

Insight

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PHOTO BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

G-8 leaders said countries view nuclear energy as a way to address climate change and energy security.

G-8 Agrees on Emissions Reductions

Nuclear Energy Part of Climate Change Solution

The Group of Eight (G-8) industrialized nations in July said that expansion of nuclear energy will be among the strategies used to reduce greenhouse gases, also including a commitment to, in principle, halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Some members of the G-8 established an international initiative promoting the safe use of nuclear energy. "On nuclear, we witnessed that a growing number of countries have expressed their interests in nuclear power programs as a means to addressing climate change and energy security concerns," the G-8 leaders said.

"These countries regard nuclear power as an essential instrument in reducing dependence on

fossil fuels and hence greenhouse gas emissions. Those of us who have or are considering plans relating to the use and/or development of safe and secure nuclear energy believe that its development will contribute to global energy security, while simultaneously reducing harmful air pollution and addressing the climate change challenge," the leaders said at the meeting.

The G-8 nations are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. Along with China, India and South Korea, these nations are responsible for about 65 percent of global energy consumption.

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Britain Plans For 8 New Nuclear Power Plants

John Hutton, Britain's secretary of state for business enterprise and regulatory reform, met with U.S. industry and government leaders to seek the support of U.S. business in his country's bold nuclear energy plans.

The United Kingdom expects to build at least eight new nuclear power plants during the next 15 years. The projects will replace existing power plants and contribute to a cleaner and more efficient energy economy.

The U.K. has 19 reactors at 12 sites, which generate about one-quarter of the country's electricity. Some of the reactors are among the earliest to be put into service in the world, and all but one are scheduled to be shut down over the next 15 years.

The British government is embarking on a new energy strategy, including a greater role for state-of-the-art nuclear power technology. Nuclear power is seen as a means of increasing the amount of electricity from low-carbon sources while decreasing the country's reliance on ever-more expensive fossil fuels.

In addition to expanding nuclear energy's role in the U.K., Prime Minister Gordon Brown said there is a need for 1,000 new nuclear plants worldwide in the next century.



GORDON BROWN

"All around the world, I see renewed interest in

Great Britain on page 2

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this technology as countries contemplate the alternative: continued oil dependence and climate change.”

Britain has agreed to cut CO₂ emissions by more than 50 percent by 2050 and to generate 15 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. New nuclear plants will help meet the first target.

The British government is developing streamlined planning, siting and licensing procedures for the next batch of new nuclear plants.

Most of the new plants are to be built at existing nuclear plant sites, which should simplify siting reviews. Public support for nuclear energy facilities is usually highest among people living and working close to existing sites.

Once the U.K. government publishes its siting criteria, licensing applications for new reactors are expected to be filed by the end of this year.

Domestic and foreign nuclear businesses already are preparing to be involved in future ventures.



PHOTO BY DAVID GLAVES

The Sizewell B pressurized water reactor came on line in 1995. The U.K. is preparing to replace its 18 older reactors.

Power Player: Cheryl Boggess, Westinghouse Electric Co.



Cheryl Boggess, senior project manager and principal engineer at Westinghouse Electric Co., is the first American to serve as president of Women in Nuclear Global (WiN).

How can groups like Women in Nuclear help address the perceived gap between men and women who support nuclear energy?

“To be effective in communication, we must have a balanced integration of emotion and facts. . . . The pros and cons must be discussed not only rationally, but on three different levels:

- the technical and scientific level
- the economic level
- the level of ethical values and emotions.

The key concept: When dealing with an issue such as nuclear technologies, you must communicate on a human level. . . . Be who you are, know the facts and communicate clearly. Following this simple formula, WiN has historically been very

effective in reaching and communicating the positive benefits of nuclear technologies with women of all ages and backgrounds.”

WiN also works to promote career interest. How is your organization helping attract people, especially women, to careers in nuclear technology?

“Outreach to all ages is a fundamental objective and focus of WiN. Our chapters around the world conduct activities and support other organizations that expose young people to a variety of learning and career opportunities in technical areas. WiN provides coaching for girls and boys to explore their abilities in math, science and crafts. WiN members then follow up by serving as mentors, advisors and role models. In some countries where science interests and opportunities are still male-dominated, role models are very valuable. Finally, WiN awards scholarships to pursue higher education and participate in WiN conferences.”

