

NUCLEAR MONITOR

A Publication of World Information Service on Energy (WISE) and the Nuclear Information & Resource Service (NIRS), incorporating the former WISE News Communiqué

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EXELON PULLS OUT OF PEBBLE-BED PROJECT

Exelon Corporation – the world’s third largest private nuclear utility, and largest in the USA – stunned the energy community on 16 April by announcing its withdrawal from the controversial “pebble-bed modular reactor” (PBMR) development consortium, which is planning to build a prototype reactor in South Africa.

(567.5398) NEIS - As reasons Exelon states it did not see reactor development as part of its core business strategy, wishing instead to focus more on power marketing, production and distribution. It also did not see a very immediate shareholder return on its US\$20 million investment. Publicly, it states confidence in the viability of PBMR technology, and may even become a future buyer, should PBMRs work.

For the past two years activists encouraged Exelon’s withdrawal. The South African Green movement challenged the project – and their government, which reneged on its promise to remain non-nuclear – early on. In early 2001 US-based Nuclear Energy Information Service of Illinois sent a formal letter to Exelon co-chairs John Rowe and Corbin MacNeill, bluntly requesting

Exelon’s withdrawal. At the first Exelon shareholders meeting in April 2001, NEIS’ director (an Exelon shareholder) brought the issue before the shareholders, warning that unless the company was very forthcoming and open about PBMR development information and progress to shareholders, it risked a shareholder lawsuit if the project failed.

In August at the WISE/NIRS-co-sponsored Nuclear Free Great Lakes Action Camp held in Illinois, USA, Exelon Watch International – a group of over 20 activists representing 12 countries – demonstrated at Exelon’s Illinois headquarters, demanding Exelon’s withdrawal. Exelon refused to meet with them, and ignored their petition.

Exelon’s partnership share of PBMR Pty., Ltd., amounted to only 12.5%.

ESP

Exelon announced on 30 April that it will apply for an Early Site Permit (ESP) to build a second reactor at Clinton, 160 miles (250 km) south of Chicago. The Clinton site was designed for two reactors; one 985 MW BWR was built, but a second was cancelled in 1983. An ESP does not commit a company to building a new reactor – the company can sit on the permit for 20 years and still do nothing. Exelon said it has not yet decided on which reactor model to use if it does go ahead.

Platts, 30 April 2002

The remaining consortium partners – ESKOM of South Africa, British Nuclear Fuels, plc., and South Africa’s Industrial Development Corp. – have announced intentions to continue development without Exelon, although they may seek a new partner. The feasibility phase of development is scheduled to end later this year, with actual construction of the first reactor in South Africa at the Koeberg reactor site scheduled to begin in 2004, with completion scheduled for 2007.

What exactly does Exelon’s withdrawal indicate?

Exelon’s stated reasons for withdrawal may be legitimate.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Exelon pulls out of pebble-bed project	1
European Commission unable to monitor nuclear industry	2
Rethinking nuclear energy and democracy after 09/11	4
Davis-Besse: radioactive particles, "band-aid" solutions	5
In brief	6

However, Exelon never engages in activity that is not in its own long-term best interest. Other Exelon-related events and activities may reveal its true intentions:

- The early retirement of Exelon's co-CEO and PBMR promoter Corbin MacNeill left the project without an internal champion. His co-chair John Rowe now takes over the company. Rowe's priority is in transmission/distribution functions, while director of Nuclear Power Operations Oliver Kingsley seems to favor larger-sized projects, and – according to insiders – may be in line to replace Rowe, should he retire.

- Exelon may accept the US government's offer to utilize federal property for the next reactor siting, which could shorten licensing time by by-passing the need for new EIS's and preventing most activist intervention opportunities.

- Rumors of re-opening the currently shuttered Zion, Illinois reactor site, which previously housed two 1,080 MW PWRs, continue despite Exelon's denial. The site would have been a candidate for PBMRs, and may be even more suitable for the newly

HTR/PBMR

On 21 April, the Dutch Coalition of Anti Nuclear Groups (LPTK) protested at the opening meeting of the international HTR 2002 Conference. Some 15 activists blockaded the entrance of the restaurant in the Dutch town of Den Helder where the reception was held. The 100 participants were offered "radioactive food", like mushrooms from Ukraine and pigeon meat from Sellafield. After one hour the police succeeded in removing the activists. The three-day conference itself started the next day at the Dutch Energy Research Foundation in Petten.

