

Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

At their meeting in Trakai the three Baltic Prime Ministers - Algirdas Brazauskas, Aigars Kalvitis and Andrus Ansip – discussed the positions of the Baltic States on energy issues and, also, the co-ordination of the preparation of national energy strategies. The Prime Ministers signed a joint communiqué, in which they **agreed to prepare, during 2006, a common Baltic Energy Strategy, as well as to support the initiative to construct a new nuclear plant in Lithuania** and invite the energy enterprises of the Baltic States, such as Lietuvos energija, Latvenergo and Eestienergia to invest in the project and construction of the new nuclear plant in Lithuania. **Communiqué:**

http://www.lrv.lt/main_en.php?id=en_aktualijos_su_video/p.php&n=118 . More:

http://www.lrv.lt/main_en.php?id=en_aktualijos_su_video/p.php&n=119

The U.S. Department of Commerce has conducted administrative **reviews of the countervailing duty (CVD) orders on low enriched uranium** from Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom and has preliminary determined that the **Governments of Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK have met the requirements for revocation of these CVD orders**. DOC said that "all programs found by the Department to have provided countervailable subsidies [for Urenco LEU] have been abolished for at least three consecutive years." **Notice in the Federal Registry:**

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-2781.htm>

Areva announced that former U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham has accepted the appointment as Chairman of the Board of Areva Inc. As Non-Executive Chairman, Secretary Abraham will be supporting Areva's business expansion in North America. Areva press release: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060228/dctu032.html?v=42>

NUCLEAR POLICY

The European Commission and Japan signed an Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. The Agreement will provide a stable framework for the development of nuclear trade between the two parties and facilitate co-operation in areas of common interest, such as safeguards.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/236&format=>

[HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](#)

The International Conference on Effective Nuclear Regulatory Systems began in Moscow. Its aim is to develop a common understanding, approaches and means to face current challenges in nuclear and radiation safety and nuclear security. Issues of independence, regulatory effectiveness and international co-operation are on the

agenda, as some 300 senior regulators from nearly 70 countries meet. **Press release and more:**

<http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2006/globalnucsafety.html>

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made a statement in the Parliament on civil nuclear energy cooperation with the United States:
<http://pmindia.nic.in/lpeech.asp?id=284>

United Kingdom: The Scottish Labour Party agreed to support the building of nuclear power station. In a surprise move on the final day of the party conference, delegates overwhelmingly approved a call for ageing nuclear plants to be replaced or renewed. News:
<http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=298462006>

URANIUM

Australia's uranium production is tipped to record an eight per cent increase in 2005/06 to almost 12,000 tons on the back of higher output from BHP Billiton's Olympic Dam mine. **Export earnings for uranium are forecast to increase 50 per cent this year to \$712 million** through higher export prices. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics published its commodity forecasts for the next five years to 2011. **Reports at,** look for uranium pages 102 ff.:
http://www.abareconomics.com/australiancommodities/pdfs/AC_March06_MineralsEnergy.pdf

Swedish infrastructure minister Ulrika Messing, who is responsible for

mining and minerals policy, confirmed that the Swedish decision to close down its nuclear power plants would be **incompatible with a policy that allowed uranium mining.** In an article in Göteborgsposten, Messing wrote that she understands the interest of the companies involved in finding out what deposits the mountains might contain - and that permission has been granted for surveys. "The permits are strictly regulated and do not mean that we will allow uranium mining," she added. Her article in Swedish, government website:
<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/6285/a/58935>

Russia's uranium production will increase to make up 70 percent of the amount consumed per year by 2015, deputy head of the Federal Agency for Subsurface Resources (Rosnedra), Vladimir Bavlov told a press conference, noting that this will require investment of \$10 billion over that period. **At present, uranium production in Russia accounts for 20 percent of the country's consumption.** Thus, only 3,200 tons of natural uranium was produced in 2005 of the 16,000 tons consumed, **the balance coming from stockpiles.** News:
<http://www.rbcnews.com/free/20060227182243.shtml>

Urasia Energy Ltd announced it has entered into an agreement for the supply of **uranium concentrates from its Akdala uranium mine in Kazakhstan.** Akdala is expected to reach full production of 2.6 million pounds U3O8 in 2006. The contract is for the purchase of approximately 200,000 pounds U3O8 for delivery in 2006 to a major Western utility company. **Press release:**

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/February2006/27/c1934.html>

Strathmore Minerals Corp announced that it has acquired app. 364,218 ha of uranium mineral properties near **Fort McLeod, Alberta**. This acquisition brings the company's land holdings in Canada to 1.6 million ha, which is **among the largest uranium exploration land packages in North America**. Strathmore has land holdings with an active presence in the Athabasca basin, Alberta, Quebec, Wyoming, South Dakota, and New Mexico, in addition to international holdings in Peru. Release: http://www.strathmoreminerals.com/s/NewsReleases.asp?ReportID=130519&_Type=&_Title=Strathmore-Acquires-900000-Acres-In-Southwestern-Alberta-Uranium-Exploratio

NUCLEAR FUEL

Russia: A pilot batch of two fuel assemblies for BN-600 reactor was manufactured at JSC Mashinostroitelny Zavod. The fuel rods' claddings are made from new ЭК-164 radiation-resistant steel. The testing has to confirm the positive prospects of the developed alloy for the core components of the BN-800 and the future BN-1800 reactor. **Press release** by TVEL: <http://www.tvel.ru/en/press/news/index.php?id4=82>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

Gas Natural SDG SA will consider raising its 23.5 billion-euro hostile offer for **Endesa SA**, Spain's largest power company, to compete with a bid from **E.ON AG**, people familiar with the

situation said. News:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000085&sid=av1VPpl8t89w&refer=europa>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Russia: Tenex formalized a transaction on buying from the affiliated companies of the JSC Gazprombank 4 per cent of shares of the JSC Atomstroieexport. As a result, the aggregate share holding of the JSC Atomstroieexport owned by the entities affiliated to the Federal Agency for Atomic Energy has reached 50.2 per cent. Tenex plans to focus its efforts on improving the financial standing of the JSC Atomstroieexport and expanding its export capabilities. **Press release:** http://www.tenex.ru/digest/stock_eng.html

Impress Software, a provider of packaged integration applications for SAP Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) and **Enterprise Project Management (EPM)** customers, has been selected by **Framatome ANP Inc.** to integrate its SAP and Primavera systems in order to give controllers and schedulers more accurate data and timely visibility. **Press release:** <http://www.impress.com/contentmgr/showdetails.php/id/437>

South African nuclear technology vendor **PBMR Ltd** is **hosting a multi-national safety culture team under the leadership of the IAEA** following its request to the Agency last year for an independent review of safety culture. The essence of this independent review is to benchmark PBMR Ltd against world best practice. **Press release:**

<http://www.pbmr.co.za/index.asp?Content=10&MState=DT&Article=70>

REPOSITORIES

USA: The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico has received since opening 4 5373 shipments, has disposed 35 760 cubic meters of waste and disposed 75 491 containers in the underground. Publication:

<http://www.wipp.energy.gov/TeamWorks/index.htm>

MISCELLANEOUS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has **published a state-of-the-art, fully documented set of software for calculating radiation dose and risk from radionuclides released to the environment**. The GENII-NESHAPS Edition is specifically designed to help site managers. It incorporates improved transport models, exposure options, dose and risk estimation, and user interfaces. GENII-NESHAPS includes the dosimetric models of ICRP publications 56 through 72. More at: <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/assessment/genii.html#background>

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