

Insight

OCTOBER 2007



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRG ENERGY INC.

NRG Energy President and CEO David Crane announces the company's filing of a license application for two new nuclear reactors in Texas as Sen. Pete Domenici looks on.

NRG Energy Files License Application For Two New Reactors at Texas Plant

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission last month received the first full license application for a nuclear power plant in nearly three decades.

NRG Energy Inc. and South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Co. filed a combined construction and operating license (COL) application to build two General Electric Advanced Boiling Water Reactors at the South Texas Project (STP) plant site in Matagorda County.

The NRC now is conducting an acceptance review process for the license application. If the agency accepts the application, it could take up to 42 months for a complete review.

If the NRC approves the application, NRG said it expects to begin construction in 2010, with the new reactors beginning electricity production in

2014 and 2015. Texas' energy needs are projected to increase by 10,000 megawatts (MW) by that time. Together, STP 3 and 4 would produce more than 2,700 MW of electricity—enough to serve more than 2 million homes. Two existing reactors at the site produce 2,500 MW.

"I believe that any serious effort to address climate change must include nuclear power, which is why I'm so pleased to see the first application to build a plant in 29 years filed with the NRC," said Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.). "I'm hopeful that this application will be the first of many."

The NRC could receive up to four applications for new nuclear reactors this year. Altogether, 17 companies and consortia have plans to submit

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Reactors Help Defang Dog Days Of Summer

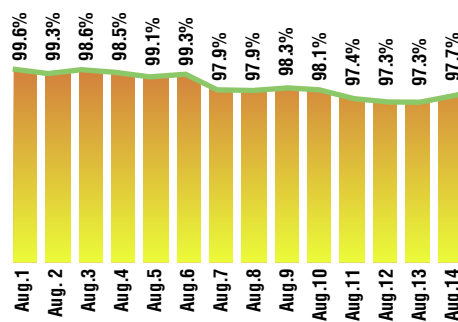
When the dog days of summer growled, the nation's nuclear power plants helped soothe the savage beast of electricity demand, according to statistics from the nuclear energy industry and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The nation's nuclear plants posted an average daily capacity factor of more than 98 percent during the first two weeks of August. Capacity factor is a measure of power plant efficiency, measuring the amount of electricity the plant generates compared to the amount it could have produced at continuous full power operation, 24/7, during the same period.

Nuclear power plants account for 11 percent of America's total electricity generation capacity, but because they operate at exceptional levels of

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Nuclear Plant Capacity Factors*



*Compares the amount of electricity actually produced with

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applications for more than 30 new reactors in the coming years.

In July, UniStar Nuclear Energy LLC submitted a portion of its combined license application to the NRC for Constellation Energy's Calvert Cliffs site in Maryland.

UniStar Nuclear is an alliance between Constellation and Electricité de France. Together, they will pursue plans to build AREVA's U.S. EPR reactor design at Calvert Cliffs and the Nine Mile Point plant site in New York.

"Constellation Energy strongly believes nuclear power must play a prominent role in our nation's energy future, which will be vitally important in



MAYO SHATTUCK Shattuck, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Constellation Energy.

helping America achieve its goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward greater energy independence," said Mayo

Shattuck, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Constellation Energy. Florida may nearly double its nuclear energy output, if one of the state's utilities proceeds with plans it announced in August. Florida Power & Light Co. (FPL) is considering building two nuclear reactors at its Turkey Point power plant in southern Florida. The new reactors, which could be operational by 2020, would add up to 3,000 MW of power to the state's electric grid.

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efficiency and reliability, they produce nearly 20 percent of the nation's annual electricity supply.

During one of the most sweltering fortnights of the summer, 104 reactors operating in 31 states had a combined capacity of more than 100,000 megawatts of electricity, enough to meet the yearly electricity needs of 62 million Americans.

For the week ending Aug. 11, U.S. electricity output was the second-highest ever recorded at 96,955 gigawatt-hours, according to the Edison Electric Institute. In the Southeast, Atlanta-based Southern Co. set new system electricity demand records twice in one hot August week. South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. set a new peak demand record Aug. 8, and the Tennessee Valley Authority the same day set its third consecutive demand record.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEOLISUUDEN VOIMA OY/AREVA

UniStar Nuclear is pursuing plans to build U.S. EPR reactors in Maryland and New York. Construction of an EPR is under way at the Okiluoto site in Finland.

