

MONITOR

NUCLEAR NEW BUILD

...Weekly Intelligence on the Global Nuclear Renaissance

Next Generation Power Plants ◆ Advanced Reactors ◆ Uranium Enrichment
New Fuel Fabrication ◆ Spent Fuel Disposition & Recycling ◆ Safeguards

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— INSIDE HIGHLIGHTS —

While Moody's Investors Service downgraded the credit rating of Southern Company and several subsidiaries last month despite the \$8.3 billion federal government loan guarantee for the construction of two new nuclear plants in Georgia, a leading expert in nuclear finance questioned that decision last week. 2

In the face of growing interest in small modular reactors, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is asking the staff to make recommendations on a host of licensing and safety issues within six months that the Commissioners hope will speed up the licensing process for SMRs. 3

The nuclear liability bill passed in India last week is somewhat of a worst-case scenario for U.S. companies looking to enter the Indian market, with the final bill changing little from the version unveiled in the spring. 4

The Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future continued its information-gathering efforts last week with a series of subcommittee meetings that tackled two of the biggest technical questions the panel is facing. 4

Existing research to support an Environmental Impact Statement on storing spent nuclear fuel for up to 500 years—an idea the five members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission unanimously support exploring—is thin, but joint research efforts funded by industry and the federal government are underway. 6

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has rejected a call from six Congressmen to perform formal nonproliferation assessments as part of its work to license new nuclear technologies, with NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko arguing in an Aug. 27 letter that the Commission's review activities sufficiently address proliferation concerns. 7

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