An international task team studying the feasibility of building a Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) in South Africa released its report to the government. According to the team, lack of clarity prevails on technical and financial aspects and the team doubted the economical feasibility of the project. The conclusions are a further disappointment to the PBMR company in light of expectations that its recommendations would be largely favorable.

Aktielijst (NL), 22 April 2002; Business Day, 22 April 2002

promoted and larger Westinghouse AP-1000 reactors, currently before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for approval.

Exelon's withdrawal from the PBMR program seems to have little impact on the future of PBMR development. However, it may signal a whole new era of large-scale reactor additions to Exelon's existing nuclear fleet of 17 operating US reactors, on sites that will minimize challenges from safe-energy activists. Should Oliver

Kingsley eventually become Exelon's CEO, large-scale nuclear programs might again become Exelon's priority.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION UNABLE TO MONITOR NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

In a hearing in Brussels on 18 April, the European Commission admitted that it has neither the resources nor the information to monitor the nuclear industry in countries like Britain and France. This admission served once more to highlight the ongoing controversy around Sellafield and La Hague.

(567.5399) WISE Amsterdam – "I can't say to people that they shouldn't worry", admitted Environment Commissioner Margot Wallström during a public hearing in Brussels. She said that people's fears should be taken seriously, and that the public is entitled to information. However, at present the European Commission does not have the resources to check the information they receive from member states.

The hearing was to discuss the controversial STOA report (see *WISE*

News Communiqué 559.5348, "STOA report condemns reprocessing").

The report, *Possible toxic effects from the nuclear reprocessing plants at Sellafield (UK) and Cap de la Hague (France)*, was published last year by the European Parliament's Scientific and Technological Options Assessment (STOA) unit.

WISE-Paris (which is entirely independent of WISE Amsterdam) produced the report, which includes comprehensive information on the

radiological effects of the two reprocessing plants.

A lot of controversy has revolved around the possibility of a terrorist attack on La Hague or Sellafield, which was examined by WISE-Paris in a separate report.

Mykle Schneider, director of WISE Paris and chief author of the report, defended his estimate that one million people could die as a result of a terrorist attack, saying that the estimate was not sensational.

After the 11 September attacks, anti-aircraft missiles were installed near La Hague, though they have since been removed. No such missiles were installed at Sellafield, apparently because of fears that the missiles could misfire and hit the plant itself! However, it is not just terrorism that poses a threat – the consequences of a serious accident at one of the reprocessing plants could be similar to those of a terrorist attack.

Also, even during normal operation, 80% of the collective dose of the French nuclear industry and 90% of the radionuclide emissions and discharges from the UK nuclear program come from reprocessing, according to the STOA report.

Some of the information in the STOA report – such as how emissions of some radionuclides have increased in recent years – was illustrated at the meeting by means of additional graphs, which can be viewed on the WISE-Paris web site (www.wise-paris.org).

One item of interest is a diagram of wind frequency at La Hague, showing that the wind from La Hague often blows in the direction of London or Amsterdam but rarely in the direction of Paris!

BNFL criticized

Irish MEP Nuala Ahern (Greens) accused John Clarke, BNFL's head of safety, of lying over their plans to increase discharges from the plant. He had said that BNFL had not applied for an increase in the legal limit of discharges at Sellafield. However, he was forced to admit that discharges of some radionuclides were indeed rising, as stated in the STOA report.

On the same day as the meeting, Wallström also criticized the appointment of former environment director-general Jim Currie as non-executive director of BNFL. Later, on 29 April, it was reported that the European Commission will bar Currie from taking up BNFL's offer of a directorship.

The pollution at Sellafield was underlined by recent revelations that technetium-99 has now been found in soil outside the Sellafield site. The source was believed to be sludge tanks in building B241, which were constructed in the 1950s and were described in a 1998 report by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate as “in an unacceptable condition for long term storage”.

Greenpeace pointed out the dangers of collecting the MOX right in the middle of the FIFA World Cup in Japan, while soccer fans from all around the world are present and security resources are stretched to the limit.

Falsified MOX - a nuclear football?