FPL also plans to add approximately 400 MW of power capacity to two reactors at both the Turkey Point and St. Lucie plants through modifications to the plant that will increase electricity production. The company expects to complete the project by 2012.

POWERING UP WORLDWIDE

Internationally, AREVA has entered into a partnership with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. to develop, market, license and sell a new 1,100-MW pressurized water reactor design, the ATMEA 1. The two companies have collaborated for nearly a year to define the conceptual basis for the reactor, and AREVA said it plans to begin the licensing application process in less than three years.

Meanwhile, Westinghouse Electric Co. has taken several steps to advance the company's position in the international market for new nuclear power plants. In South Africa, Westinghouse signed an agreement to purchase IST Nuclear (ISTN), a leading provider of services and systems for the pebble bed modular reactor.

ISTN, which will become Westinghouse Electric South Africa (Pty) Ltd., will expand its scope to service existing light water reactors in South Africa and elsewhere. The company will design key systems for a pebble bed modular reactor demonstration unit in South Africa by 2011.

Shortly after Westinghouse acquired ISTN, the South African government issued a nuclear energy

policy and draft strategy that lays out plans to expand uranium mining and build new reactors in an effort to establish the nation's self-sufficiency in the nuclear fuel cycle. Two reactors produce 6 percent of South Africa's electricity.

In China, Westinghouse and The Shaw Group Inc. committed to building four AP1000 nuclear plants, beginning in 2009. They signed multi-billion-dollar contracts with four Chinese companies to build the four plants in pairs at the Sanmen and Haiyang sites, with the first plant expected to begin operating in 2013.

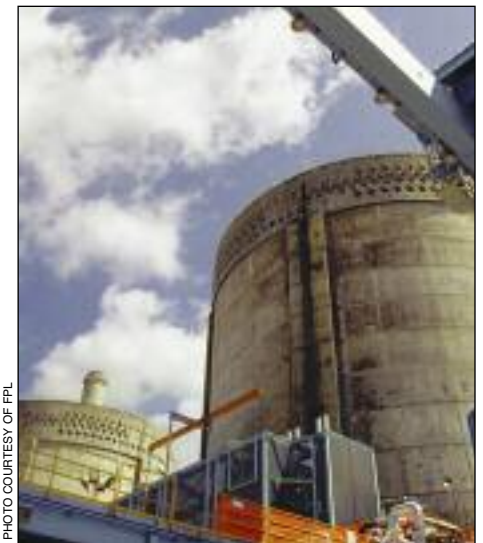


PHOTO COURTESY OF FPL

Two potential new reactors at FPL's Turkey Point plant could provide electricity for more than 2 million Florida homes each year.

McGaffigan Was 'Voice of Reason' in Public Service

'Commitment to Absolute Honesty' in Policy Debates

Through the many years he served his country at the State Department, the White House science office, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Edward McGaffigan was to all a man of tremendous ability and uncompromising integrity.

"Ed had the intellectual ability and the courage to accomplish a tremendous amount," said Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), for whom McGaffigan worked for 13 and a half years on energy, defense and foreign policy issues. "There was no question or surprise when he chose to use that intellectual ability and courage to face the illness that did finally claim his life."



Ed made it his business to understand whatever the issue was at hand better than anybody

else. ... He had an extremely keen mind, and he was in the enviable position of being able to be his own expert."

—Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.)

McGaffigan, 58, was the longest-serving commissioner at the NRC. He died of cancer Sept. 2, just days after celebrating the 11th anniversary of his appointment to the commission, where he spent one-third of his 31 years of public service.

"Ed was talented, highly motivated and a person of strong values," NRC Chairman Dale Klein said. "He always took the view of what is best for the American people, not what might bring attention to him."

McGaffigan "always voted his conscience, and he earned the respect of his colleagues and staff at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, government leaders, the public, and executives in the nuclear



PHOTO COURTESY OF NRC

NRC Commissioner Edward McGaffigan, right, advocated science-based regulation.

energy industry," said Skip Bowman, president and chief executive officer of the Nuclear Energy Institute.

After graduating from Harvard University and completing master's degrees in physics and public policy at the California Institute of Technology and Harvard, respectively, McGaffigan began his career as a Foreign Service officer at the State Department in 1976. Following a position at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, he served as a key staff member for Bingaman.

In 1996, President Clinton appointed McGaffigan, a Democrat, to the NRC and reappointed him in 2000. In 2005, President Bush also reappointed McGaffigan to the commission.

