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CERNAVODA-2 FINANCE DEAL IGNORES OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Pressure from nuclear exporters has put Romania's Cernavoda-2 project on a fast track for approval by export credit agencies, despite several outstanding issues. However, the position of the US Eximbank and the Euratom loan for completing the Canadian-designed reactor is still unclear.

(579.5473) Campagna per la riforma della Banca mondiale – The controversial project of completion of the second CANDU reactor of 700 MW of the Cernavoda NPP in Romania is approaching a crucial time.

On 12 December 2002, Societé Generale of France agreed to provide a syndicated loan of 384 million Euros (US$391 million) to the Romanian government; export credit agencies (ECAs) of Canada, France and Italy are going to issue investment insurance on all these loans in the next days.

These agencies, under pressure from exporters (mainly AECL of Canada and Ansaldo Energia of Italy), are approving the project even though their environmental due diligence introduced several environmental and safety conditions for the Romanian government to be met by March 2003. Among them are the completion of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) study – which, however, will not be made public – and other reports on seismic and safety issues.

Surprisingly, US Eximbank has decided to delay project approval – a financial guarantee of US$24 million on Societé Generale's loan covering US sub-contractors – and to submit it to the US Congress. Exim is concerned about the objection of the Romanian government to make public the full EIA document, despite mandatory provisions included in its environmental guidelines.

The attachment of environmental conditions to ECA credit and guarantee approval might produce a highly controversial situation for ECAs, since Societé Generale and exporters might file a claim on environmental grounds to these agencies in order to be paid off in case of delay by the Romanian government in meeting the conditions and authorizing project construction. This has moved project financiers to meet exporters in Paris on 24 October 2002 and to agree on an "intercreditor agreement" between ECAs and exporters in order to prevent a possible claim.

The Romanian government made public a summary of the EIA study last September in order to allow public consultation on the document according to the Romanian Environmental Protection Law. To date, the local Environmental Protection Agency in Constantza, overseeing the Cernavoda region, has not carried out any consultation with people affected by the project or the general public.

At the same time, following requests of civil society, the DG Enlargement of the European Commission has made public the environmental study for the project commissioned by Euratom under the PHARE program.

A recent review by the Austrian Institute for Applied Ecology found the summary of the Romanian EIA incomplete, not systematic, not understandable and not verifiable in many sections, due to the lack of accurate data.

Furthermore it detected several deficiencies in both environmental studies as regards the assessment of seismic and probabilistic risks and the radiological impacts on water in the Cernavoda area.

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The European Commission recognized in the 2002 regular report on accession for Romania that "The unresolved issues of spent fuel and nuclear waste will have to be addressed [by the Romanian government] in the short-term" and "longer-term solutions needed to be found for radioactive waste".

Currently Euratom is waiting for the economic due diligence evaluation of the project carried out by the European Investment Bank. The decision by the European Commission on the approval of a 223 million Euro (US$227 million) Euratom loan to the Romanian government not expected until Spring 2003, in order to wait for a respective counter-guarantee by the Romanian government so that the ceiling on debt sustainability imposed by the IMF will not be violated.

It has to be noted that the proposed loan does not require extension of Euratom loan ceiling, since the amount of 223 million Euros is exactly what is left in Euratom's loan fund.

At the same time, the Bulgarian government has requested a consultation on the project EIA study to the Romanian government. If they fail to receive information by the end of 2002, they are considering the possibility of calling for an official inquiry in the matter under the provisions of the Espoo Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context.

Thus Cernavoda-2 could also become an illegal project under international environmental law (see *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor* 571.5424, "Romania: new financiers, new problems for Cernavoda-2".)

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ROMANIAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST CERNAVODA-2

At a recent workshop on EU nuclear power and Euratom in Copenhagen, Denmark (see *In brief* in this issue), Aurel Duta from Mama Terra (For Mother Earth, Romania) explained that the Romanian government still considers the Cernavoda project a priority when allocating the country's limited budget. Meanwhile, poverty is still widespread and many children continue to live in appalling conditions in under-funded orphanages. Their campaign against Cernavoda-2 is on the Internet at www.geocities.com/boteni/campaign.html

BELGIAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES NUCLEAR PHASEOUT

Belgium has the third highest percentage of nuclear electricity in the world. Nevertheless, the Chamber of Representatives has approved a law to phase out nuclear energy, setting a 40-year maximum lifetime for existing reactors and banning the construction of new ones.

