## Nuclear Pull-outs, Rumours, Threats

### Briefing (3rd Edition): November 2013

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<td>Mühleberg to close in 2019, as Switzerland phases out nuclear power by 2034.</td>
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**Entergy early 2009**

Entergy submitted a combined construction and operating licence (COL) application to build an Enhanced Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) at its Grand Gulf site in Mississippi in February 2008 and made a similar application in September 2008, for its River Bend site in Louisiana. However, early in 2009, Entergy announced it was reviewing its choice of reactor technology and asked the NRC to suspend its review of its COL applications until it had re-evaluated alternative technologies. The projects are now suspended.

World Nuclear Association 31st August 2012
http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf41a11i_COL_applications.html

**Ameren UE April 2009**

On July 28, 2008, Ameren Missouri submitted an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), seeking a Combined Construction and Operating License (COL) for a potential EPR reactor at Callaway, Missouri. In April 2009, the proposal was cancelled. A key stumbling block
was a law barring utilities from charging customers for the interest accrued on the loan required to build the plant prior to it producing electricity.

Colombia Daily Tribune 23rd April 2009
Wikipedia accessed 12th October 2012
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Callaway_Nuclear_Generating_Station

Unistar December 2009

On 1st December 2009, UniStar requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) temporarily suspend the COLA review for Nine Mile Point 3 in New York State. A letter to the commission states Nine Mile Point 3 was not selected as one of four finalists for federal loan guarantees. Without the federal loan guarantee, the company cannot invest in new nuclear energy projects at the same pace it planned.

Unistar Nuclear website accessed 12th October 2012
The Post-Standard 7th December 2009

Constellation Energy 10th October 2010

Constellation Energy Group pulled out of federal financing negotiations for a proposed third nuclear reactor at Calvert Cliffs in a move that casts the project into doubt. Known as Calvert Cliffs 3, the new nuclear plant was to have been a joint venture between Baltimore-based Constellation and France's EDF Group, though the relationship between the two companies has been strained in recent months.

Baltimore Sun 10th October 2010

German Banks pull out of Indian Reactor 15th March 2011

"Commerzbank, the second largest bank in Germany, has pulled out of the proposed Jaitapur nuclear power project in Maharashtra citing "sustainability and reputational risk". The decision was made prior to the Japan disaster.

Deccan Herald 15th March 2011
http://www.deccanherald.com/content/145949/german-bank-pulls-jaitapur-nuclear.html

Swiss Government May 2011

The Swiss government has decided to phase out nuclear power, amid growing public hostility to the industry. The government announced it would not replace the country's five ageing plants after they reached the end of their lifetimes between 2019 and 2034.

BBC 25th May 2013
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-13549985

German Government May 2011
Germany announced plans to close all of its nuclear power plants over the next 11 years, the latest aftershock from the Japanese earthquake and partial meltdown it set in motion at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex.

Washington Post 30th May 2011

**Italian Referendum**

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has accepted the rejection of his nuclear power plans in a popular referendum. More than 94% of voters opposed the government's plans to resume nuclear power generation. Italy's nuclear power plants were all shut down following a referendum in the wake of the 1986 Chernobyl accident.

BBC 14th June 2011
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-13741105

**Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) August 2011**

In 2005 TVA's site was selected by the NuStart Energy Development consortium as a potential location for two new Westinghouse AP1000 units, referred to as Bellefonte 3 and 4. TVA filed an application for a combined construction and operating licence (COL) for the units with NRC in October 2007. In August 2011 TVA decided to go ahead with the completion of one of two unfinished reactors on the site rather than building a new AP1000 unit. TVA wrote to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on 19th December 2011 reaffirming that the Bellefonte Units 3 and 4 COLA continues to be deferred indefinitely.

World Nuclear News August 2012
http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf41aiii_COL_applications.html
US NRC website accessed 12th October 2012

**Siemens 19th September 2011**

When Siemens launched a joint nuclear venture with Rosatom, Russia’s state nuclear company, in March 2009 it estimated by 2030 there would be 400 new nuclear plants around the globe requiring a total investment of more than €1,000bn. Two and a half years later things look a little different and Siemens is quitting the nuclear industry. “From a shareholder point of view, nuclear is a risky business and the margins are now potentially lower,” says James Stettler at UniCredit. “The US [nuclear] market is going to be difficult and Siemens wasn’t going to be doing any business in France either. That just left the emerging markets.” Siemens' continued involvement in the nuclear business also risked undermining its efforts to become a “green infrastructure pioneer” by selling products ranging from wind turbines to trains and smart electricity grids.