During his tenure, McGaffigan worked to make nuclear reactor oversight and nuclear power plant license renewals more efficient and effective. He also improved security at U.S. nuclear plants, particularly since 2001, and helped revise the licensing process for companies interested in building new plants. Commission observers recognized McGaffigan for his intelligence, honesty and out-

spokenness.

"I have been known for the frankness of my public remarks over my tenure," McGaffigan said in May. "Because I lucked out in winning my first job in the Foreign Service in 1976, I have always been at the most senior levels of government. I have been involved in many policy debates that go well beyond the mission of this institution. But my touchstone has been a commitment to as close to absolute honesty in those debates as is humanly possible. That is, and should always remain, NRC's commitment, even if some groups do not share that commitment and resort to distortion."

"Commissioner McGaffigan was a voice of reason determined to assure public health and safety by advocating regulation that is rooted in sound science and engineering," Bowman said.

Bingaman remembered McGaffigan on the Senate floor: "Ed made it his business to understand whatever the issue was at hand better than anybody else. ... He had an extremely keen mind, and he was in the enviable position of being able to be his own expert."

Now Hear This ...

The United States government predicts that domestic demand for electricity will increase by 40 percent over the next 25 years. This general increase must be met in an economically rational and environmentally friendly way that does not increase America's exposure to foreign vulnerabilities. Nuclear power can help do exactly that.

— The Heritage Foundation
Sept. 19

The big news is that nuclear power may be making a comeback in the United States. ... Could it be that nuclear energy, risks and all, is now seen as preferable to the uncertainties of global warming?"

—"Freakonomics" authors
Stephen Dubner and Steven Leavitt
"The Jane Fonda Effect"
The New York Times, Sept. 16

We'll need massive new generating capacity to meet that demand. And while we must do better at conservation and invest in renewable energies, nuclear power is the only mature, large-scale source of power that is essentially carbon-free."

—John Dyson and Matt Bennett
"Just Say 'Oui' to Nuclear Power"
The Boston Globe, Sept. 16

Nuclear power generation represents not only a key part of America's present energy mix, but must be regarded as a clean, reliable and jobs-generating option for our nation's future energy needs."

—"Nuclear Energy: A Clean and Reliable Choice for America"
Building & Construction Trades
Department of the AFL-CIO fact sheet



ARTIST RENDERING COURTESY OF TVA/WESTINGHOUSE

TVA plans a license application for two Westinghouse AP1000 reactors at its Bellefonte site.

Construction Plans Prompt Nuclear Plant Neighbors to Say 'Yes, in Our Backyard'

Whether the setting is rural Alabama or an exurb one hour south of Baltimore, local residents and civic leaders are laying out the welcome mat to companies that are considering building new reactors in their backyards.

Local residents and community leaders voiced support for potential new-reactor projects at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Bellefonte site near Hollywood, Ala., at a Sept. 11 public meeting on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's new-plant licensing process.

Approximately 300 attendees joined the meeting to discuss TVA's plans to submit a combined construction and operating license (COL) application for the two new reactors. Shortly after the meeting, the TVA board authorized Chief Executive Officer Tom Kilgore or his designee to submit the COL application to the NRC this fall.

After starting construction at the Bellefonte site in the 1980s, TVA stopped the project in view of market projections at the time, which foresaw declining electricity demand. If TVA decides to build new reactors, officials said they should be able to use the cooling water structures, water intake system and electrical switchyard already built at the site.

Those attending the meeting expressed overwhelming support for the project, citing economic benefits and the need for new electric generation sources. Construction and operation of the new plant could result in 1,400 to 1,800 jobs during construction and 400 to 700 permanent jobs when

the plant is operating, according to Nuclear Energy Institute studies.

Southern Maryland policymakers and business leaders strongly endorsed plans to build a third reactor at Constellation Energy's Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant during an NRC meeting in August.

Wilson Parran, president of the Calvert County Board of County Commissioners, kicked off the meeting by describing a board-approved letter supporting the plant's expansion. "Some decisions are difficult," he said. "But this one was simple [and] uncomplicated. Constellation is a great partner. Nuclear energy is clean and reliable. Nuclear energy is critical to our country's energy strategy."

UniStar Nuclear Energy LLC, a consortium that includes Constellation Energy and Electricité de France, submitted a partial COL application to the NRC this summer. The consortium plans to file the remainder of the application early next year.

