



Volume 2 - July 2024

In our latest edition of NENSC News, the [Nuclear Energy and National Security Coalition \(NENSC\)](#) brings you 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.

## LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

**Biden Signs ADVANCE Act:** President Biden [signed](#) the ADVANCE Act into law, marking a significant bipartisan achievement aimed at fostering the development of advanced nuclear reactors. The [bill](#) focuses on modest NRC reforms, including enhancing the efficiency of the NRC, provisions for federal funding to cover licensing and permitting costs for advanced nuclear projects, directs the NRC to improve its licensing process and workforce, and establishes initiatives to assist other nations in developing nuclear reactors. The bill passed the Senate 88-2 and passed the House 393-13.

**FY2025 House Energy and Water Development Bill Approved by Committee:** The House Appropriations Committee [passed](#) its Fiscal Year 2025 [bill](#) for the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, which includes the Department of Energy and the NRC. Of note, the bill reprograms \$8.98B to the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (\$980M from the Civil Nuclear Credit Program and \$8B from the Loan Program Office). The bill passed the committee by 30-26.

**House DFC Reauthorization Bill Approved by Committee:** The House Committee on Foreign Affairs [held a markup](#) and voted on several bills, including the "[Development Finance Corporation \(DFC\) Modernization and Reauthorization Act of 2024](#)." The bill passed the committee 43-2, and Rep. McCaul released [this statement](#), amplifying its passage in committee.

**DOE Releases RFI for Interim Storage Facility:** The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy [released an RFI](#) outlining plans to issue a competitive Request for Proposals for a Federal Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for spent nuclear fuel. DOE is seeking information and sources to provide engineering design, project management, integration, and other services necessary to carry out the mission related to the federal CISF for spent nuclear fuel. The government is considering awarding a financial instrument for this support as soon as fiscal year 2025. The location of the Federal CISF will be determined over the next several years through a consent-based siting process. The deadline for submissions is September 5, 2024.

**C2ES Publishes Report on Advanced Nuclear Process Heat for Industrial Decarbonization:** The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions released a [report](#) exploring both direct and indirect roles that advanced nuclear technologies could play in providing

industrial process heat at a range of temperatures. Key opportunities include combined heat and power capabilities for direct process heating and CCUS technologies, clean energy production for electrification technologies, and clean hydrogen production for high-temperature applications. Key barriers identified include uncertainty around project costs, lengthy regulatory process timelines, and a need for a domestic fuel supply chain and workforce. The report recommends key actions and investments from Congress and DOE to address these barriers and enable meaningful decarbonization of the U.S. industrial sector.

**INEA Added to NDAA:** Senators Joe Manchin (I-WV) and Jim Risch (R-ID) proposed the “International Nuclear Energy Act of 2024” (INEA) as an [amendment](#) to the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act. The bill facilitates the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and nuclear exports. The bill will develop a framework to coordinate civil nuclear exports, establish nuclear financing relationships, promote regulatory harmonization, standardize nuclear licensing framework, and enhance safeguards and security. The Senate is expected to consider the amendment in the coming weeks.

**NRC Seeks Candidates for ACRS:** The [NRC is looking for qualified individuals](#) to fill positions on its Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS). This committee provides independent technical reviews and advice on the safety of nuclear facilities and reactor safety standards. It also advises on health physics and radiation protection.

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## INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS

**SMR Developers Submit Bids to Great British Nuclear:** Five companies announced they had submitted bids to the [Great British Nuclear's SMR competition](#). The five companies are: [GE Hitachi](#) with its BWRX-300; [Holtec](#) with its SMR-300; [NuScale](#), in partnership with ENTRAI Energy, with its VOYGR SMR; [Rolls-Royce](#) with its Rolls-Royce SMR; and [Westinghouse](#) with its AP300 SMR. EDF was invited to submit a bid [but pulled its Nuward design](#) from the contest "due to incompatibility between the level of commitment and the time schedule required by GBN and the level of maturity of the Nuward SMR."

**EDF to Redesign SMR Using Proven Technologies Amid Concerns:** French utility [EDF will redesign](#) its small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) using existing technologies instead of its own innovations due to cost and technology concerns. The decision follows discussions with potential clients like Vattenfall and Fortum, who seek investment security and cost-effective solutions. EDF aims to ensure feasibility and meet delivery deadlines by using proven technological components. This redesign may impact the budget and rollout timeline, initially projected for the 2030s. EDF's SMR subsidiary, Nuward, plans to announce a new design strategy in the coming months.

**India-Russia Agreement on Future New Nuclear Builds:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited Moscow, [reportedly striking an agreement with Vladimir Putin](#) on the potential buildout of "six more Russia-designed high-powered power units and Russia-designed small nuclear power plants" in India according to Russian state media.