On Chernobyl day (26 April), two BNFL ships left Barrow-in-Furness in northern England, bound for Japan, in order to collect the MOX fuel which was the subject of the famous falsification scandal (see *WISE News Communique* 518.5083, “BNFL fiddling MOX quality control data”).

Greenpeace claims that the shipment is illegal because the US has given approval on the basis that the plutonium is to be recovered and returned to Japan in the form of fresh MOX fuel. However, the UK government has told Parliament that the falsified MOX will be stored at Sellafield while BNFL decides what to do with it.

Also, the UK has promised the Irish government and the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) that there will be no transports associated with the operation of the Sellafield MOX plant until October 2002. Greenpeace therefore argues that the return shipment of falsified MOX must be in breach either of the US authorization or the undertakings given to ITLOS.

Not only this, but the Japanese authorities have not yet licensed the cask in which the MOX fuel is to be shipped. An earlier license was revoked when it was discovered that levels of plutonium-241 – the single largest source of radioactivity in the cask – will be up to twice as high as originally estimated.

Finally, Greenpeace pointed out the dangers of collecting the MOX right in the middle of the FIFA World Cup in Japan, while soccer fans from all around the world are present and security resources are stretched to the limit.

Postcard protest

Irish protesters marked Chernobyl day by sending more than 1.2 million anti-Sellafield postcards to Britain (see *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor* 565, “In brief”). Ali Hewson, who organized the protest, delivered one such postcard in person to British Prime Minister Tony Blair. “Sellafield has the potential to be 80 times the size of the Chernobyl accident”, she said, adding, “It has 75 tonnes of

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We apologize for producing a *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor* which is only 8 pages instead of the normal 12 pages, due to one of the co-editors being sick.

Reproduction of this material is encouraged. Please give credit when reprinting.

Editorial team: Stuart Field, Robert Jan van den Berg (WISE Amsterdam), Michael Mariotte (NIRS) With **contributions** from the Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS).

The **next issue** of the *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor* (567) will be mailed out on 17 May 2002.

Oops! In the last issue, the e-mail for Solange Fernex should have been s.m.fernex@wanadoo.fr and the web site for the international summer camp in the Wendland is: www.sommercamp-im-wendland.de

plutonium on site. It can't but be at the top of any terrorist's list."

New plant at La Hague

For the reprocessing plants themselves, it seems to be business as usual despite the ongoing terrorist threats. Indeed, a new plutonium purification and conversion plant has been put into operation at La Hague. The new plant, R4, is intended to

replace the old MAPu facility, but has a larger capacity (80 kg/day compared to 36 kg/day for MAPu). It also has the capability to reprocess irradiated MOX and other types of fuel as well as conventional irradiated fuel, though this would require a modification to the plant's license.

Sources: *Irish Independent*, 19 April 2002; Email from Patricia Lorenz, 24

April 2002; comment from John Large at IPPNW conference, Basle, 26 April 2002; *European Voice*, 18 April 2002; *The Independent*, 29 April 2002; *The Guardian*, 18 April 2002; Greenpeace press release, 26 April 2002; WISE-Paris, 27 March 2002; *WNA News Briefing*, 24-30 April 2002

Contact: WISE Amsterdam

RETHINKING NUCLEAR ENERGY AND DEMOCRACY AFTER 09/11

"Rethinking nuclear energy and democracy after 09/11" was the name of a conference in Basle, Switzerland organized by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

(567.5400) WISE Amsterdam - The conference began on 26 April 2002, the 16th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. The Swiss section of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) organized the conference. The conference was held in Basle, which is on the border with France and Germany.

Basle is near several nuclear reactors, including Fessenheim, the oldest operating French nuclear power station (see *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor* 566.5394, "Nuclear issue affects French presidential elections"). However, it is also near two sites where protests stopped the construction of nuclear power plants in the 1970s: Kaiseraugst (Switzerland) and Wyhl (Germany). The canton (district) of Basle has a law prohibiting the use of electricity of nuclear origin, even though 40% of Swiss electricity is nuclear.

Over half of the speakers were anti-nuclear campaigners but the speakers also included a deputy director general of the IAEA, a speaker from the Swiss nuclear safety authority, and a speaker from the World Health Organization (WHO). There was even a speaker from the French Ministry of Defense!

