1997 for the reconstruction of the uranium industry in that country. Press release: <http://www.worldwideminerals.com/news/060223.pdf>

NUCLEAR FUEL

The Ukrainian government said it would diversify fuel supplies to the national nuclear power plants. Prime

Minister Yuri Yekhanurov told a press conference: "We want to diversify fuel supplies to Ukraine to feel better." He said Ukraine is considering closer cooperation in this field with **Russia.** "We are also working with **Westinghouse** of the U.S., and there are offers from **French firms,**" he said. <http://www.tass.ru/eng/level2.html?NewsID=3580876&PageNum=0>

Argonne National Laboratory provided an **overview about the results of the Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors (RERTR) program and its outlook.** RERTR's researchers will collaborate with Russian organizations to convert Russian-supplied research reactors in other countries, support U.S. universities to convert their reactors, develop advanced fuel to convert reactors that cannot use currently qualified LEU fuel, and demonstrate the use of LEU targets to produce molybdenum-99 for medical applications. Since the RERTR program began, 43 HEU reactors in 23 countries from Argentina to Turkey have been modified to run on LEU or are currently operating with a mixed load of HEU and LEU fuel. Another 66 reactors are prime candidates for conversion from HEU to LEU fuel. Overview: http://www.anl.gov/Media_Center/News/2006/RERTR060224.html

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

South-Ukrainian NPP Unit 1 will be the first VVER-1000 reactor with extended operational lifetime.

Development of the needed documents comes to the end. Energoatom plans to make a **tender** to estimate the technical condition and define the new term of

operation. Press release:

http://www.energoatom.kiev.ua/en/news/nngc?_m=pubs&_t=rec&id=12574

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

China: The State Council issued “the national medium- and long-term program for science and technology development (2006-2020)”, in which it confirmed 16 specialized important S&T projects. The **large size advanced PWR and high temperature gas-cooled reactor are listed into these projects.**

The demonstration project for large size advanced PWR will rely on self-reliance with Sino-foreign cooperation, in order to master international advanced technology on nuclear power and develop a Chinese third-generation large PWR. The demonstration project of high-temperature gas-cooled reactor is aimed to build a prototype 200MWe HGCR NPP. **Press release:**

<http://www.cnn.com.cn/2006-02-24/000224929.html>

TRANSPORT

In the year since it purchased the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project facilities, U.S. DOE has shipped **record amounts of transuranic waste out of Idaho National Laboratory** at a faster rate than it has ever shipped transuranic waste before. More than 9,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste have left Idaho in the past four years, with nearly 5,400 cubic meters of that sent in the last 10 months.

<http://newsdesk.inel.gov/>

STORAGE AND WASTE

Ukraine: Olena Mykolaichuk, chairperson of State Nuclear Regulation Committee **refuted statements which alleged that an international dump** to bury radioactive wastes is being planned.

Energoatom confirmed that its contract with Holtec foresees construction of the storage of spent nuclear fuel of WCRP reactors of Ukrainian NPPs. Storage of other spent nuclear fuel of other types or from other countries is technically impossible. Substantial press release:

http://www.energoatom.kiev.ua/en/news/nngc?_m=pubs&_t=rec&id=12585

Reason for the controversy are **accusations of Ukraine's ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko against the Holtec International.**

<http://www.unian.net/eng/news/news-99651.html>

DOE announced that Nuclear Filter Technology (NucFil) has been awarded licenses to manufacture Fiber Optic Hydrogen Sensors. The licenses allow NucFil to work with scientists and engineers to further develop fiber optic hydrogen sensors that will then be manufactured and integrated into **safety sensors for nuclear waste packages, automobiles, industrial plants and anywhere else hydrogen** may be present. Press release:

http://www.nrel.gov/news/press/2006/06_06_sensor_tech.html

DECOMMISSIONING, CLEAN-UP

Bulgaria's nuclear power plant in Kozloduy will contribute 7.5% of the price of its power output to the nuclear decommissioning fund,

starting in 2007, down from the current annual contribution of 15%, decided the cabinet. News:

http://www.reporter.gr/fulltext_eng.cfm?id=60224143916

REPOSITORIES

Switzerland: The Federal Energy Agency BFE informed authorities in Switzerland and neighboring countries about its **further planning steps for geological disposal**. The agency will present its concept for review in workshops and focus group discussions during the coming summer. Press release (in German or French):

<http://www.technischesforum.ch/news.php?userhash=924715&newsID=39&IID=1>

ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE

The **European Commission has launched a new High Level Group (HLG) on Competitiveness, Energy and the Environment**. Over the next two years the HLG will aim to foster closer coordination between policy and legislative initiatives. Among the members are besides EU Commissioners and country ministers e.g. Anne Lauvergeon, Areva and Rafael Miranda Robredo, Endesa. Press release: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/226&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

USA: Exelon was named one of America's "Most Admired Companies" by FORTUNE magazine in its annual report card on corporate reputation. The magazine, which

released the report this week, ranked Exelon number one on the electric and gas utilities industry list.

<http://www.exeloncorp.com/news/pressrelease/corporate/Press+Release+22406.htm>

Southern Nuclear Operating Company announced that its Board of Directors elected **Joseph Miller as senior vice president of Nuclear Development**. **This role, which is new at Southern Nuclear**, will oversee the development of Southern Company's nuclear generation expansion efforts. Release: <http://newsinfo.southernco.com/article.asp?mnuType=sub&mnuItem=ni&id=1972&mnuOpco=soco&category=0>

United Kingdom: The **National Decommissioning Authority** confirmed the appointment of Mark Leggett as Commercial Director. He arrives from Aker Kvaerner and will take up his post on 13 March. A collection of the **biographies of all NDA directors**: [http://www.nda.gov.uk/About_the_NDA--Biographies--Biographies_\(490\).aspx?pg=490](http://www.nda.gov.uk/About_the_NDA--Biographies--Biographies_(490).aspx?pg=490)

MISCELLANEOUS

At the Canadian Nuclear Association Linda J. Keen, President and Chief Executive Officer of **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission** spoke about the **modernized approach of the CNSC to regulate the growing nuclear industry in Canada**. Speech: http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/media/speeches/2006_02_23.cfm

AND FINALLY THIS

Surprise? Reinforcing steel was missing or not installed as designed in some concrete walls and floors in a \$350

million storehouse that will hold the nation's largest inventory of bomb-grade uranium, according to federal inspectors. News:
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1110AP_Uranium_Storehouse.html

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