(579.5474) WISE Amsterdam – The Chamber of Representatives (the lower house of the Belgian parliament) approved the nuclear phaseout law early on 6 December. It still needs to be approved by the Senate, though this is expected to happen "unless there is a major political accident" (1).

Belgium has two nuclear power stations, Doel and Tihange, with a total of 7 reactors, which generate around 60% of the country's electricity. The phaseout law specifies a 40-year maximum lifetime, so that the three older reactors (Doel 1 & 2 and Tihange 1) must close by 2015. Greenpeace Belgium welcomed the phaseout agreement, but pointed out that these older reactors cannot withstand a crash of even a light aircraft, so should be closed immediately (2).

The latest closure dates for the newer reactors (Doel 3 & 4 and Tihange 2 & 3) are between 2022 and 2025. While these reactors of a newer design, the use of MOX fuel, which was started in Doel-3 and Tihange-2 in 1995, will speed up aging and embrittlement of the reactors compared to the reactors which do not use MOX (3). Yet the same 40-year lifetime applies to all reactors irrespective of MOX use.

Strikes

Both Belgian nuclear power stations have kept running when the workers went on strike. There were strikes at Tihange in 2001 when the workers protested against job cuts and safety deficiencies (4). The strikers included the reactor operators at Tihange-2 where MOX is used. At times, managers were left operating the reactors during the strike (5). There have also been strikes at Doel; one in 1987 lasted two months – again, the reactors kept operating with a minimum of personnel and safety (6).

Hopes and doubts

The French Nuclear Phaseout Network (Réseau "Sortir du nucléaire") greeted the Belgian decision with joy, since it shows that countries that are highly dependent on nuclear power can still phase it out. They are critical of the upcoming public debate on energy in France where the authorities are unwilling to reconsider the role of nuclear power in supplying most of France's electricity (7).

Opposition politicians have said that they will reverse the phaseout decision. Faced with this threat, Energy Secretary Olivier Deleuze replied, "Let them do it, but we would re-vote such a [nuclear phaseout] law as soon as we came back in power". The upshot of this is, as Willy Bosmans of the nuclear utility Electrabel confirmed, "no operator would take the risk to invest in new nuclear generation" (8).

Yet the real challenge, as Deleuze himself has admitted, will be to convince Belgians to use less energy (9). Ultimately, the success or failure of the phaseout policy could depend on this.

Notes:
1. According to a spokesman for Olivier Deleuze, Secretary of State for Energy and Sustainable Development, quoted in *RTE On Line*, 6 December 2002
2. Greenpeace Belgium press release, 5 December 2002
3. *WISE News Communique* special edition (no. 469-470): "The MOX Myth"
4. *La Meuse*, 15 May 2001
5. *WISE News Communique* 553, "In Brief"
6. *De Volkskrant*, 3 April 1987 – for English version, see Laka Foundation's Country Status Report on Belgium (www.laka.org/teksten/countryreports-95/4-BELGIE.html)
7. Réseau "Sortir du nucléaire" press release, 6 December 2002
8. *Nucleonics Week*, 12 December 2002
9. Olivier Deleuze's comments in a debate in Basle on 26 April 2002 (see *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor* 567.5400, "Rethinking Nuclear Energy and Democracy after 09/11")

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URANIUM MINING IN 2002

Recently, the last issue in each year of the *WISE News Communique* has included a summary by Peter Diehl (WISE Uranium Project) of what has happened in the world of uranium mining in the year. Here is his annual summary for 2002 for the *WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor*.

(579.5475) WISE Uranium - The uranium price remained rather stable during the course of the year and showed only a slight increase from US$9.60 to US$10 per lb U_3O_8, indicating a continued depression of the uranium market (1).

New discoveries
Except for some new uranium mineralization found at McClean Lake (Saskatchewan, Canada), no new discoveries were reported in 2002.

New uranium mining projects
Given the still rather low uranium price, development continued only for uranium mine projects promising low operation costs, such as mines on high-grade ore deposits, or in-situ leach projects - with one particular exception in India.

The Midwest project in Saskatchewan, Canada, received a mine site preparation license.

In Kazakhstan, the Muyunkum in-situ leach uranium project and the Inkai test ISL mine started operation. In India, the new Turamdih uranium underground mine was opened, located nearby the existing Jaduguda mine in Jharkhand.