Despite the conference title, only some of the speakers really focused

on what has changed since the 11 September terrorist attacks. British consultant John Large examined the question of whether the terrorist attacks will put an end to probabilistic risk analysis. He pointed out that for most nuclear installations, aircraft crashes were considered too improbable and were not planned for in the design.

Since 11 September, an aircraft crash has become a "credible event". As for the relevance of probabilistic risk analysis in the post-11 September world, Large said it should only be used as an "engineering check".

Despite this, several speakers pointed out that the nuclear industry keeps pretending it is business as usual. Even when there have been changes since last year's terrorist attacks, other factors may be to blame. For example, Exelon's decision to pull out of developing the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) has a lot to do with the departure of CEO Corbin McNeill (see "Exelon pulls out of pebble bed project" in this *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor*).

Although the PBMR's lack of a containment building does make it especially vulnerable to terrorist attacks, other design problems such as the "chaotic" movement of the fuel "pebbles" through the reactor were also highlighted.

Evening debate

In the evening of 26 April, a round table discussion was held on "Nuclear Energy in a Democratic State – What Role for Decentralized Decision Making?" This was opened by Professor Gerhard Roller, who said that after 11 September there is a danger of "radioactive decay" of our basic rights.

One of the participants was Olivier Deleuze, the Belgian Environment Minister. Nuclear power generates over half of Belgium's electricity; nevertheless, a nuclear phaseout has been agreed (see *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor* 564.5383, "Belgian nuclear phaseout"). When asked how this was achieved, Deleuze replied that most people in Belgium used to consider nuclear power a necessary evil; the phaseout decision therefore simply involved convincing people that nuclear power is unnecessary. He said that convincing Belgians of the need for "demand-side management" (i.e. saving energy) will be harder.

Deleuze, who is also a former head of Greenpeace Belgium, concluded the discussion by saying that now nuclear phaseout has been agreed "the next 'baton' is: We must get together and think how we can kill Euratom!" He quickly added that this was a personal view and not the policy of the Belgian government...

Speakers on the second day of the conference included Dr. Keith Baverstock from the WHO. Baverstock had been in charge of the Emergency Preparedness Project which was launched as a joint initiative of the European office of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Finland (see *WISE News Communiqué* 503, "In Brief").

Baverstock said that Professor Bandazhevsky's work on the radiological effects of cesium-137 was interesting and worthy of further investigation. Bandazhevsky himself remains in prison in Belarus (see *WISE News Communiqué* 553.5308, "Belarus: Bandazhevsky adopted as prisoner of conscience").

On the other hand, the presentation by IAEA deputy director-general Dr. David Waller was essentially a marketing spiel. However, in questions afterwards, he admitted that the IAEA sometimes does not have enough money to implement full-scope safeguards. For example,

DAVIS-BESSE: RADIOACTIVE PARTICLES, "BAND-AID" SOLUTION

At the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, which is still reeling from the discovery of a hole in the reactor head (see *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor* 565.5385, "Millimeters from disaster"), a new scandal has broken. Radioactive particles from nuclear fuel have been found in various locations including a hotel room. Meanwhile, operator FirstEnergy is proposing a "band-aid" solution to the hole in the reactor head – an incident which has been described as the "closest brush with disaster since the 1979 Three Mile Island accident".

(567.5401) WISE Amsterdam – A total of 13 radioactive particles have been "recovered from four individuals, their clothing, residences or hotel rooms", according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The activities of the particles ranged from approximately 2-80 nanocuries.

An NRC investigation found that one of three devices used to screen workers at the plant had been set to carry out whole body counts of radiation rather than detecting

ATOMIC LIES

Before the conference, there was a church service to commemorate the Chernobyl victims and a preview of the film "Atomic Lies". In this 40-minute documentary, shortly to be shown on Swiss TV, former WHO director-general Hiroshi Nakajima admits on film that the IAEA were responsible for the non-publication of the proceedings of a joint IAEA-WHO conference on the effects of Chernobyl (see *WISE News Communiqué* 547.5262, "Chernobyl 15 years on: Health information still suppressed"). It contradicts official WHO claims that its agreement with the IAEA has never prevented it from being totally free and open on health effects of nuclear power (see *WISE News Communiqué* 521.5111, "Conflict of interest between IAEA and WHO").