State Delegate Sally Jameson warned the 300 attendees that the United States "is heading for an energy crisis. Conserving energy will help a lot and so will renewables. But we still will have a 20 percent gap. Nuclear energy is a green energy that will help to fill our energy demands."

Several opponents raised questions centering on used fuel management, new-plant financing and environmental safety at the Calvert Cliffs meeting and at a subsequent NRC meeting for a potential new reactor at South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.'s Virgil C. Summer plant.

Energy Sector Explores Work Force Options

That the United States needs more power is indisputable. But the nation needs another kind of power to make that possible: people power.

Workers and engineers who are skilled at building and running power plants and transmission facilities soon will be in high demand. However, the current supply of skilled workers in the energy sector work force will not meet future demand.

"Any credible program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must include nuclear energy. In doing so, the industry will hire and retain tens of thousands of skilled and well-paid workers," Carol Berrigan, director of industry infrastructure at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), testified before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

Berrigan noted that up to 35 percent of the industry's work force may be eligible to retire within five years, but building new plants will require thousands of construction and skilled trade workers. She encouraged Congress to develop policies that help address this projected imbalance in the work force.

Some federal and state government entities already are involved in efforts to jump-start growth in the energy work force. The U.S. Department of Labor and the state of Mississippi co-hosted the Energy Skilled Trades Summit this summer in Biloxi. With support from NEI, the Edison Electric Institute and the American Petroleum Institute, the summit attracted nearly 300 attendees—including energy industry executives and work force professionals, education specialists, and government officials—focused on developing solutions to the issue.

Speakers pointed to effective programs addressing skilled labor shortages in Florida, Texas and



The U.S. nuclear industry will need thousands of new workers to build and operate as many as 31 reactors in the coming years.

Wyoming, calling them models for dealing with the labor shortfall facing the public and private sector in the rest of the country.

Summit attendees participated in state-focused working groups to develop possible solutions for addressing the challenges facing the energy and construction industries. The working groups are the beginning of an ongoing effort in each state for work force development. They defined several areas of focus: raising awareness of careers in the industry, education and policy, funding strategies, and accessing untapped pools of labor.

One untapped talent pool may be students who dropped out of engineering school. They possess technical acumen and may very well be better-suited to the trades.

The summit working groups also recommended gaining access to potential labor pools through community or faith-based organizations.



LISA STILES

Lisa Stiles, project leader for strategic staffing and knowledge management at Virginia-based Dominion Resources, applauded the summit's focus on defining solutions, not just identifying the problem.

"In my state, for instance, we now have an action plan to form the Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium, similar to the successful model that

has been used in Florida," Stiles said. "Plus, I left the summit with pages of innovative ideas to investigate."

The Department of Labor announced at the summit that it would provide \$10 million in grant funding for programs to support energy and construction work force development—this in addition to \$125 million currently available to community and technical colleges through the agency's community-based job-training grants.

The Labor Department also pledged to continue work with the energy industry by sharing best practices, offering technical support and holding electronic meetings.

The Southern Governors' Association tackled work force issues in the final session of its recent annual meeting. Govs. Haley Barbour (R-Miss.), Charlie Crist (R-Fla.), Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Sonny Perdue (R-Ga.) joined a roundtable of leading energy executives and key labor leaders, including NEI President and Chief Executive Officer Skip Bowman. Although Bowman acknowledged significant challenges ahead, he offered some hope.

"We are blessed with an untapped labor supply consisting of early retirees who can come back in the work force," Bowman said. "That, coupled with separated military personnel and possible foreign labor, can go a long way to helping us meet our demands."

U.S., U.N. Studies: Nuclear Needed to Reduce Carbon Dioxide

A more significant role for nuclear energy is essential if nations are to successfully counter the effects of climate change, according to several U.S. and international reports released in recent months.

One study has determined that New Jersey needs to expand electricity production from nuclear power to fulfill its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

The initiative is a cooperative effort by 10 northeastern and mid-Atlantic states to design a regional cap-and-trade program for carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in the region. Member states are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Under the initiative, states set a 2019 deadline to reduce carbon dioxide emissions 10 percent from 2006 levels. At minimum, each of New Jersey's four nuclear plants must extend their operating licenses for an additional 20 years to meet this goal, according to a study conducted by Polestar Applied Technology Inc. for the



A September study found that New Jersey will need more nuclear energy to help keep the air and water clear in places like the Pine Barrens forest.

Nuclear Energy Institute.