The Honeymoon ISL uranium mine in South Australia was granted final federal approval, however, the project still lacks the required State government mining approval.

In a BBC interview, Robert Wilson, chairman of Rio Tinto, made a commitment to rehabilitate the Jabiluka uranium mine site in Australia's Northern Territory, but didn't say when this would begin (2). The mine had never gone into operation due to opposition of the Traditional Owners. After uranium contamination was detected downstream, the mine's water management became a matter of criticism. Even the government's Supervising Scientist criticized the environmental management at the mine site.

Issues at operating mines
At the McClean Lake site in Saskatchewan, Canada, mining was suspended after the Sue C deposit is depleted; the mill now processes stockpiled ores. In a spectacular move, on 23 September 2002, a federal court quashed the McClean Lake operating license: the Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative won its court case against the Atomic Energy Control Board (today the Nuclear Safety Commission) and Cogema Resources. The judge ruled that a Judicial Review was necessary for the AECB decision to grant an operating licence for the JEB Uranium Tailings Facility without a full environmental assessment (3). On 7 November 2002, however, the Canadian Federal Court of Appeal granted stay and the McClean Lake mill continues operation.

In June, the McArthur River mine in Saskatchewan was threatened by a forest fire.

Mining at the Eagle Point underground mine at Rabbit Lake, Saskatchewan, restarted in July.

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Editorial team: Stuart Field, Robert Jan van den Berg (WISE Amsterdam), Michael Mariotte (NIRS). With **contributions** from Campagna per la riforma della Banca mondiale and WISE Uranium.

The next issue (581) will be mailed out on 17 January 2003.

In the U.S., Cameco acquired the Smith Ranch uranium in situ leach (ISL) mine in Wyoming from Rio Algom.

From the Lagoa Real / Caetité mine in Brazil, first uranium was exported in January.

The Czech government approved a further 2-year extension of uranium mine operation at Rozná - the country's last operating uranium mine. The government further committed funding for the cleanup of the mine and the associated Dolní Rozinka tailings.

For the Australian uranium mining industry, 2002 became the year of the spills (or spill reports, at least). In January production at the Beverley in-situ leach uranium mine in South Australia temporarily halted after a spill. In June the State government reported more undisclosed spills at the Beverley and Honeymoon in-situ leach mines. In September, even more leaks were reported for Beverley.

At the Olympic Dam copper/uranium mine, too, a spill was revealed. And, WMC now considers tripling rather than doubling of the Olympic Dam capacity.

For the Ranger uranium mine, uranium resources were revised down. A uranium leak at Ranger mine was reported late, and the use of sandbags at the mine to slow uranium-contaminated flow into Kakadu National Park became a matter of criticism. The Supervising Scientist also criticized the environmental management at the mine. However, in a later report investigating the environmental performance of Ranger he cleared the mine operators.

Abandoned mines

In Canada, the assessment of abandoned uranium mine sites continued.

In northern Saskatchewan, abandoned uranium mines are a concern, according to a new government report. Many of the sites pose "severe public safety hazards and possible long-term environmental concerns." In the Uranium City area, the Federal Government completed its search for the owners of 39 abandoned uranium mines, without making the result public, however. So it remains unclear who will have to pay for their clean-up.

After soliciting public comment and holding hearings, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) issued a license to Rio Algom for the old Elliot Lake tailings in Ontario. And, in the Northwest Territories, residents called for the cleanup of the Fort Norman uranium site.

> ...the situation in Kyrgyzstan became dramatic, as a landslide barricaded the Mailuu Su river threatening to flood the adjacent tailings dumps

In the U.S., Utah State authorities started a reclamation project for abandoned uranium mines in the Cottonwood Canyon area near Blanding. Petrotomics Company, a subsidiary of ChevronTexaco Co, found a convenient way to get rid of its former open pit uranium mine lands in the Shirley Basin, meanwhile reclaimed by the state: it "donated" the approx. 1000 hectares to the state of Wyoming.

In Portugal, the government committed funds for uranium mine cleanup. Former uranium mine workers called for the cleanup of old uranium mine sites in the Urgeiriça area.

In Ukraine, the Dniprodzerzhynsk uranium mill tailings totalling 36 million tonnes are in a very poor condition and threaten the health of residents. There is no money available for urgently-needed reclamation.