**Mali Junta and Russian Nuclear Firm Rosatom Sign Cooperation Deals:** Mali's military junta and Russia's state nuclear company [Rosatom signed three cooperation agreements](#), including discussions on building a Russian-designed low-power nuclear power plant in Mali, as part of Rosatom's broader strategy to expand its influence in Africa. This collaboration is part of Rosatom's broader strategy to expand its influence in Africa, particularly in West Africa's Sahel region where several countries have turned away from traditional Western allies since 2020. Rosatom has met with Mali's junta leader Assimi Goita and other officials responsible for the economy, energy, and education to advance these initiatives.

**EU Approves Romanian Nuclear Expansion Plans:** The European Commission [has approved Romania's plan](#) to construct Units 3 and 4 at the Cernavoda nuclear power plant, affirming the project's adherence to high nuclear safety standards. Scheduled for operation in 2030 and 2031 respectively, the new units will significantly boost Romania's energy security and sustainability, supporting over 19,000 jobs and reducing carbon emissions by approximately 20

million tons annually.

**South Africa Plans Nation's Largest Nuclear Plant Approval:** South Africa's Energy Ministry aims to [secure funding approval](#) by August for a new 2,500-megawatt nuclear power plant, surpassing the capacity of the existing Koeberg facility near Cape Town. Minister Kgosientsho Ramokgopa highlighted the project's advanced stage, pending finalization of procurement and site selection. The plant is expected to address electricity shortages exacerbated by aging infrastructure, aiming to stabilize supply and support economic growth.

**Canadian Town Votes to Host Repository:** The Township of Ignace in north-western Ontario has become the [first Canadian community to confirm its willingness](#) to move forward to the next phase of the site selection process to host a deep geological repository for Canada's used nuclear fuel. Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) launched the process of selecting a suitable site for the deep geological repository (DGR) for Canada's used nuclear fuel in 2010. By 2012, 22 communities had expressed an interest in learning about the project and exploring their potential to host it. Eleven of those communities went forward to the second phase of NWMO's preliminary assessment process. At a special meeting, the Ignace Council unanimously accepted and endorsed a set of recommendations and passed a resolution addressed to NWMO that indicates that the town is a willing host community for the DGR.

**Italy Plans Nuclear Power Revival Under Meloni:** Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government aims to [reintroduce nuclear energy](#) to Italy 35 years after closing its last nuclear reactor as part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels. The plan includes investments in small modular reactors expected to be operational within a decade, with a goal for nuclear power to provide at least 11% of the country's electricity by 2050. The government is confident that improved safety and modern technology can shift. *[Paywall]*

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## IN THE NEWS

**The Japan Times:** [Kyoto Fusioneering looks toward a 'Made in Japan' approach for nuclear fusion](#)

**Tech Xplore:** [China building more wind, solar capacity than rest of world combined: report](#)

**World Nuclear News:** [US study examines feasibility of coal-to-nuclear conversion](#)

**Wall Street Journal:** [The U.S. and China Are in a Race to Develop Energy's Holy Grail](#)

**University of Michigan:** [Pinpointing coal plants to convert to nuclear energy, considering both practicality and community support](#)

**Boston Business Journal:** [Commentary: Climate change solutions must involve the global economy](#)

**International Energy Agency:** [IEA policy review highlights leadership of United States on energy security and clean energy transitions \[PRESS RELEASE\]](#)

**EPRI:** [EPRI, DOE Sign MOU on Used Nuclear Fuel Research](#)

**BNN Bloomberg:** [Fusion Received \\$900 Million in Funding to Tame Power of Stars](#)

**Foreign Affairs:** [Nuclear must be part of the solution](#)

**The Conversation:** [Ghana is planning its first nuclear energy plant: what's behind the decision](#)

**IBEW:** [How the IBEW and the Biden administration brought American nuclear power back from the brink](#)

**New Scientist:** [Chinese nuclear reactor is completely meltdown-proof](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### World Nuclear Symposium 2024

Turning Momentum into Energy

September 4 - 6, 2024

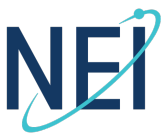
Park Plaza Westminster Bridge, London, UK



### Ninth Annual Central and Eastern European Energy Security Conference - Atlantic Council

September 10

Washington, DC



### Nuclear Energy Assembly

September 10 -12, 2024

Philadelphia, PA, USA



### 68th IAEA General Conference

September 16 - 20

Vienna, Austria



### COP29 United Nations Climate Conference

November 11 - 24

Baku, Azerbaijan

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