Nuclear energy’s resurgence is global. How important is it to keep an international perspective in mind as the industry goes forward?

“As an international organization, WiN has long recognized the importance of breaking through cultural barriers, communicating information and working together to find a positive outcome. We have only one earth. The carbon dioxide concern is global. Protecting the environment is crucial, and we cannot isolate effects. . . . Maintaining and enhancing a global focus is needed to support energy needs and cooperatively pursue innovative technical solutions to meet challenges in a timely manner. The WiN network has proven to be fast, reliable and factual in providing information to members in real time and ahead of more traditional communication channels.”

“Power Player,” a regular feature in Nuclear Energy Insight, provides perspectives on nuclear energy from industry leaders and other decision-makers.

Exelon to Slash Greenhouse Gases and...

Exelon, the nation's largest operator of nuclear power plants, intends to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 by an amount larger than its total emissions in 2008.

The \$10 billion plan to cut 15 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually will be the equivalent of removing nearly 3 million cars from the road and will cut Exelon's direct emissions by 10 percent to 15 percent below 2001 levels.

A three-pronged strategy will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the following ways:

- cut Exelon's energy consumption
- reduce energy use by its electricity customers
- increase the use of low-carbon electricity production, including nuclear plants. Exelon is planning to

build two reactors in Texas.

"We literally need to reinvent our energy infrastructure. And we must be prepared to pay for it," said John Rowe, Exelon's chairman and chief executive officer. "We need to spur both innovation and investment."

Because a large proportion of its electricity production comes from 17 nuclear plants, Exelon already has a low carbon footprint among the top 10 U.S. electric utilities.

"Dealing with greenhouse gases, while essential, is very costly," Rowe said. "If you have an adequate way of accounting for offsets and displacements, we think we can offset our carbon footprint at a reasonable price."

... Provide Funding to Improve River

For the past five years, water from an abandoned coal mine in Pennsylvania has been used to support another form of energy—the Limerick nuclear power plant, about 75 miles downstream.

Exelon Nuclear, owner of the Limerick plant, has been pumping water from the Wadesville mine pool into a creek to augment water levels in the Schuylkill River, which is the source of cooling water at Limerick. Limerick's two reactors generate power for more than two million homes. Cooling systems for the reactors use about 29,000 gallons of water per minute.

In 2002, when Exelon evaluated other suitable water sources to increase the flow into the river, it discovered the abandoned mine pool, which is on the grounds of a former colliery. The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) approved the plan on a short-term basis with an operating and monitoring plan in place. Exelon also agreed to create a fund to provide grants for improving the water quality in the Schuylkill River.

Kurt Zwilk, executive director of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, said the fund has had a positive impact on the quality of the watershed. "There are even plans to expand contributors to this fund so that there will be more money for more projects



Exelon uses mine water to augment levels of the Schuylkill River, which cools the Limerick plant.

to improve the watershed," Zwilk said.

The DRBC's limited approval is set to expire, so the board must decide if the project should be scrapped or supported. "We'll be reviewing the data [on the use of water from the mine pool] from the past five years and plan to make a decision on it by Dec. 31," said Katherine O'Hara, a DRBC spokeswoman. "So far, there have been no glaring problems."

The DRBC reports on the Exelon/Wadesville project can be found on their Web site at www.state.nj.us/drbc/.

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The leaders said they would work with other countries to "consider and adopt" 50 percent reductions as part of the new United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change treaty to be negotiated in 2009. They expect developing countries such as China and India to promise "meaningful" actions to reduce emissions.

James Connaughton, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality and senior environmental, energy and natural resources adviser to President Bush, said at the G-8 summit, "There is no question—and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made this clear in its assessments—that nuclear energy, responsibly developed by countries capable of managing it, is an essential component of cutting greenhouse gas emissions. I actually use that as a litmus test for seriousness on climate change.



JAMES CONNAUGHTON

"A country that has the capability to responsibly use nuclear energy in my view has a responsibility to do so, if we want to get serious about not just cutting greenhouse gas emissions, but also improving public health through reduced air pollution."

Connaughton said halving greenhouse gas emissions would require avoiding more than 30 gigatons of emissions. Gaining one gigaton of greenhouse gas reductions would require building 136 carbon-free nuclear power plants.