For the just as urgent cleanup of the abandoned uranium mill tailings in Kyrgyzstan, however, the year 2002 brought a breakthrough: After Kyrgyzstan had initiated a search for funding the uranium mill tailings reclamation, international organizations such as the OSCE commenced drawing attention to the problem.

In May, prolonged rainfall and a series of earthquakes across Central Asia renewed fears related to the safety of the Kyrgyz tailings deposits located on steep valley slopes. On 9 May, an Interparliamentary Assembly group visited the Kyrgyz tailings sites. On 12 May, the situation became dramatic, as a landslide barricaded the Mailuu Su river threatening to flood the adjacent tailings dumps (4). The river found its way across the barricade though leaving the tailings dumps undamaged. In October, Kyrgyzstan requested donor aid for securing the uranium mill tailings. Subsequently, funds were granted by the World Bank, and the governments of Norway, the United States, and Finland.

Shutdown and decommissioning of uranium mines

The reclamation of the largest uranium mill tailings pile in the U.S. will be further delayed: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) granted a 2-year extension of the reclamation deadline for Rio Algom's Ambrosia Lake tailings in New Mexico, and a further 3-year delay for the decommissioning of the associated uranium mill.

Relaxed groundwater standards were requested by the respective site owners, and/or approved by the NRC, for Umetco's Gas Hills uranium mill site, Pathfinder's Lucky Mc mill site, Petrotomics' Shirley Basin tailings site (all in Wyoming), and Rio Algom's Lisbon uranium mill site in Utah.

In addition, United Nuclear wants to halt groundwater treatment at its Church Rock uranium mill tailings

site in New Mexico. This site gives reason for further concern, since the tailings piles' rock cover - designed to last 1000 years - is deteriorating prematurely.

In October, Plateau Resources announced to decommission its idle Shootaring Canyon uranium mill site in Utah, only 6 months after having obtained a license renewal for a ten-year term.

The never-ending saga of the Atlas Corp., Moab, tailings in Utah continued in 2002. While a decision for the relocation of the tailings, last owned by bankrupt Atlas Corp., appeared to be within sight after the transfer of the site to the Department of Energy (DOE), the discussion now is open again, since the National Academy of Sciences in a report called for more study before a decision on the fate of the Moab tailings is made.

Subsequently, the DOE decided to initiate an Environmental Impact Statement on the pile. A decision on the fate of the pile - located 200 meters from the Colorado River and threatening the drinking water of millions of downstream residents - that is, relocation to a safer site or reclamation in place, will thus be deferred by several years.

For some other tailings sites under the jurisdiction of the DOE under the UMTRA program, "no-cost" alternatives were (or are being) selected for groundwater restoration: no remediation for vanadium at the New Rifle site, and "natural flushing" at the Gunnison and Durango sites, all in Colorado.

Regarding the reclamation of uranium in-situ leach mines in the U.S., some surprising developments could be observed: Texas State authorities issued an Emergency Order to Everest Exploration, Inc. for cleanup of its Hobson, Mt. Lucas, and Tex-1 uranium in-situ leach sites. The State authorities, moreover, issued orders assessing penalties against COGEMA for underground injection control violations at its Holiday mine site. And, the NRC denied a groundwater restoration approval for Cameco's Crow Butte ISL Wellfield Unit 1 in Nebraska.

At other sites, the development was less spectacular: a license termination was issued for USX's Clay West and Burns/Moser uranium in-situ leach uranium mines in Texas, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued another aquifer exemption for the disposal wells of COGEMA's Christensen Ranch uranium in-situ leach mine in Wyoming.

In Germany, the reclamation work continued at the former Wismut uranium mining sites. Fortunately, the serious August floodings caused no major damages at the Wismut sites. High uranium concentrations were found in water and fish from a village pond located at a site of former open pit uranium mining.

In France, a judicial inquiry on pollution at old uranium mine sites in the Haute-Vienne department in central France was initiated against Cogema. The inquiry goes back to a complaint filed by the environmental association "Sources et rivières du Limousin".

In Kazakhstan, the lack of dust control at the Tselinny tailings has led to wind erosion and has become a serious problem. Due to lack of funds, only one third of the 800 hectares of tailings is being irrigated at present.

Alternate feed processing and waste disposal business

In order to keep its White Mesa uranium mill in Utah operating, International Uranium Corp (IUC) continued the processing of alternate feed material, such as radioactively contaminated soils (5). After the extraction of residual uranium, the wastes are dumped in the mill's existing tailings impoundments - thus avoiding higher disposal costs at licensed radioactive waste disposal sites.