The campaign to amend the agreement between the IAEA and WHO continues – for more information, contact Solange Fernex, President, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, French section, 114, rue de Vaugirard, 75006 Paris, France
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he said the IAEA was unable to put full on-site surveillance in place during construction of a "JNFL fuel plant" in Japan.

The IAEA's response to 11 September was to set up an action plan estimated to cost US\$10 million per year. Not all of this money has been raised, so other programs have been

shifted so that work can begin. One of the first actions was to install radiation detectors at all the entry points of IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria – mainly, it seems, to avoid the public embarrassment of finding radioactive material in their offices!

Source and contact: WISE Amsterdam

radioactive particles. This raises the question as to whether more particles may have escaped the site.

The first particle was found on 22 March, when a worker reported for duty at another nuclear power station, Oconee in South Carolina. After the radiation monitors sounded on the way in, staff discovered that the worker had last worked at Davis-Besse.

Particles were then found on the clothing of two other workers at

Oconee who had previously worked at Davis-Besse. Further investigation led to particles being found at a hotel in Port Clinton, South Carolina and a worker's home in Lynchburg, Virginia.

A radioactive particle was also found on the shoe of a fourth worker who arrived at the Comanche Peak nuclear power station near Fort Worth, Texas after working at Davis-Besse.

The four workers are employees of

Framatome ANP, the nuclear services company formed by the merger of the nuclear divisions of Framatome and Siemens.

“Band-Aid” fix

FirstEnergy’s repair plan has been described as a “Band-Aid” fix. The basic idea is to carve out the damaged area and insert a stainless steel plate weighing 300 to 400 pounds. Three control rod nozzles would be blanked off and the control rods relocated. The steel plate would be welded in place by robots. The repair plan is estimated to cost US\$16 million.

Rather surprisingly, the plate that FirstEnergy is planning to fit is thinner than the reactor head itself! Quite apart from concerns that this could result in a “weak spot”, this means that a “ditch” would be left on the outside of the reactor vessel, which could provide an ideal place for boric acid to accumulate if further leaks occurred.

Although the stainless steel plate itself should resist boric acid, the surrounding metal of the reactor vessel head clearly would not.

Commenting on this “thinner plate” proposal, Jan Strasma from the NRC’s Office of Public Affairs said, “I do not have the basis of the utility’s selection of that particular concept”. The NRC must review the repair

plans before deciding whether the utility will be allowed to go ahead with its plans.

Daniel F. Ford, who from 1971 to 1979 was executive director of the Union of Concerned Scientists, described the proposal as a “steel Band-Aid”. He said that Davis-Besse’s underlying problems were legendary: “The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has let Davis-Besse operate year in and year out with documented bad maintenance”.

Cause still unknown

The 170-page “Root Cause Analysis Report” of 18 April, which FirstEnergy submitted to the NRC, still “leaves key questions open”, according to trade journal *Nucleonics Week*.

The cracking which led to the control rod nozzle leaks has been known for years (see *WISE News Communique* 553.5309, “US: NRC ignores widespread safety flaw for decade”). The leaking reactor water evaporated, leaving boric acid which collected on the reactor head.

However, FirstEnergy was clearly in the dark as to what happened next in this unprecedented incident. All they could offer was a list of seven possible mechanisms for the corrosion that caused the large hole at one control rod nozzle and a smaller hole at another nozzle.

Former NRC commissioner Victor Gilinsky was more forthright: “The U.S. nuclear industry just had its closest brush with disaster since the 1979 Three Mile Island accident”. He pointed out that a hole in a reactor was considered such an unlikely scenario that it was never studied as part of the safety case for the reactor. He described the NRC’s public statements as indicating a “failure to face up to reality”, and pointed out that the NRC gave Davis-Besse top grades in its quarterly rating just before the incident.

While FirstEnergy keeps proposing its “Band-Aid” patch for the reactor before they know the full details of what actually happened, we must ask ourselves how long it will be before another “impossible” accident happens at a nuclear power plant. Those who finance the nuclear industry should ask themselves the same question.