“Reducing CO₂ Emissions in New Jersey: The Imperative of Nuclear Power” describes two scenarios. In the low-growth scenario, New Jersey would experience a 24 percent increase in electricity demand by 2019. The high-growth scenario envisions a 44 percent increase in demand.

The study concludes that both situations would

require license renewal at New Jersey's nuclear plants—Hope Creek, Oyster Creek, and Salem 1 and 2. Together, these plants provide more than half of the state's electricity generation. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission currently is reviewing a license renewal application for Oyster Creek. The agency expects to receive applications

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President Touts Nuclear Energy's Role in Climate Change

“Energy security and climate change are the two great challenges of our time,” President George Bush told world leaders gathered in Washington, D.C., last month. The Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change was the first of a series of meetings designed to set a long-term global goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions that includes a role for developing countries.

The State Department said the purpose of these meetings is to “reinforce and accelerate discussions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change” and help develop a global agreement by 2009. New, detailed plans for reducing climate change are to be in place by 2012, when the Kyoto Protocol targets expire.

Nations participating at the meetings included



Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, South Korea and the United States, as well

as the European Union and United Nations.

The world's major economies will be asked to take several steps, with particular emphasis on near-term research and development of clean-energy technologies.

Bush said nuclear energy is a key technology to combat climate change.

“We also need to take advantage of clean, safe nuclear power. Nuclear power is the one existing source of energy that can generate massive amounts of electricity without causing any air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions,” Bush said. “Without the world's 439 nuclear power plants, there would be nearly 2 billion additional tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere each year. And by expanding the use of nuclear power, we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions even more.”

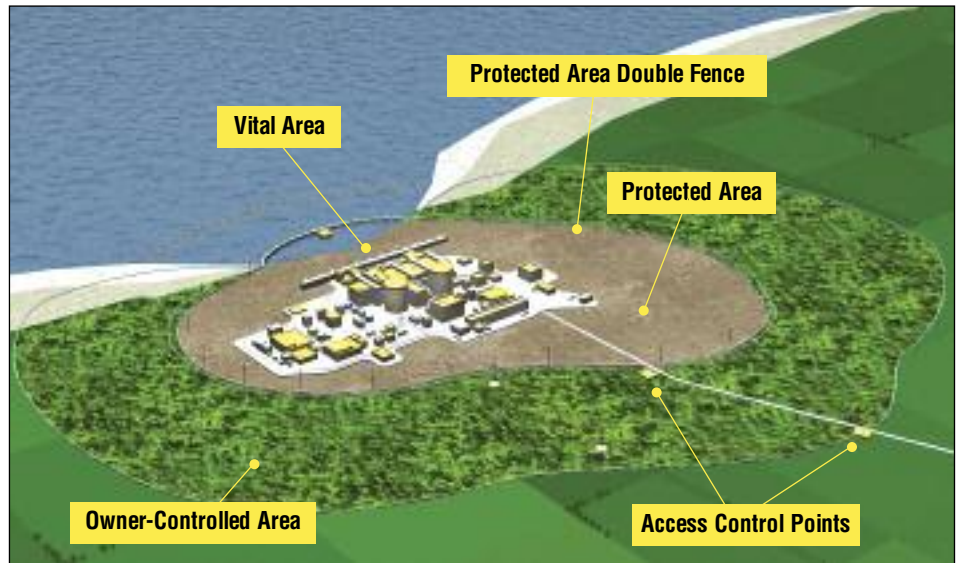
Nuclear Sector First to Complete Key Security Review

America's nuclear power plants last month became the first sector of the nation's critical infrastructure to successfully complete a new security review process. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program analyzes the ability of the plants to withstand different threat modes and terrorist attack scenarios.

All 64 commercial nuclear plant sites completed far-reaching security evaluations known as Risk Analysis and Management for Critical Asset Protection (RAMCAP). Special teams also conducted evaluations of 37 on-site used fuel storage facilities, including 11 decommissioned nuclear plant sites.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers developed the process under a DHS contract. The electric industry funded the evaluations at nuclear plants. The reviews examine the capability of a plant—based on its physical attributes and its security infrastructure—to counter various terrorist attack scenarios.

The reviews examine many theoretical scenarios and attack modes significantly beyond the “design basis threat,” the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's determination of attacks against which a plant must be able to defend. The results help plant owners and the industry better under-



Nuclear power plants employ multiple security zones to defend against potential threats.

stand various potential threats to the sites.