In August, the NRC issued a Finding of No Significant Impact for the processing of approx. 750,000 metric tonnes of uranium-contaminated soils from the Maywood, New Jersey, Superfund site. This amount of material is by far larger than all other alternate feed processed at the mill so far. The proposal prompted EPA to express concerns about the expansion of the alternate feed business and to demand a thorough review of the impacts of the disposal of the wastes from such processing in the tailings impoundments.

In November, IUC announced the formation of a joint venture with Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) to recycle DOE's contaminated low enriched uranium. The companies propose the development of a process and construction of a plant at NFS' facility in Erwin, Tennessee, for the blending of contaminated low enriched uranium with depleted uranium to produce a natural assay uranium ore substitute. The material would then be further processed at IUC's White Mesa Mill to produce yellowcake.

Cotter Corp., a General Atomics subsidiary, plans the disposal of approx. 400,000 metric tonnes of thorium-contaminated soils from the Maywood, New Jersey, Superfund site at its Cañon City uranium mill tailings impoundment in Colorado. The material is to be used as a cover material for the tailings, involving no further processing. Local opposition and Colorado State authorities hindered the shipments so far.

Health and science issues

A new study with former Czech uranium miners found increased chromosomal aberrations, statistically significantly correlated to radon exposure. This new evidence is stronger than that from earlier smaller studies with Namibian and German uranium miners.

A new study confirmed the toxicity of uranium in drinking water for humans: toxic effects on the kidney were found even for low

concentrations - without a clear threshold.

The U.S. radiation exposure compensation program for Navajo uranium miners and others was amended, taking into account some of the criticism made on the program.

Regulatory and policy issues
The U.S. EPA established a 2.22 μg/l uranium in tap water preliminary remediation goal for Superfund sites. This compares to the 2 μg/l WHO provisional guideline for drinking-water quality and the 30 μg/l EPA drinking water standard.

The U.S. NRC denied a National Mining Association (NMA) petition for rulemaking to wave licensing fees for uranium mines. The NRC thus did not follow the opinion that "relieving the fee pressure on the licensees would be in the public interest".

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released guidance for developing tailings regulations.

The European Commission invited comment and continued its work on the mining waste initiative - intended to improve the management of mill tailings, among others. In June, a working group of the European Council approved the related amendment of the Seveso II directive.

In June, the Australian Senate launched another inquiry into the uranium mining industry, triggered by the above-cited history of spills.

The Western Australia State Government banned uranium mining for nuclear uses.

And last, but not least... On 12 September 2002, long-time anti-uranium activist Maisie Shiell received the Saskatchewan Eco-Network individual environmentalist of the year award.

References:
1. UxC, 16 December 2002
2. WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor 573, "In Brief"
3. WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor 574.5445, "Uranium mining victory against Cogema"
4. WISE/NIRS Nuclear Monitor 568, "In Brief"
5. WISE News Communique 551.5295, "Alternate feed material: Putting radwaste through uranium mills"

For further details, check the WISE Uranium Project's web site at www.antenna.nl/wise/uranium/

Source and contact: WISE Uranium

UK EMERGENCY TEST: AT LEAST THERE WAS PLENTY OF TEA...

A test of how the UK emergency services would react if an airplane crashed into a nuclear reactor descended into confusion and farce as things kept going wrong. More recent tests in France were not much better.

(579.5476) WISE Amsterdam – The embarrassing results of the UK test were revealed in a confidential report obtained by the *Independent on Sunday* newspaper (1). The test, which was carried out on 10 May 2002, simulated what might happen if an aircraft crashed into Bradwell nuclear power station – which had been permanently closed a few weeks earlier. Problems with the test included:

-the on-call doctor could not contact the ambulance paging service to confirm information
-some officials thought the accident was at Sizewell rather than Bradwell nuclear power station
-50 emergency experts had trouble finding their way to the emergency coordination center
-when they arrived, there were no identification checks on entering,
-the emergency center was cramped and noisy and the restrooms were hard to find
-the telephones kept getting cut off
-some replies from the fax machine took hours to get through
-lettering on the computer screen was in white, making it invisible when printed
-and worst of all, potassium iodate tablets were distributed too late to be effective.

