

# Nuc...brief & link

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NFCC Nuclear Fuel Cycle Consulting

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**Russia: The government plans to restructure the nuclear energy industry into a vertically integrated holding**, a move that would simplify management in the sector and attract the cash necessary for its further development, a top official said. Federal authorities are reviewing the creation of a fully state-controlled umbrella company, under which several major holdings will be formed, embracing all enterprises operating in the nuclear sector, said Victor Opekunov, chairman of the State Duma subcommittee for nuclear energy. A working group set up by the atomic agency to draft a strategy on how to restructure the industry and meet these targets has proposed that the new vertically integrated holding, provisionally called **Rosatomprom**, include three smaller holdings. The first holding would operate power stations, the second would unite all companies operating in mining and enrichment of uranium, and the third would be in charge of the manufacturing of machinery for the nuclear sector. Sources close to the Federal Atomic Energy Agency said that **state nuclear fuel monopoly TVEL was the most likely candidate to serve as a platform for the new holding**. News: <http://www.moscowtimes.ru/stories/2006/03/07/040.html>

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## **NUCLEAR POLICY**

The **IAEA Board of Governors' meeting began in Vienna**. Measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation and transport safety and waste management, strengthening the Agency's activities related to nuclear science, technology and applications, as well as current safeguards issues are among the topics. Director General Mohamed **EIBaradei** opened the meeting with an introductory **statement**: <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Statements/2006/ebsp2006n003.html>

USA / India: The **Indian Prime Minister outlined before Parliament elements of the implementation of India's Separation Plan**. He confirmed that the U.S. "will support an Indian

effort to develop a strategic reserve of nuclear fuel to guard against any disruption of supply over the lifetime of India's reactors". Statement: <http://pmindia.nic.in/lpeech.asp?id=291>

R. **Nicholas Burns**, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs said that there are two main benefits of the agreement between the U. S. and India: "The first concerns non-proliferation. [...] India has agreed in this initiative that it will open up its system to international inspection. And we have agreed that Western - American firms and other firms will be able to invest in India's nuclear technology." Transcript from press briefing: <http://www.state.gov/p/us/rm/2006/62424.htm>

**Czech Republic:** "Europe's energy alternative to Russian natural gas isn't only [to secure] it from elsewhere, but mainly from other sources of energy, particularly nuclear energy," Czech President Václav Klaus said in an interview with the Russian daily Kommersant. Klaus said that "Green lobbies control Europe." The chairman of the board at ČEZ, Martin Roman, has said that **ČEZ is considering whether to build additional reactors.** News: <http://www.cbw.cz/phprs/2006030630.html>

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip **Erdogan said that nuclear energy was necessary for Turkey.** "We target to build three nuclear energy stations with a total power of 4500 MW". News: <http://www.anatoliantimes.com/hbr2.asp?id=111131>

## **URANIUM**

**Australian Resources Minister Ian Macfarlane tipped new uranium mines would be developed in Australia within the next year.** Macfarlane said he'd yet to receive any applications for mining licenses from the companies that currently hold about 30 uranium exploration permits in Northern Territory State. "I'll be disappointed if we don't see some new mines being developed over the next year or so," he said in a radio interview. News: <http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B250E3CF9%2D115C%2D4ACD%2DA70F%2DB57066B98B93%7D&dist=newsfinder&siteid=google&keyword=>

**A device that washed ashore in Trinidad,** Mayaro over the weekend

allegedly contained 16 kilogrammes of depleted uranium. News: [http://www.trinidadexpress.com/index.pl/article\\_news?id=141181837](http://www.trinidadexpress.com/index.pl/article_news?id=141181837)

## **NUCLEAR FUEL**

**The Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate SKI filed a complaint against Westinghouse Electric,** saying that the company violated international agreements on nonproliferation to which Sweden is a signatory. In October 2005, Westinghouse incorrectly registered which fresh fuel elements were being put into containers for shipment to a Westinghouse facility in the U.S. Press release (in Swedish): <http://www.ski.se/se/index.html>

