

Nuc...*brief & link*

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

Urenco announced it was purchasing the 24.5% interest held by Westinghouse Electric Company (owned by BNFL) in Louisiana Energy Services (LES) and the National Enrichment Facility (NEF). Westinghouse decided to sell its minority interest in LES to Urenco at this time to allow the Nuclear Regulatory Commission an opportunity to review Urenco as the full general partner rather than having to consider such an ownership change close to the issuance of the license. As the project approaches construction and operations, both companies agreed Urenco is in the best position to manage these activities. **Helmut Engelbrecht**, Urenco Chief Executive Officer, who made the announcement from Urenco's Head Office in Marlow, United Kingdom confirmed: "The transfer of Westinghouse's interest to the Urenco Group will assist in the progress of the license application and will enable LES to build the NEF to serve its US customer base." Press release: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060303/laf062.html?v=27>

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission published a project description for the environmental assessment of Ontario Power Generation's proposal to construct and operate a deep geologic repository for disposal of low and intermediate radioactive wastes. CNSC has received a letter of intent from OPG to apply for regulatory approval to prepare, construct and operate a **deep geologic disposal facility on the Bruce Nuclear Site within the municipality of Kincardine, Ontario**. A Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) has been proposed for the disposal of low- and intermediate-level radioactive wastes currently stored on the Bruce Site. The DGR will also hold waste produced from the continued operation of OPG-owned nuclear generating stations at Bruce, Pickering and Darlington, Ontario. The DGR project includes the site preparation, construction, operation, and long-term performance of above-ground and below-ground facilities, which are expected to be located within the boundaries of the Bruce Site. Operations would involve those activities required to operate and maintain the DGR facility, remove wastes from the Western Waste Management Facility (WWMF) on the Bruce Site, receive wastes from the WWMF and nuclear generating stations, emplacement of the wastes into the repository, including the closure activities and monitoring of the repository: http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/assessments/EA_06_03_17520.cfm

NUCLEAR POLICY

The White House's fact sheet on: **United States and India – Strategic Partnership** is available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/03/20060302-13.html>

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its affiliated U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) applauded the agreement reached under which India would segregate its civilian nuclear facilities from its strategic facilities and

open them to international inspection. To win U.S. congressional approval of the agreement, the Chamber has formed the Coalition for Partnership with India to marshal a broad public advocacy campaign in support of the agreement. <http://www.uschamber.com/press/releases/2006/march/06-32.htm>

The **Center of Nonproliferation Studies** issued a statement saying: With few details yet known regarding the content of the agreement signed by U.S. President George W. Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, it is too early to provide a comprehensive authoritative analysis and evaluation of the accord. Nonetheless, **what has been initially disclosed about the pact raises a range of important issues, which will require further attention** as the agreement is assessed by the U.S. Congress, the 45-member Nuclear Suppliers Group, and the broader international community. A fundamental question raised by the agreement is whether it strengthens or weakens efforts to curb the spread of nuclear weapons. Comprehensive overview and materials: <http://cns.miis.edu/pubs/week/060302.htm>

France's Areva, said it was hoping to reap the benefit of a landmark civilian nuclear cooperation pact signed between the U.S. and India. "We hope that in the future, having signed the agreement, India will be able to bring onto its markets new propositions (from companies) such as Areva," Jacques-Emmanuel Saulnier, Areva's chief spokesman told Reuters in an interview: <http://in.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=businessNews&storyID=2006-03->

[04T032055Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India-239210-1.xml&archived=False](http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Press/2006/04T032055Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India-239210-1.xml&archived=False)

URANIUM

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will ask John Howard to back his nuclear co-operation deal with George W. Bush and to lift the ban on sales of Australian uranium. On the eve of Mr Howard's visit to India, Mr Singh said he would like to buy uranium from Australia. News: http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,18360907%255E601,00.html

Mega Uranium Ltd. provided a progress summary in its **Patagonia** (Argentina), **Mongolia**, and **Georgetown (Australia)** Uranium Projects, and its takeover offer for the Australian uranium company, **Hindmarsh Resources Ltd.** Summary: <http://www.ccnmatthews.com/news/releases/show.jsp?action=showRelease&searchText=false&showText=all&actionFor=582799>

REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES

The **German Federal Ministry has denied reports concerning the transfer of residual electricity contingents** from newer to older NPPs. Press release: http://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilungen/pressemitteilungen_ab_22112005/pm/36711.php

Kansai Electric Power Co. will abandon a 30-year-long project to build a nuclear power plant in the former Kumihamacho, Kyoto Prefecture. KEPCO has decided to

withdraw an application with the Kyotango municipal government to conduct preparatory environmental research, due to slow growth in power demand and residents' opposition to the project. The firm is to formally finalize the decision and inform the municipal government in a week:
<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20060306TDY01003.htm>

The NRC has issued **annual assessment letters to the 103 operating commercial nuclear power plants of the U.S.** A separate announcement will be issued for each plant meeting. The assessment letters sent to each licensee are available on the NRC Web site at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Westinghouse Electric Company's non-destructive examination company, WesDyne International, is the first vendor to obtain **automated flaw detection, length sizing and through-wall sizing qualifications for the entire range of diameters and thicknesses of dissimilar metal welds found in boiling and pressurized water reactors.** Press release:
http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/micro_stories.pl?ACCT=127481&TI CK=WE&STORY=/www/story/03-01-2006/0004311518&EDATE=Mar+1,+2006

TRANSPORT

The **British Department of Transportation and the French Authority of Nuclear Safety** have

signed an agreement concerning transport of radioactive material.

Press release:

http://www.asn.gouv.fr/data/information/10_2006_TMR.asp

RECYCLING, MOX

United Kingdom: The National Decommissioning Authority has revised the **assessment of the issues associated with the non-restart and restart options for the THORP plant at Sellafield,** originally published on 21 February 2006. The revisions result from a discussion of the original text at a meeting of the Nuclear Materials Issues Group. Assessment:
http://www.nda.gov.uk/documents/assessment_of_issues_associated_with_thorp_non-restart_and_restart_options_published_2_march_2006.pdf

STORAGE AND WASTE

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) announced its conclusion that Ontario Power Generation's **proposal to construct and operate refurbishment waste storage buildings at the Western Waste Management Facility,** taking into account identified mitigation measures, is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. Press release:
http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/medi a/news/news_release.cfm?news_release_id=223

MISCELLANEOUS

State-of-the-art enhanced **oil recovery with carbon dioxide, now recognized as a potential way of dealing with greenhouse gas emissions, could add 89 billion barrels to the recoverable oil resources of the United States**, the Department of Energy has determined. Current U.S. proved reserves are 21.9 billion barrels. Widespread sequestration of industrial carbon dioxide could eventually add as much as 430 billion new barrels to the technically recoverable resource. Press release: <http://www.fossil.energy.gov/news/techl>

[ines/2006/06015-Oil_Recovery_Assessments_Released.html](http://www.fossil.energy.gov/news/techl)

AND FINALLY THIS

In an interview with Deutsche Welle-TV, **German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel** talked about Germany's need to reduce energy consumption, **phasing out nuclear energy** (English): <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,1923349,00.html>

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