“Although the RAMCAP reviews focus on scenarios that are significantly beyond those that the industry alone must defend against, the results consistently highlight the strong security measures in place at America's nuclear power plants,” said Vijay Nilekani, senior project manager for security at the Nuclear Energy



VIJAY NILEKANI

Institute. “It confirms earlier reviews that have found that nuclear plants are the nation's most robust and well-defended industrial facilities in the country.”

Other critical areas of the country's infrastructure, such as the chemical sector, also are performing RAMCAP evaluations. DHS plans to use the evaluations to compare relative risks among the various sectors of the nation's critical infrastructure so the agency can prioritize its efforts and funds.

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for the other plants in September 2009.

“Without license renewal, meeting the 2019 RGGI limit is impossible,” the study said. “Even if it shuts down all oil- and coal-fired power plants, and builds large amounts of new wind and gas-fired capacity, New Jersey's CO₂ emissions would be 27 percent over the RGGI limit.”

Meanwhile, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in an August report included nuclear energy among the “key technologies” needed to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Other mitigating technologies include renewables, energy efficiency, carbon capture and storage for coal-fired plants, large hydropower, and biofuels.

The convention's secretariat presented the

report at climate change talks in Vienna, Austria. It analyzed the “existing and potential investment and financial flows” necessary for an effective international response to climate change. The report projected global investment in nuclear energy must increase from \$15 billion to \$40 billion by 2030 to reduce emissions to 2004 levels.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum reaffirmed its commitment to the U.N. climate change framework in a September declaration on climate change, energy security and clean development. The declaration called for increased reliance on low- and zero-emission energy sources and technologies, including nuclear, renewables and advanced coal.

“For those economies which choose to do so, the use of nuclear energy, in a manner ensuring

nuclear safety, security and nonproliferation ... can also contribute,” the declaration said.

Closer to home, an industry research group reached similar conclusions: curbing greenhouse gas emissions requires a full portfolio of advanced energy technologies, and that portfolio should include nuclear power.

The Electric Power Research Institute said in its report that new nuclear reactors, plug-in hybrid vehicles, advanced coal and a “smart” electricity grid could reduce the economic cost of cutting future U.S. carbon dioxide emissions in half while satisfying rising electricity demand. In certain scenarios, these technologies could save as much as \$1 trillion.



Zambia Gets Positive Prognosis for Cancer Treatment

Nuclear energy does far more than light our homes and businesses. It also helps diagnose and treat serious diseases such as cancer. For the first time, the African nation of Zambia can put nuclear technology to this life-saving use.

Until now, cancer patients in Zambia had to leave the country to seek treatment, but most did not get that chance because of prohibitive costs.

"The waiting was dreadful," Helen Moto-Moto told Angela Leuker of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Moto-Moto, a Zambia native, was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2005. "I really needed treatment, but every time I called the Ministry of Health for news, I was told the same thing: We haven't got the money to send you."

From 1995 to 2004, Zambia sent only 350 of thousands of cancer patients to nearby Zimbabwe or South Africa for radiotherapy, at a cost of about \$10,000 per patient. Radiotherapy is one of several medical applications of nuclear technology, where doctors apply radiation to cancerous tissue to shrink or eradicate the tumor.

Now, patients travel only as far as Lusaka, the capital of Zambia, to receive radiotherapy treatment at the brand-new Cancer Diseases Hospital. The hospital can treat up to 100 patients a day. The new facility is critical in a country where 54 of every 100,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer alone—often at an advanced stage.

The opening of the hospital is "a watershed event, not only in the history of our country, but that of the developing world," said Zambian Health Minister Brian Chituwo.

Officials hope the new facility also will help raise cancer awareness, leading to its earlier detection. Experts say cancer and other diseases are becoming more prevalent in the developing world as life expectancy increases and lifestyles change.



From left to right: senior medical physicist Mulape Kanduza, cancer patient Chiti Kampamba and radiation therapist Mercy Chipampe.

PHOTO COURTESY OF A. LEUKER/IAEA

Nuclear technology like radiotherapy can be part of the solution; the challenge is bringing it to developing countries.

To construct the \$8 million hospital and train its staff, the Zambian government paired up with donors and the IAEA, which hopes to use this "tri-partite funding model" as a prototype for other African nations.



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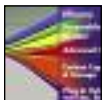
Nuclear Energy Insight is published monthly by the Nuclear Energy Institute for policymakers and others interested in nuclear issues. NEI is the policy organization of the nuclear energy industry. © 2007

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