

# Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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USA: The Majority Staff of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works released its report, *Yucca Mountain: The Most Studied Real Estate on the Planet*, to Committee chairman addressing the analyses conducted at the site, scientific issues, and the regulatory and legal challenges related to the site. Based on scientific conclusions after decades of study, the Committee's **report supports opening Yucca Mountain without further delay as a critical component to nuclear renaissance and energy security** in the United States. The report (25 pages) is at <http://epw.senate.gov/repwhitepapers/YuccaMountainEPWReport.pdf>

Effective immediately **Areva U.S. first-tier subsidiaries will be marketing their products and services under the following legal names**: Cogema Inc. will become Areva NC Inc. (nuclear cycle), Framatome-ANP, Inc., will be known as Areva NP Inc. (nuclear power), Areva T&D remains unchanged (transmission and distribution). The changes fully integrate the AREVA name and brand to both customers and the public. Press release: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/03-01-2006/0004311652&EDATE=>

**The aggressive form of avian influenza** has been found in wild birds in the Oskarshamn area. The **Swedish Board of Agriculture has decided to set up zones for protection and surveillance in an area around the nuclear power plant at Oskarshamn.** <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2064/a/58999>

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## NUCLEAR POLICY

**India and the U.S.** finally succeeded in finalizing the agreement on much-awaited nuclear program. The Prime Minister Manmohan said an important step forward was the preparation of a plan that separated civilian from nuclear military facilities and "it has been successfully completed". Details of the separation plan, as also the assurances given by the US under the deal, will be outlined by the Prime Minister in Parliament. **Joint statement** from: <http://pmindia.nic.in/pressrel.htm> News: <http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItem>

[s.asp?ID=IEH20060302102048&Page=H&Title=Top+Stories&Topic=0](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,18334393%255E29277,00.html)

**Australia won't change its policy preventing the export of uranium to India, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said.** "Our policy has been we'll only export uranium to countries that are signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and we've done nothing to change that policy" Downer said. News: [http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5744,18334393%255E29277,00.html](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,18334393%255E29277,00.html)

South Africa: Public Enterprises Minister Alec Erwin **claimed that the bolt that caused havoc at one of Koeberg's generation plants did not get there by accident.** The police and National Intelligence Agency are investigating. Minerals and Energy Minister Lindiwe Hendricks went further, hinting that the alleged saboteurs had a political aim. News:

<http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/opinion.aspx?ID=BD4A162663>

**Armenia is unable to construct a new NPP without outside assistance,** Minister of Energy Armen Movsisyan told reporters. The construction of a new NPP requires the involvement of foreign countries and private companies, he said. According to the Minister, the **bill on the abolition of state monopoly over atomic energy** presented by the RA Government on Tuesday has only one end, namely, ensuring **greater flexibility in searching investors** that are ready to invest capital in the construction of a new power unit. News:

<http://www.arka.am/en/archive/n03/n0103/010306.html>

## **URANIUM**

**Denison Mines Inc closed a \$76.6 million public offering.** The net proceeds of the offering of approximately \$72,000,000 will be used by Denison to fund development activities at the Midwest uranium project, for potential acquisition opportunities which have not been identified to date and for working capital. Press release:

<http://www.denisonmines.com/files/object/March1-06pr.pdf>

Canada: The chief geologist for Forum Development Corp Dr. **Boen Tan compares Cameco Corp's world-class Millennium uranium deposit and the current project his geological team is exploring, the Key Lake Road project.** News reports suggest the Millennium discovery could host a resource of 57 million pounds of uranium oxide. The Millennium deposit is located north of the former world-class Key Lake uranium mine and south of two of the world's highest grade uranium deposits, McArthur River and Cigar Lake.

**Interview** with Boen Tan:

<http://www.stockinterview.com/forum-tan.html>

## **REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES**

The U.S. NRC staff has **approved a request by Entergy Nuclear to increase the generating capacity of Vermont Yankee** by approximately 20 percent. The power uprate for the unit, located in Vernon, Vt., will increase its generating capacity by approximately **100 megawatts electric.** Under the conditions of the uprate, Entergy will increase Vermont Yankee's power level in small increments while NRC staff closely monitors the process until the higher power level is reached. Press release and safety evaluation:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2006/06-032.html>

**Russian and Hungarian companies signed a memorandum on a joint upgrade of Hungary's Paks nuclear power plant,** the companies said.

A statement from Atomstroieksport, Russia's state nuclear technology export company, said Hungary's MVM Rt was looking to develop generating capacity

in Hungary and had prioritized reconstruction of the Paks plant. News: <http://en.rian.ru/world/20060301/43849283.html>

The U.S. NRC has reviewed more than 700 generic comments and questions provided during and after the agency's 2005 **emergency preparedness** public meeting. The comments, along with responses from the NRC and the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, fall into 15 major topic areas, including emergency communications, exercises and drills, federal government responsibilities and security-based emergency action levels. The NRC is considering the comments as part of an **on-going review of emergency preparedness regulations and guidance for commercial NPPs**.

Material about emergency preparedness: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/public-meetings/epreview2005.html>

Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell announced that the Department of Environmental Protection has concluded **surprise inspections at each of the state's five nuclear power plants to ensure control room, security and other vital personnel are alert** and performing their duties in a manner to keep the facilities operating safely. No instances of inattentiveness on the part of control room operators or plant security were found during the first wave of inspections. **Press release:** <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-28-2006/0004308705&EDATE=>

## **NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

Finland: According to claims in the media, the ready-mix **concrete produced by Lemminkäinen's subsidiary Forssan Betoni Oy for the Olkiluoto nuclear power plant project does not meet the quality requirements set for it. The company refutes these claims** as being completely untrue, and states that the Olkiluoto concrete deliveries exceed all the standards and other quality requirements pertaining to them. The confidentiality agreement signed by the company prevents it from commenting any further on this matter. Press release: <http://www.lemminkainen.com/news.asp?Section=1506&Item=13736>

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

NRC has published the following reports: *Crack Growth Rates of Irradiated Austenitic Stainless Steel Weld Heat Affected Zone in BWR Environments*, available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/contract/cr6891/>; and *Irradiation-Assisted Stress Corrosion Cracking Behavior of Austenitic Stainless Steels Applicable to LWR Core Internals* available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/contract/cr6892/>

## **AND FINALLY THIS**

Columbia: Two **Colombians caught trying to sell uranium** might have tried to offer it to Marxist rebels but the metal was **depleted** and unsuitable for making a nuclear or dirty bomb, according to a preliminary government report and the

Attorney General's office. News:  
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsde>

[sk/N02321254.htm](http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsde/sk/N02321254.htm)

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