"That's one-third of the [world's] current number of nuclear power plants," Connaughton said. "The globe is not on a path to do that much today. And so what we really have to look forward to is a significant scale-up beyond that."

Germany is the only G-8 country not planning to build new nuclear plants. A previous government passed a law requiring all the country's reactors to close by 2020. German Chancellor Angela Merkel believes in re-examining the use of nuclear energy. "The phasing out of nuclear plants was wrong and should be reversed," she said. And an expert group set up by the German cabinet recently recommended turning back the country's phase-out plan.

A Year After the Japan Quake

Enhancing Seismic Safety at TEPCO's Nuclear Plant

Japan's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa is the world's largest nuclear power station, with seven reactors that have the capacity to generate electricity to meet the needs of seven large cities.

In July 2007, an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale struck about 10 miles offshore from the plant site. It was the strongest earthquake ever near a nuclear plant. All the reactors shut down safely and all the essential nuclear safety functions, such as automatic reactor shutdown, cooling and containment, worked as designed.



Bearing in mind lessons learned from the experience of the earthquake, we aim to make our nuclear power station safer and more reliable."

—Masataka Shimizu
President
The Tokyo Electric Power Company, Inc.

However, measurements showed that the quake caused ground motions exceeding the original specifications of the plant design. Therefore, the plant remains shut down while owner Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO) continues inspections and safety evaluations of the plant. Included in this exhaustive evaluation is a thorough geological survey to determine new safety standards for ground motion at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa.

Using ground acceleration data from the 2007 earthquake, TEPCO has evaluated the integrity of safety equipment at the site through a combination of analyses and inspections. The company's scien-

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOKYO ELECTRIC POWER CO.



Three of the seven reactors at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, the world's largest nuclear power station.

tists have analyzed the seismic effects by calculating movement in the building floors and equipment response. They also have been conducting visual inspections and various functional, engineering and material tests on plant systems and components.

Although the ground acceleration during the 2007 earthquake exceeded the plant's design for dynamic seismic force, the quake-generated forces applied to the plant's safety-significant structures, systems and components were of about the same strength as the design standard. Therefore, the operation of these systems was not challenged.

Although inspection results found no significant damage occurred at the plant, the fact that the ground acceleration exceeded one of the reactor design conditions required that TEPCO reexamine its earthquake analysis. The company also reviewed the conventional method for estimating ground acceleration values.

After careful investigation and analysis of the earthquake data and a thorough geological survey,

TEPCO identified geological structures at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa site that contributed to the intense ground motion. These newly discovered factors have been incorporated into determining the plant's new safety criteria for ground motion. To further enhance the safety of the plant, TEPCO is reinforcing plant safety-related structures and equipment so that they could withstand a quake exceeding the revised criteria for all seven units.

The company submitted a report detailing these analyses to Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) in May. The revised ground motion criteria are being reviewed by NISA and Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission. According to the site superintendent, the external inspections will be completed by the end of July. TEPCO will continue to review and confirm the seismic safety of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant based on the new ground motion criteria and on information gained from the NISA review process.

TEPCO also has enhanced emergency preparedness at the plant. The company has improved radioactive materials management and communication systems and has significantly improved its fire response system. A new technical support center that meets rigorous earthquake standards also was built. Through such a facility, TEPCO plans to keep community leaders and the public informed about the seismic improvements at the plant.

TEPCO is determined to strengthen its nuclear power stations with added seismic safety and emergency preparedness and is committed to sharing lessons learned with the nuclear energy community worldwide, believing this will contribute to the improvement of nuclear safety. For more information, visit <http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/index-e.html>.



The quake's epicenter was only 10 miles offshore from the plant.

Financing Incentives, Climate Change Policy Boost Nuclear

Industry executives presented the business case for new nuclear reactors at a July 31 seminar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. The seminar is part of a series examining the role of nuclear energy in meeting urgent energy needs and greenhouse gas reductions.

The seminar presented analyses of the evolving economics and financing for new nuclear power plants, and also highlighted the contributions that will be required by the industry's work force and nuclear infrastructure suppliers to support the expansion of nuclear energy.