Sources: NRC preliminary notification, 16 April 2002; *Las Vegas Sun*, 25 April 2002; NRC news release, 17 April 2002; Associated Press, 17 April 2002; *Toledo Blade*, 18 April 2002; *The Plain Dealer*, 18 April 2002; Email from Dave Lochbaum, 23 April 2002; Email from Jan Strasma (NRC), 24 April 2002; *New York Times*, 13 April 2002; *Nucleonics Week*, 25 April 2002; *Washington Post*, 28 April 2002

Contact: NIRS

IN BRIEF

Chernobyl day memorials... Actions to mark the 16th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster took place all around the world. Candles were lit to commemorate the dead in Ukraine, while in neighboring Belarus, which received a large proportion of the fallout, thousands gathered to call for government and international help, demanding and end to food being grown on contaminated land.

Reuters, 29 April 2002

...actions... In Russia, a protest on Red Square in Moscow against the import of nuclear waste was met by

unprecedented police violence. Ten minutes after the action started, the police arrived and without any warning started to beat and arrest journalists as well as activists.

ENS, 26 April 2002

...fasting... There was also a “fast for nuclear phaseout”, with groups outside La Hague and Bure in France, at Gorleben in Germany and at Sellafield and Dungeness in the UK. Responding to the shock of right-wing extremist Le Pen reaching the second round of the French presidential elections, protestors

asked people to think of Professor Bandazhevsky in prison in Belarus (see “Rethinking nuclear energy and democracy after 09/11” in this *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor*). “The defense of democracy includes also the defense of those who suffer today under a totalitarian regime”, they said.

Press release of “fast for nuclear phaseout” collective, 23 April 2002

...and protests. 5000 people marched through Helsinki in protest against plans to build a fifth reactor in Finland, in what was believed to

be the country's largest demonstration of any kind since the early 1990s. The Finnish government is set to decide on the proposal on 24 May. Around 700 Finnish women are on a "baby strike", vowing they will not give birth in the next four years unless the government scraps the plan.

Reuters, 5 and 29 April 2002

Senate energy bill. The US Senate energy bill S.517 was passed on 25 April 2002. The bill includes provisions to benefit the nuclear industry, such as extending the Price-Anderson Act insurance scheme, with modifications designed to benefit the proposed Pebble Bed Modular Reactor. It includes a lot of the pro-nuclear provisions described in NIRS *Nuclear Monitor* January-February 2001, "The Senate energy bill: the pursuit of a brown, dying planet". However, differences

between S.517 and the House bill passed last August still have to be worked out in a conference committee.

Platts, 26 April 2002; www.nirs.org

Yucca vote. The US House of Representatives is expected to decide soon on whether to override Nevada's veto of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump (see *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor* 566.5391, "Nevada's veto sends Yucca decision to Congress"). The House Energy and Commerce Committee voted on 25 April to override the veto, and a full House vote could come as early as May 8th. A vote in the Senate is expected in June or July.

Las Vegas Review-Journal, 26 April 2002; NIRS Action Alert, 1 May 2002

EU-wide nuclear safety standards? European Commissioner for Energy, Loyola de Palacio, has joined calls for

EU-wide safety standards for nuclear plants. The Austrian government had made similar calls at the EU summit in Belgium last December (see *WISE News Communique* 560.5356, "Common safety standards for Europe?"). How far the proposal will get is unclear, since France and the U.K., with their reprocessing plants and powerful nuclear lobbies, have long opposed such moves.

Dow Jones Newswires, 23 April 2002

World's oldest NPP closed. The world's oldest operating nuclear power plant at Obninsk in Russia has been closed. The 5-megawatt prototype reactor had been operating since 1954. The authorities plan to turn it into a nuclear energy museum.

RosBusinessConsulting, 30 April 2002

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WISE/NIRS NUCLEAR MONITOR

The Nuclear Information & Resource Service was founded in 1978 and is based in Washington, US. The World Information Service on Energy was set up in the same year and houses in Amsterdam, Netherlands. NIRS and WISE Amsterdam joined forces in 2000, creating a worldwide network of information and resource centers for citizens and environmental organizations concerned about nuclear power, radioactive waste, radiation, and sustainable energy issues.

The *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor* publishes international information in English 20 times a year. A Russian version is published 10 times a year by WISE Russia. The *Nuclear Monitor* can be obtained both on paper and in an electronic version (pdf format). Old issues are available through the WISE Amsterdam homepage: www.antenna.nl/wise.

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