



Empower News

NUCLEAR ENERGY FACTS:

Canada is the world's leading exporter of uranium, producing over one third of the world's uranium mine output

In 1987, the CANDU reactor, along with the CN Tower and the Alouette space satellite, was ranked as one of Canada's top ten engineering achievements during the previous 100 years

Heavy water (D_2O) is 10% heavier than ordinary water and has a neutron moderating ratio 80 times higher than ordinary water

As of 2004, nuclear power provided 6.5% of the world's energy and 15.7% of the world's electricity, with the U.S., France, and Japan together accounting for 57% of nuclear generated electricity

Nuclear energy comes from mass-to-energy conversions that occur in the splitting of atoms. Albert Einstein's famous mathematical formula $E = mc^2$ explains this. The equation says: E [energy] equals m [mass] times c^2 [c stands for the speed or velocity of light]. This means that it is mass multiplied by the square of the velocity of light

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ONE YEAR AFTER FUKUSHIMA, NUCLEAR SAFETY IS STRONGER

Nuclear power is safer than it was a year ago as the nuclear industry, regulators and governments act on the lessons of Fukushima, but that safety must never be taken for granted, said Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Speaking ahead of the first anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident on 11 March, Amano said a culture of constant vigilance and improvement was vital to ensure that the benefits of nuclear power could be harnessed as safely as humanly possible.

Earlier assumptions about plant safety in the face of extreme conditions have been scrutinized and revised, and defenses are being strengthened. The IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Plan, endorsed unanimously last September by the Agency's Member States, sets out a blueprint for national and international action in 12 major areas. Among these:

- The IAEA has developed a new methodology for assessing the safety vulnerabilities of nuclear power plants, which has already been used on an IAEA expert mission to review the approach taken by Japan in its own plant safety assessment; The IAEA has sent a number of other expert technical missions to support Japan, and has advised the country as it establishes a new, more independent regulatory system;
- The IAEA's Safety Standards, which provide the basis for a high level of safety, have been systematically reviewed and proposals have been made to reinforce them, with particular emphasis on a strong regulatory framework and safe siting, design and operation of plants;
- The IAEA has stepped up its peer review services, incorporating lessons of Fukushima to help Member States assess and reinforce nuclear safety, and has taken steps to improve coordination with operators; and Member States agreed to strengthen and expand the IAEA's communication role in response to nuclear emergencies, including provision of analysis and possible prognoses. [Source: IAEA.com]

WHAT'S NEW AT ANRIC

ANRIC actively participates in Tradeshows and Conferences to stay abreast within local news, latest developments and share our knowledge with the nuclear industry.

Principal engineer, Richard W. Barnes, will participate in a panel discussion at the ICONE conference held in Los Angeles on July 30 – August 3, 2012. Richard has been invited to present at the plenary sessions at the 2012 Technology of Fusion Energy (TOFE) in Nashville.

ANRIC has developed three new courses to be offered in Fall 2012: Introduction to Nuclear Power Plants; How to write a QA Manual; and How to implement a QA Program. The QA courses will include workshops to provide hands-on experience along with the theoretical knowledge. [R.W. Barnes & A. Haseen]

OPG SIGNS FOR NEW NUCLEAR

Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) has signed agreements with Westinghouse and SNC-Lavalin/Candu Energy Inc. to prepare detailed construction plans, schedules and cost estimates for two potential nuclear reactors at Darlington.

Under the terms of the agreements, each company will be given 12 months to develop its report. The completed reports will be analyzed and forwarded to the Province for its consideration.

The reports will help inform the government's decision on whether to move forward with new nuclear at OPG's Darlington site. [Source: OPG.com]

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UPCOMING COURSES



September 4-5:
CSA N285 (Series)

October 2-3:
Codes & Jurisdictional Requirements

October 9:
Intro to CANDU Reactor

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