



Volume 5 - October 2024

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

Poneman Joins *Hugh LIVE* to Discuss the Importance of Nuclear Power

Former Deputy Energy Secretary and NENSC Co-Chair Daniel Poneman joins *The Hugh Hewitt Show* to explain how the enormous energy demands of Artificial Intelligence have driven a resurrection of the nuclear power industry. Click below to view the interview.



UPCOMING NENSC WEBINAR

The Role of Nuclear Energy in the Evolving National Security Landscape

November 20, 2024

NENSC will host a webinar on "*The Role of Nuclear Energy in the Evolving National Security Landscape*," during which a panel of experts will explore the critical intersection of nuclear energy and national security. The event will address how a robust nuclear energy enterprise can advance U.S. national security interests in an increasingly complex global environment.

Click [HERE](#) to register for this free event.

TITLE: The Role of Nuclear Energy in the Evolving National Security Landscape

DATE: November 20, 2024

TIME: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ET

OPENING REMARKS:



Adm. Richard Mies, USN (Ret.),
NENSC CO-Chair

SPEAKERS:



Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, Former Undersecretary of Energy for Nuclear Security and Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration
Member, NENSC Expert Council



Daniel Poneman, Former Deputy Secretary of Energy, *NENSC Co-Chair*

U.S. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

DOE Announces HALEU Enrichment Awardees: DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy [announced](#) it awarded contracts to four companies to allow them to bid on work for High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU) enrichment services as part of DOE's HALEU Availability Program. The four companies (and their respective press releases) are [Urenco](#) (Louisiana Energy Services), [Centrus](#) (American Centrifuge Operating), [Orano](#), and [General Matter](#). All contracts will last for up to 10 years, and each awardee will receive a minimum contract of \$2M, with up to \$2.7B available for these services, subject to the availability of appropriations. All activities must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. **Read more in NENSC's [press release](#).**

DOE Announces HALEU Deconversion Awardees: DOE's Office of Nuclear

Energy [announced](#) it awarded contracts to six companies to allow them to bid on work for deconversion services as part of DOE's HALEU Availability Program. The six companies (and their respective press releases) are [BWXT](#), [Centrus](#), [Framatome](#), [GE Vernova](#), [Orano](#), and [Westinghouse](#). Awardees will deconvert HALEU as uranium hexafluoride gas to various chemical forms (e.g., metal or oxide) used to fabricate fuels required by many advanced reactor developers. Contracts will last for up to 10 years, and each awardee will receive a minimum contract of \$2 million, with up to \$800 million available for these services. All activities must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, and all deconversion and storage services must occur in the continental United States. ANS provides an extensive overview of the program [here](#).

DOE's LPO Publishes Updated Pathway to Advanced Nuclear Commercial Liftoff:

DOE published its updated ["Pathway to Advanced Nuclear Commercial Liftoff"](#) report, which outlines a plan for U.S. nuclear capacity to triple from 100 GW to 300 GW by 2050. This expansion is meant to align with growing AI and data center energy demands while utilities extend reactor operations, uprate capacity, and restart decommissioned reactors. Key steps highlighted in the report include cost-effective deployment of initial reactors, leveraging lessons from Vogtle Units 3 and 4, and utilizing incentives from the IRA to reduce costs.

NRC Holds Meeting on ADVANCE Act Implementation: The NRC held its first series of public meetings regarding the ADVANCE Act Implementation. The staff presented [its implementation timeline](#) and provided an overview of the actions underway to properly implement the bill.

NRC Options Paper on Rewrite of Agency's Mission Statement: The ADVANCE Act requires the NRC to update its mission statement with particular elements. NRC's General Counsel [prepared an options paper](#) for the NRC Commissioners with several options to update the mission statement and recommendations for the Commissioner's consideration.

NNSA Releases 25 Enterprise Blueprint: DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration [released](#) a National Security "Enterprise Blueprint," which outlines a 25-year plan to align the delivery of specialized infrastructure with demands across the nuclear stockpile, global security, and naval nuclear propulsion missions. Under the Blueprint, the National Security Enterprise continuously invests in both the production and science infrastructure that support weapons design, certification, and assessment.

Navy Releases Nuclear RFI: The Department of the Navy [released](#) a Request for Information to industry, seeking to explore concepts for the development of nuclear power facilities aimed at enhancing energy security at seven Navy and Marine Corps installations in the United States. The RFI is seeking to collect input for privately funded concepts that would ensure continuous operational capability of Naval installations in the event of grid power outages, adversary attacks, extreme weather events, or other disruptions while improving utility regional grid capacity, flexibility, affordability, and resilience to support community continuity of services. The seven sites are in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. Responses are due November 7, 2024.

NRC Seeks Comment on New Reactor Generic Environmental Impact

Statement: The NRC is [seeking public comments](#) on a proposed rule for a Generic Environmental Impact Statement for licensing new reactors. The generic impact statement uses a technology-neutral framework and plant/site parameters to identify environmental issues common to new reactors, and those issues needing project-specific analysis. The NRC expects that both the proposed rule and the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Licensing of New Nuclear Reactors would streamline the environmental reviews for future nuclear reactor applicants. [Public meetings](#) will be held on November 7, 2024, November 13, 2024, and November 14, 2024, and public comments are due by December 18, 2024.

INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS

EXIM Bank Approves \$99M for Romania's Doicești SMR Project The US Export-Import Bank has [approved \\$99M in funding](#) for the development of an SMR project at a former coal plant site in Doicești, Romania. The project, led by RoPower—a joint venture between Nuclearelectrica and Nova Power & Gas and NuScale, aims to build a 462 MW NuScale Voygr SMR plant with six 77 MW modules. The funding will support site development, regulatory approvals, and detailed engineering work as part of an initial \$275 million package involving other international partners.

Japan to Maintain Nuclear Power While Boosting Renewables: Japan [plans to continue](#) utilizing nuclear energy alongside increasing renewable sources, as stated by Industry Minister Yoji Muto. With Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's leadership, the government aims to safely restart nuclear plants to address rising electricity demand driven by sectors like data centers. Currently, nuclear energy represents about 9% of the country's mix, and officials are eager to boost this figure to reduce reliance on expensive fossil fuel imports. Safety concerns from local communities, particularly regarding the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant, remain, however, a hurdle.

El Salvador and Argentina Sign Nuclear Energy Cooperation Agreement El Salvador has signed a memorandum of understanding with Argentina's National Atomic Energy Commission to advance its nuclear energy program. [The agreement](#) aims to enhance cooperation through information exchange, training, and expert missions. El Salvador seeks to diversify its energy sources while ensuring environmental sustainability and local economic development. Argentina, with its established nuclear history, will support El Salvador's efforts to incorporate nuclear energy into its energy matrix.

Australia's ABC Releases Documentary Exploring Nuclear: "Nuclear Gamble," a documentary by reporter Eric Campbell, explores whether nuclear energy could be a solution to Australia's energy crisis or a misguided venture. The film delves into contrasting views within Australian politics: Peter Dutton, Leader of the Opposition, supports nuclear energy, arguing it's essential to reach net-zero emissions, while former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull dismisses it as "dangerously stupid." The program investigates international nuclear developments, particularly in the U.S., to assess whether Australia should adopt nuclear power to address its energy challenges.

Kazakhstan Approves Nuclear Power Plant Construction in Referendum: In [a national referendum](#) held on October 6, 2024, 71% of voters in Kazakhstan supported the construction of the country's first nuclear power plant, with a turnout of approximately 64%. The government has identified a potential site near Ulken village in the Almaty region, though the location remains subject to change. Kazakhstan, the world's largest uranium producer, aims to secure stable energy for future economic growth with this move, marking a significant step toward nuclear energy deployment. The government has received offers from several countries, including France, China, South Korea, and Russia, to build the plant.

Italy Looking At New Nuclear: Italy is in talks with several nuclear companies, including Westinghouse and EDF, [to construct new nuclear reactors](#) in the country. Nuclear power is currently prohibited in Italy following referendums in 1987 and 2011. However, the Italian Energy Minister announced that, by the end of this year, the government plans to draft rules to lift the ban and allow the use of new nuclear technologies.

IN THE NEWS

Third Way: [2024 Map of the Global Market for Advanced Nuclear: Future Demand is Bigger Than Ever.](#) [Report]

Google Blog: [New Nuclear Clean Energy Agreement with Kairos Power.](#)

Amazon: [Amazon Signs Agreements for Innovative Nuclear Energy Projects to Address Growing Energy Demands.](#)

Breakthrough Energy: [New Nuclear's Pivotal Moment. \[Report\]](#)

Energy Central: [Was California Too Quick to Abandon Nuclear Power?](#)

CNBC: [Amazon Goes Nuclear, to Invest More than \\$500 Million to Develop Small Modular Reactors.](#)

Carnegie Endowment: [Reclaiming the Promise of Nuclear Power in India. \[Paper\]](#)

The Economist: [Big Tech is Bringing Nuclear Power Back to Life. \[Paywall\]](#)

World Nuclear News: [White Paper Sets Out Advantages of SMRs for Data Centres.](#)

Third Way: [Dawn of a Nuclear Era.](#)

POLITICO EU: [Britain's Heading for a Nuclear Power Crunch. Blame the French.](#)

The Conversation: [To Make Nuclear Fusion a Reliable Energy Source One Day, Scientists Will First Need to Design Heat- and Radiation-Resilient Materials.](#)

IAEA: [IAEA Initiative to Streamline SMR Deployment Moving to Implementation Phase.](#)

POLITICOPRO: [Can Big Tech Revive Nuclear Power? \[Paywall\]](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



[Scaling Sustainability Solutions: Nuclear Module](#)

(mini-series)

November 1

Bishop Auditorium, Stanford, CA



[5th Nuclear Inter Jura Congress](#)

November 3 - 7

Warsaw, Poland



[COP29 United Nations Climate Conference](#)

November 11 - 24

Baku, Azerbaijan

[Philippine International Nuclear Supply Chain Forum](#)

November 13 - 15

Quezon City, Philippines



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