## **REACTORS, NPPs, UTILITIES**

IAEA has posted for official comment by member states a draft concerning **Conduct of Operations at Nuclear Power Plants.** <http://www-ns.iaea.org/downloads/standards/drafts/ds347.pdf>

The recent **identification of the inadvertent release of water containing tritium at several U.S. reactor sites** has caused the NRC to increase its oversight activities in this area. The NRC is reviewing the contamination incidents. Although the measured levels of tritium at the affected plants are above background levels, they remain well below NRC's regulations for release. Because there is a substantial amount of public interest, the NRC has provided information on the status of the unintended tritium leaks and the NRC's response. See at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/grndwtr-contam-tritium.html>

**USA: Vibrations detected in the steam system at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant have prompted Entergy Nuclear to hold off on further increases in the plant's energy production.** The company had completed a five percent boost in its electrical output during the weekend when analysis required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concluded that additional increases should be delayed so the vibrations could be further evaluated. News:  
<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=4593582&nav=4QcS>

Europeans are rethinking the merits of nuclear energy and whether to build new plants, said **Lars Josefsson, CEO of Stockholm-based Vattenfall AB** in an interview with MIT Technology Review:  
[http://www.technologyreview.com/BizTech/wtr\\_16510.296.p1.html](http://www.technologyreview.com/BizTech/wtr_16510.296.p1.html)

French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin said the government **will not privatize Electricite de France**. He also repeated that the government will not privatize nuclear power technology company **Areva**. News:  
<http://www.forbes.com/work/feeds/afx/2006/03/05/afx2571061.html>

### **NUCLEAR INDUSTRY**

Babcock Power Inc. announced that its subsidiary, **Thermal Engineering International Inc.** has recently been awarded two major contracts for the **South Texas Project NPP**. The contracts include the design and

fabrication of 12 **replacement feedwater heater bundles, and 2 moisture separator reheaters** for units 1 and 2. The heater bundles were designed for maximum duty given fixed physical constraints as determined by the original vendor's drawings. The new moisture separator reheaters are replacing existing systems and will include high efficiency vane type separators and redesigned drain systems to improve the plant heat rate and system reliability, while reducing erosion/corrosion on the low pressure turbine blading. Press release:  
[http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20060306005040&newsLang=en](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20060306005040&newsLang=en)

### **RECYCLING, MOX**

**France: Areva will have eight days to reveal to Greenpeace the contracts concerning reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from NPP Borssele**, which is operated by the Dutch utility EPZ. That is the decision of a county court in Cherbourg. Otherwise Areva would have to pay 10 000 Euros per day. Greenpeace sought the contracts to see whether there is a basis for legal action against Areva for illegal storage of foreign spent fuel. Press release of Greenpeace:  
<http://www.greenpeace.org/france/news/nouvelle-victoire-de-greenpeace>

### **STORAGE AND WASTE**

France: The French radwaste management agency **Andra has published the 2006 edition of its radioactive waste inventory** *Inventaire national des déchets radioactifs et des*

*matières valorisables est dès à présent disponible.*

[http://www.andra.fr/interne.php3?id\\_rubrique=156](http://www.andra.fr/interne.php3?id_rubrique=156)

### **ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE**

**Jean-Pol Poncelet has been appointed Advisor to the Chairman of the Executive Board of Areva, Anne Lauvergeon.** He is also Vice President, New Energies Policy, within the

International Affairs and Marketing Department. Stations of his career: Belgonucléaire, Belgian nuclear waste and fissile material agency ONDRAF, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, Minister of Energy in the Belgian government, European Space Agency. Press release:

[http://www.aveva.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=arevagroup\\_en%2FPressRelease%2FPressReleaseFullTemplate&cid=1141222454476](http://www.aveva.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=arevagroup_en%2FPressRelease%2FPressReleaseFullTemplate&cid=1141222454476)

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