Still, BNFL concluded that it was "a successful demonstration of the ability to extend existing detailed emergency arrangements". After all, "there were plenty of refreshments throughout the day"!

French tests
More recent tests in France showed similar though perhaps less severe problems. Mayors from the area around Golfech nuclear power station met recently to evaluate the national "civil security" exercise carried on 14 November 2002. One complained that the fire brigade turned up too late and received inadequate information; another said that a fax he received lacked two important numbers; and a third described the whole exercise as "a bit of a farce" (2).

Everyone agreed that the sirens were hard to hear – a problem that recurred in another emergency test at the Cadarache nuclear complex on 5 December 2002, where the sirens were inaudible in houses with storm windows (3). In that exercise, the mayors were also poorly informed: only one mayor received the alert directly, and had to contact the mayors of the other villages.

References:
1. *Independent on Sunday*, 15 December 2002
2. *La Dépeche du Midi*, 16 December 2002
3. Report from Marc Faivet, 9 December 2002

Contact: WISE Amsterdam

IN BRIEF

Brazil: mudslide fails to stop Angra. During mudslides that killed 34 people and left 40 missing in Angra dos Reis, the town's mayor Fernando Jordao asked Electronuclear to shut down their Angra 1 & 2 nuclear reactors. However, they kept the plant operating, even though the road providing the main access to the plant was blocked, making the emergency plans more or less inoperable. Angra's emergency plans have previously been criticized for relying on a soldier on a moped to raise the alarm (see *WISE News Communique* 482.4789, "Angra's alarm system: A soldier on a moped").
Reuters, 9 and 10 December 2002

Brazilian enrichment plant starts. On 11 December, a new uranium enrichment plant was opened in Resende, Brazil. The plant is intended to supply 95% of the uranium enrichment needed for Brazil's two nuclear reactors (Angra 1 & 2).
Reuters, 13 December 2002

Euratom "nuclear package" opposition grows. The undemocratic and outdated Euratom Treaty needs to be abolished and incorporated into the main EU treaties instead of giving Euratom more powers through a "nuclear package" of new legislation. This was the message of a workshop organized in Copenhagen by NOAH (Friends of the Earth Denmark), at the same time as the European Summit considered the applications of countries in Central and Eastern Europe to join the EU. Meanwhile, even the Swedish Nuclear Power Inspectorate (SKI) has rejected the part of the "nuclear package" which calls for common EU nuclear safety standards. Sweden is one of the few EU countries that might be able to meet the proposed deadlines for setting up underground nuclear waste repositories.
WISE Amsterdam; SKI press release, 12 December 2002

UK ministers: no new nukes yet. UK government ministers cannot agree on building a new generation of nuclear reactors. According to the *Financial Times*, a white paper on energy policy to be published in spring 2003 will defer a decision on the issue. According to a senior official, "it is hard to envisage a lot of new nuclear power stations". Nevertheless, the UK government will keep the nuclear option "under review" while strongly backing renewable energy.
***Financial Times*, 19 December 2002**

North Korea threat. Former US President Bill Clinton has revealed that his administration issued an ultimatum to North Korea in 1994 that if they did not stop their nuclear weapons program, the U.S. would destroy their nuclear facilities. Clinton's revelation comes as North Korea has threatened to remove seals and surveillance cameras that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had installed as part of its nuclear safeguards program. President Bush has announced plans to deploy a missile defense system, starting with a limited system in Alaska and California in 2004 aimed largely at knocking down any North Korean missiles.
BBC, 15 and 16 December 2002; *The Washington Post*, 18 December 2002

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THE NUCLEAR MONITOR

The Nuclear Information & Resource Service was founded in 1978 and is based in Washington, DC. The World Information Service on Energy was set up in the same year and is housed in Amsterdam, Netherlands. NIRS and WISE Amsterdam joined forces in 2000, creating a worldwide network of information and resource centers for citizens and environmental organizations concerned about nuclear power, radioactive waste, radiation, and sustainable energy issues.

The *Nuclear Monitor* publishes international information in English 20 times a year. A Spanish translation of this newsletter is available on the WISE Amsterdam website (www.antenna.nl/wise/esp). A Russian version is published by WISE Russia and a Ukrainian version is published by WISE Ukraine (available at www.nirs.org). The *Nuclear Monitor* can be obtained both on paper and in an email version (pdf format). Back issues are available through the WISE Amsterdam homepage: www.antenna.nl/wise and at www.nirs.org.

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