Richard Myers, Nuclear Energy Institute vice president of policy development, pointed out that compared with the oil industry, most electric utilities are relatively small. Only two have a total market value of more than \$50 billion; most are less than \$30 billion. Electric utilities would therefore benefit from federal guarantees on financial loans for new plant construction. New nuclear power projects are estimated to cost between \$6 billion and \$8 billion.

Most presenters were in agreement that congressional efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions would benefit the nuclear power sector. One

panelist said the timing of solutions for used fuel management should not inhibit the expansion of nuclear energy. "We have 50 to 150 years to solve the high-level waste problem," he said. "In contrast, we cannot wait 25 years to address climate change."

Carol Berrigan, NEI senior director for industry infrastructure, chaired a panel that outlined the industry's work force and infrastructure opportunities. A major conclusion was that competition for highly skilled, nuclear-certified labor and equipment suppliers is a global challenge that commands attention at the highest levels of government.

Japan Steel Works is the world's largest supplier of "ultra large" forged nuclear reactor components, and has a years-long backlog of orders. General Manager Yoshitaka Sato said his company is undergoing a \$500 million expansion and will be able to provide large steel forgings for at least eight new nuclear reactors per year by 2010, up from the current capacity of 5.5 reactors per year.

Given the market conditions—including the



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAPAN STEEL WORKS

Japan Steel Works is expanding its capacity to supply ultra large forgings of nuclear components for new reactor orders.

volatility of natural gas and coal prices, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's streamlined licensing process, and government financial incentives—panel members agreed that new nuclear power plants can be competitive with other sources of electricity.

Presentations from this interesting series of seminars are available at www.csis.org/energy/.

Senate Looks at NRC's New Licensing Processes

A panel of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in July evaluated the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's new process for handling the licensing of new nuclear power plants as well as the relicensing of existing plants.

NRC Chairman Dale Klein assured a Senate subcommittee that continued safety and security of all nuclear power plants is of "utmost importance" to the NRC. NRC Commissioners and industry experts gave testimony to the subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety regarding the licensing processes for new and existing power plants.



DALE KLEIN

Klein said that the renewal program's main focus is on safety and security, and in order "to operate for an additional 20 years beyond their original 40-year license, [licensees] will be required to maintain the same level of safe and secure operation."

Inspector General Hubert Bell, from the NRC Office of the Inspector General, testified that an audit of the NRC's license renewal process had a few weaknesses; however, none of these flaws concerned the technical review or quality of the license applications. Bell stressed that in response to the audit's suggestions, the NRC "has proposed or taken specific actions."

Tony Pietrangolo, NEI vice president of regula-

tory affairs, believes there are procedural improvements that can be made once the NRC and industry move forward with the first few new plants. "If the recommendations from the lessons learned are fully implemented, the licensing schedules for subsequent licensing projects could be significantly reduced."

Pietrangolo believes that the United States needs to take a leadership role with regards to its regulatory framework, safety practices and security programs and share them with other countries. He also believes that, when the nuclear renaissance begins to take off around the world, opportunities for work force and manufacturing capabilities within the United States will increase on a global scale.

Nuclear Industry, Educators Strike New Partnerships

Industry and educational institutions are creating innovative partnerships to greatly expand the numbers of needed graduates with nuclear engineering skills and experience.

Florida: For the second time in four months, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) approved requests for nuclear expansion in the state. In March, the Florida PSC approved Florida Power & Light's plans for two new reactors at its Turkey Point plant in southern Florida.

And in July, Progress Energy won approval for its plan to build two advanced Westinghouse reactors near its existing Crystal River plant in central Florida. Progress Energy in July applied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a combined construction and operating license; the plants are expected to begin operating in 2016 and 2017, respectively. At a cost of about \$17 billion, they will be the first new nuclear plants built in Florida since 1983.