FT 19th September 2012
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/681a050e-e2d2-11e0-93d9-00144feabdc0.html
BBC 18th September 2012
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-14963575

**SSE 23rd September 2011**

Utility Scottish and Southern Energy said it has pulled out of its UK nuclear new build consortium, raising concerns investors may see the British nuclear industry as unattractive despite government
efforts to provide incentives. The Scotland-based utility, which operates around 2,500 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy assets, said it wanted to focus on green energy and gas-fired power plants -- technologies with which it has more experience. SSE's partners in the NuGen consortium, France's GDF Suez and Spain's Iberdrola, said in a separate statement they intended to buy SSE's 25 percent share in the consortium, leaving both companies with an equal share of 50 percent.

Reuters 23rd September 2011

This implies that for providers not already operating nuclear reactors the business case does not stack up.

Independent 23rd September 2011

Shaw 28th September 2011

Shaw, the US civil engineering company, has decided to sell its 20% stake in Westinghouse, the nuclear engineering group, to Toshiba which is itself considering selling on part of its holding – which will be 87 per cent once the Shaw deal has gone through – to another investor.

FT 28th September 2011
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/765c917c-e836-11e0-9fc7-00144feab49a.html

Washington Post 10th October 2012

Belgian Government November 2011

Belgium's political parties have reached a consensus on nuclear power. The oldest reactors are to be shut down by 2015 and all nuclear reactors at both sites will be shut down by 2025. The plan is conditional on Belgium finding enough energy from alternative sources to prevent power shortages.

Environmental News Network 2nd November 2011
http://www.enn.com/energy/article/43502

Progress Energy January 2012

In January, 2012, Progress Energy looking to cancel its Levy 1+2 nuclear projects in Florida because their construction costs ballooned to $22.5 billion. According to the company major construction on the Levy project has been postponed until after the federal licensing process is complete, which is expected in late 2012 at the earliest.

Simply Info 4th February 2012
http://www.simplyinfo.org/?p=4826

Tampa Bay Times 26th January 2012

Duke Energy website accessed 12th October 2012
US Projects February 2012

Five out of seven cancelled US nuclear projects were ended by the operator because of increasing costs or concerns about power demand being too low for them to be able to sell power at a profitable rate.

Simply Info 4th February 2012
http://www.simplyinfo.org/?p=4826

E.On & RWE 29th March 2012

Following a strategic review, separately carried out by both parent companies, RWE Npower and E.On UK said that they would not proceed to develop new nuclear power projects in the UK through the Horizon joint venture. Investing billions in new reactors would have forced a credit-rating downgrade on RWE, said Volker Beckers, CEO at RWE npower in May 2012 and Tony Cocker, CEO of E.ON UK said E.ON lacks the "financial firepower".

NB: In July internal emails revealed how UK Government officials worked closely with E.ON and RWE to soften the impact of their pull-out from Horizon Nuclear - a major blow to the UK planned nuclear programme. Further evidence of how Westminster collaborated with industry to protect nuclear power from bad news, first exposed in the aftermath of the Fukushima accident in March 2011.

EoN Press Release 29th Mar 2012
RWE Press Release 29th Mar 2012

Guardian 15th May 2012
http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/may/15/energy-companies-abandonment-nuclear-plans?newsfeed=true

Guardian 19th July 2012
http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jul/19/emails-nuclear-power

Centrica 20th April 2012

The only British company in the running to build a new generation of atomic power plants has threatened to pull out due to uncertainty over the government’s energy policy – a move that could imperil the country’s nuclear renaissance. Executives at Centrica, which is planning to build a new nuclear power plant at Hinkley Point in Somerset in a joint venture with EDF Energy, have warned Whitehall officials that the plan hangs by a thread and could be scrapped if the company does not receive assurances about the future price of nuclear-generated electricity.

FT 20th April 2012
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/bb7f393c-8af0-11e1-912d-00144feab49a.html

General Electric 30th July 2012
Nuclear power is so expensive compared with other forms of energy that it has become “really hard” to justify, according to the chief executive of General Electric, one of the world’s largest suppliers of atomic equipment.

