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In our latest edition of NENSC News, the <u>Nuclear Energy and National Security Coalition</u> (<u>NENSC</u>) brings you the latest industry news, events you don't want to miss, and policies we are watching. Be sure to keep scrolling to learn how you can follow us and stay up to date with the latest information you need.

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## **TOP STORY**

#### **NENSC Year in Review**

NENSC is pleased to provide its <u>2025 Year in Review</u>, which provides a snapshot of the organization's activities of the course of this year. We thank you for your continued support and commitment to a strong national nuclear energy enterprise to the continued national security of the United States. If you have feedback on our coverage of relevant matters, please submit your thoughts to our team <u>HERE</u>.

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

India Passes Landmark Nuclear Reform: India's Parliament has <u>approved the SHANTI Act</u>, modernizing its civil nuclear framework, aligning liability rules with international norms, and opening the sector to private participation for the first time. The reform removes long-standing barriers to U.S. involvement and creates new opportunities for U.S. nuclear technology and standards to shape India's expanding nuclear sector.

**U.S.–Saudi Nuclear Deal Strengthens American Industry:** In <u>this piece</u>, the Breakthrough Institute's Spencer Toohill explores how the Trump administration's new civilian nuclear cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia advances a formal 123 Agreement, opening the door for U.S. companies to export reactors and nuclear technology to the Kingdom under strict nonproliferation oversight. Advocates argue the deal strengthens U.S. influence, imposes transparency Saudi Arabia would not face under Russian or Chinese partnerships, and offers a critical lifeline to the American nuclear industry by creating long-awaited foreign reactor orders that can lower costs, scale the supply chain, and speed domestic deployment.

Senate Confirms Ho Nieh to NRC: Ho Nieh, a longtime nuclear safety leader and the first former NRC resident inspector to become a Commissioner, was sworn in for a term ending in 2029 after Senate confirmation of his nomination. Nieh returns to the NRC with extensive regulatory and industry experience, including directing the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, senior inspection roles, and recent leadership at Southern Nuclear and the Nuclear Energy Agency.

**U.S. Plans to Buy 10 New Nuclear Reactors with Japan-Backed Funding:** The U.S. government **plans to buy and own** up to 10 new large nuclear reactors, leveraging part of Japan's \$550 billion pledge—including up to \$80 billion for Westinghouse AP1000 units—to confront what officials call a national electricity emergency driven by AI data centers and revived domestic manufacturing.

**U.K. Strives for Nuclear Comeback Amid Structural Challenges**: The U.K. <u>aims to revive</u> its historic nuclear leadership and reach 25% nuclear power by 2050 through major projects like Sizewell C and new SMRs from Rolls-Royce. But progress is hampered by the world's highest reactor construction costs, regulatory "systemic failures," talent shortages, and heavy reliance on imported uranium. While new financing tools and U.S. partnerships signal momentum, experts warn that meaningful nuclear expansion will require major fixes to the nation's regulatory framework, workforce pipeline, and supply chain.

**Poland Greenlights First Nuclear Plant After EU Approval**: Poland <u>secured EU approval</u> for 60 billion zloty in public aid, clearing the way to begin construction of its first nuclear power plant with Westinghouse and Bechtel on the Baltic coast.

#### IN THE NEWS

ANS: U.S. and Saudi Arabia Reach Deal on Nuclear Energy Cooperation

**DNV:** Maritime Nuclear Propulsion – When, Where, and How? [Webinar]

**ENERGYWIRE:** Hype Around Small Nuclear is Overblown, Indian Official Says

IAEA: IAEA Launches Competition on Nuclear Fuel Supply Chain

**IEEE:** <u>Deep Fission Plans to Sink Nuclear Reactors Deep Underground</u>

**K&L Gates:** 2025 in Review: International Nuclear Energy Updates

WSJ: Can the U.S. Make Big Nuclear Reactors?

WNN: Two SMR Projects Selected for U.S. Federal Funding

WNN: Third San'ao Unit Under Construction

# WHAT ARE WE MISSING?

Please note that we are not able to commit to the completion of any specific request. All feedback will be kept confidential.

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