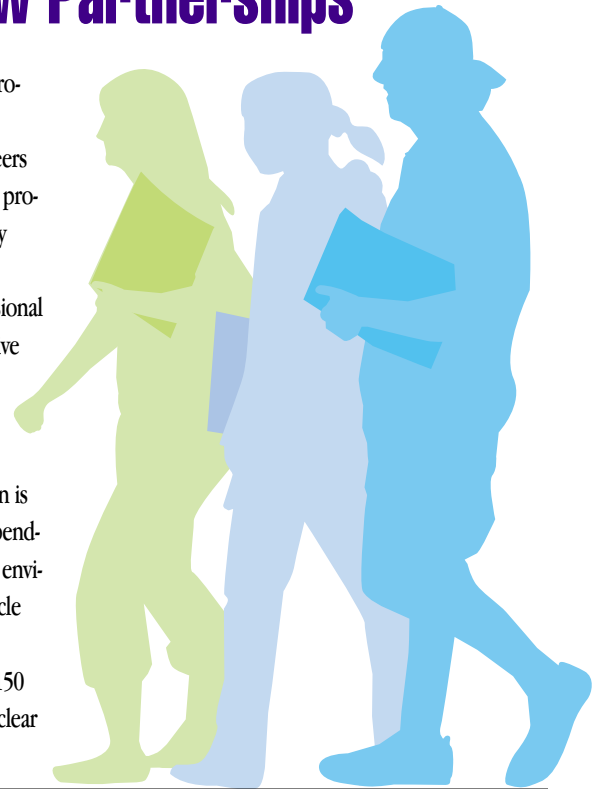
Progress Energy also is working on cultivating a new cadre of future workers for its current and planned facilities. In partnership with Miami Dade College, a two-year nuclear technology program leading to an Associate of Science degree is in its second year. The partnership aims to fulfill the local needs for skilled workers. Students work at Crystal River as summer interns and expect to go on to full-time work at the plant.

Scott Burnell, a Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman, said that the utility companies understand that the educational pipeline needs industry support. "We have to produce the skilled manpower for both existing and planned operations," he said.

Utah: The University of Utah is establishing an endowed chair in nuclear engineering at its college of engineering. The university has offered master's and Ph.D. degrees in nuclear engineering since 1954, but is expanding its nuclear course curriculum and adding a new minor in nuclear engineering in response to student requests. The goal of the program expansion is to help address the shortfall in qualified professionals for the commercial nuclear industry.

While the number of nuclear engineering programs at universities declined from about 65 in 1980 to about 29 today, the demand for engineers across all disciplines has been increasing. New programs, such as at the University of Utah, will "by graduating more students with experience in nuclear engineering, provide important professional opportunities for students in a highly competitive industry, while addressing industry needs," said Dean of Engineering Richard Brown.

The endowment for the chair comes from the EnergySolutions Foundation, whose mission is to "help the United States achieve energy independence, reduce carbon emissions and protect the environment." EnergySolutions is a nuclear fuel cycle company headquartered in Salt Lake City. It employs more than 5,000 people, including 1,150 scientists and engineers and more than 400 nuclear safety professionals.



Texas Plant Wins Business Award

Shingo Prize Recognizes Operational Excellence

The Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant has been awarded a Bronze Medallion by the prestigious Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence in recognition of its world-class improvement tools, systems and principles.

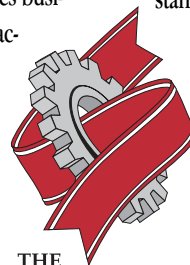
The Shingo Prize organization recognizes businesses that have implemented lean manufacturing techniques, continuous improvement processes and operational improvements.

The Bronze Medallion recognizes Comanche Peak's world record-setting steam generator replacement, reductions in operating costs, increased revenue generation, unwavering focus on employees and community safety, long standing improvement efforts, team-based problem solving abilities, environmental accomplishments, and partnerships with customers and suppliers.

"Over the last three years, our employees have

set targets that have placed Comanche Peak among the top 10 percent of the industry in areas of safety, reliability, quality and cost," said Rafael Flores, Comanche Peak's vice president of nuclear operations. "Continuous improvement has been a standard with the Comanche Peak team. It is truly amazing to see the ownership my co-workers have displayed throughout the plant."

The Shingo Prize honors the late Dr. Shigeo Shingo, who is considered one of the world's leading experts in improving manufacturing processes and who helped create, train and write about many aspects of the renowned Toyota Production System and related production systems. The Shingo Prize's philosophy is that world-class performance for quality, cost and delivery can be achieved through lean principles and techniques in core manufacturing and business processes.



