

FUN FACTS NUCLEAR POWER IN THE U.S.

Government policy changes since the late 1990s have helped pave the way for significant growth in nuclear capacity. Government and industry are working closely on expedited approval for construction and new plant designs.

The country's 104 nuclear reactors produced 821 billion kWh in 2011, over 19% of total electrical output. There are now 103 units operable. The USA is the world's largest producer of nuclear power, accounting for more than 30% of worldwide nuclear generation of electricity.

Following a 30-year period in which few new reactors were built, it is expected that 4-6 new units may come on line by 2020, the first of those resulting from 16 licence applications made since mid-2007 to build 24 new nuclear reactors.

[Source: www.funtrivia.com]

BRUCE POWER'S UNIT 5 OUTAGE BENEFITS THOUSANDS OF CANADIANS

By completing its 25-day planned Unit 5 maintenance outage, Bruce Power will now provide much-needed cobalt to Canada's medical industry. Cobalt, which is a byproduct of Bruce B's four units, is safely removed from the units during planned maintenance outages about every two years. Its power is then harnessed by Canada's medical industry to treat cancer patients. "Every time we harvest cobalt from our units, we do so knowing it will benefit thousands of Canadians, and perhaps even some of our own friends and family," said Pete Milojevic, Senior Vice President, Bruce B.

The Unit 5 outage, which started on Jan. 4 and brought an end to the 129-day record run of four-unit continuous operation at Bruce B, represented a \$40 million investment by Bruce Power, said Len Clewett, Executive Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer at Bruce Power. This outage will be closely followed by two-month outages in Units 6 and 8 to complete the first half of 2013. "By investing over \$200 million into these units in 2013, we are ensuring they operate safely and reliably so the people of Ontario have continuous access to low-cost electricity at all times," Clewett said.

Bruce Power will provide about 25 per cent of the province's energy this year. The Bruce Power site is a key element to Ontario's plan to phase out coal in Ontario. A revitalized, eight-unit Bruce site provides 70 per cent of the energy needed to phase out coal in the province.

[Source: <http://www.melodika.net>]

NO IMPACT FROM CHERNOBYL ROOF COLLAPSE

Sections of the walls and roof of Chernobyl 4's turbine building have collapsed under weight of snow, officials reported, noting no change in radiation levels at the site.

The collapse occurred on the opposite side of the turbine building from the reactor, in an area of roof repaired after being damaged by the accident in 1986. It had no effect on the reactor or the shelter that protects it from the weather, said plant managers.

There were no injuries and the incident had no effect on the shelter's forthcoming replacement, a huge arch known as the New Safe Confinement. When in place, probably in 2016, the NSC will cover the reactor building as well as a portion of the turbine hall including the part that collapsed yesterday.

[Source: www.reuters.com]

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[Source: N. Akhtar]

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