THE
**SHINGO
PRIZE**
for OPERATIONAL
EXCELLENCE

Students Gain Invaluable Knowledge At U.S. Women in Nuclear Conference

This year's U.S. Women in Nuclear (WIN) conference gave 40 students a glimpse into the realm of the nuclear energy industry. Representing some 20 colleges and universities, students from across a variety of engineering and science disciplines gained first-hand knowledge of the rewards and challenges professionals face in the nuclear sector.

The conference, held last month in Charlotte, N.C., featured presentations and panel discussions on a range of issues, including new-plant licensing and fuel cycle innovations. Selected students received a scholarship for the costs of the conference and were paired with mentors having extensive experience in the nuclear field.

A panel devoted to the topic of women in operations included professionals with more than 50 years of cumulative experience in nuclear operations sharing advice and encouragement. Participants discussed community relations, communications and knowledge transfer strategies in additional sessions.

Of particular value to students was the opportunity for both men and women to network with industry professionals. "Students and mentors realize the value of networking that a conference of this type provides," said Richiey Hayes, U.S. WIN membership coordinator. "Mentors are eager to participate, and the students are truly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of WIN and meet such experienced mentors."

The U.S. WIN organization was established in 1999 to support an environment in nuclear energy and nuclear technologies in which women and men are able to succeed, to provide a network through which the women in these fields can further their professional development, and to provide an organized association through which the public is informed about nuclear energy and nuclear technologies. More than 3,000 women and men working in nuclear- and radiation-related fields participate in the organization.



Exelon technical manager Roberta Kankus receives her award from Chip Pardee.

Kankus Receives Leadership Award

During the U.S. Women in Nuclear (WIN) conference, Roberta Kankus, technical manager at Exelon Generation Corp., was awarded the Patricia Bryant Leadership Award for her significant contributions and trailblazing efforts in the nuclear industry.

Kankus was the first woman to hold a senior reactor operator's license for a commercial nuclear power plant and is also a founding member of U.S. WIN.

Kankus' 35-year career began in core and reactor engineering. She has worked with the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations as one of the initial project managers establishing and assessing nuclear industry standards of operation. Kankus also has worked in business operations, strategic planning and economic affairs. She has publicly appeared throughout her career to discuss the role of women in engineering and non-conventional employment. Kankus currently represents Exelon on the Society of Women Engineer's Corporate Partnership Council.

Kankus said that she is proud to see the growth of WIN and attributed her accomplishments to being willing to try new things. She said that leadership is "being able to reinvent yourself" and encouraged attendees to embrace doing something new. "Doing different things will help you grow in the WIN organization and in your profession," Kankus said.



Attendees at the 2008 U.S. WIN Conference in Charlotte, N.C., included 40 students from 20 institutions.

New Generation Job Outlook Promising

With oil at \$130 a barrel and greenhouse gases on the minds of the public, new nuclear and renewable energy construction is projected to grow. This means jobs, and “these aren’t just hot jobs, they’re sizzling jobs,” said Christine Real de Azua, spokeswoman for the American Wind Energy Association.

Engineers, reactor operators, mechanics and skilled trade workers are all going to be needed if the energy demand in the year 2030 is to be met. “While a few years ago what we wanted were the ‘clean’ jobs in computer engineering, now we’re back to the types of engineers who get their hands dirty with chemistry and broad-application engineering,” said Chris McCormick, partner and head of the energy division of venture capital firm Landmark Ventures.

Designing, building and operating are all part

of the game in the power sector. With the industry spending billions of dollars on new construction and a large percentage of the current work force nearing retirement age, young workers have a bright future with numerous job opportunities ahead of them.

Many local community colleges are starting to offer the classes and training necessary for many of these jobs, said Real de Azua. Although some of these jobs require a bachelor’s degree, or in some cases a Ph.D., others such as a reactor operator require a high school degree. However, those interested in these energy industry jobs can expect extensive training both in and out of the classroom, as well as licensing exams, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Even trade workers need an apprenticeship through a union or skilled trade group, which could take up to four years.

Power Industry Jobs		
Job Category	Projected Growth Through 2016	Median Annual Income
Engineers	11 %	\$66-90,000
Nuclear Reactor Operators	11 %	\$69,000
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	9 %	\$42,000
Welders	5 %	\$32,000
Electricians	7 %	\$45,000
Line Workers	7 %	\$53,000

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, 2006 DATA



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