FT 30th July 2012

Fennovoima 29th August 2012

Six investors have pulled out of the Fennovoima project, which would be Finland’s sixth commercial nuclear reactor. The investors were to have put up hundreds of millions of euros for the plant. S Group has announced it is leaving the project. In addition, electric utilities Leppäkosken Sähkö, Lankosken Sähkö and Outokummun Energia as well as Atria and Omya have decided not to participate in the project anymore. Boliden is rearranging its ownership and its share will decrease. Altogether these changes cover less than 10 per cent of the shares of Voimaosakeyhtiö SF, one of Fennovoima’s two direct owners with a 66 % share. E.ON has the remaining 34 %. The shares of the two main owners remain unchanged and Fennovoima’s project continues as planned, but the remaining investors will have to put up more of their own money if no new potential shareholders emerge.

Fennovoima 29th August 2012

Helsingen Sanomat 30th August 2012
http://www.hs.fi/english/article/Investor+pullout+delivers+blow+to+nuclear+plant+project/1329104707920

Exelon 30th August 2012

Exelon has withdrawn its Early Site Permit (ESP) application for construction of a new reactor at Victoria County, Texas, saying “low natural gas prices and economic and market conditions ... have made construction of new merchant nuclear power plants in competitive markets uneconomical now and for the foreseeable future.” Exelon withdrew its application for a combined construction and operating licence (COL) in July 2009 and opted instead for an early site permit (ESP) – this basically kept open options, but postponed any major decisions.

Power Mag 30th August 2012
http://www.powermag.com/nuclear/4937.html

World Nuclear News 1st July 2009

Iberdrola 30th September 2012

The Sunday Times reports that Iberdrola has pulled out of the NuGen consortium, nut this was later denied. Iberdrola, Scottish & Southern Energy (SSE) and France’s GDF Suez set up NuGen to build reactors at Sellafield. The Sunday Times said “It is understood the Spanish company, grappling with energy taxes and deteriorating cashflows at home, told GDF recently that it could not proceed. SSE dropped out last year. GDF is unlikely to go ahead on its own. The companies declined to comment”.

Despite Iberdrola’s denials The Independent reported on 7th October that NuGen is the “developer most shrouded in mystery”. Even a Government source admits he is not certain what is going on. 

Areva & CGNPC 3rd October 2012

Areva & China Guangdong Nuclear Power Corporation (CGNPC) failed to table a bid for Horizon Nuclear as expected.

Telegraph 3rd Oct 2012
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/9583167/Favourite-for-UK-nuclear-reactor-contract-ends-bid.html

Toshiba & CNPTC 4th October 2012

Toshiba wants to quit the nuclear industry altogether. Toshiba has asked JP Morgan to sell its stake in Westinghouse as part of a restructuring of the group. The investment bank was appointed in the summer to sell a 49 per cent holding but is now being asked to find a buyer for up to 70 per cent of the stake.

Toshiba-Westinghouse had formed a consortium with the Chinese state-controlled group, China Nuclear Power Technology Corporation, and Exelon, the US generation company, to bid for Horizon nuclear, but Toshiba would struggle to find its share of the costs. CNPTC had committed to provide almost half of the costs of the project but recently pulled out.

It is understood that JP Morgan has not received any expressions of interest. If it does not find a buyer, Toshiba is unwilling to pay a significant portion of the estimated £30 billion required for the reactors planned by Horizon.

Times 4th October 2012
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/naturalresources/article3557665.ece

Guardian 3rd Oct 2012
http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2012/oct/03/british-nuclear-china-investors-pull-out

Rosatom 3rd October 2012

Russian state-owned nuclear power company Rosatom failed to submit a bid to buy the UK nuclear joint venture Horizon Nuclear Power after detailed study of licensing requirements for new reactors in the UK. Rosatom had previously expressed interest in licensing its Generation III+ VVER, pressurised water reactor, the 1200-MWe “NPP 2006” design as part of its interest in Horizon.

Although Rosatom could yet offer financial backing to one of the other Horizon bids or may buy a share in EDF Energy’s planned project at Hinkley Point.

i-Nuclear 3rd October 2012

Telegraph 9th Oct 2012
Chinese may invest in Hinkley instead 7th October 2012

EDF is in talks with two Chinese energy giants about selling them a stake in Hinkley, a move that would spread some of the risk of the project – particularly if Centrica does decide to pull out.

Independent 7th October 2012

GDF Suez 7th October 2012

Industry insiders are, in fact, more concerned that Iberdrola's partner, GDF Suez, might eventually be the one which chooses not to proceed with NuGen.

Independent 7th October 2012

EDF Energy 8th October 2012

EDF Energy is demanding that the British Government draw up special legislation to guarantee billions of pounds worth of taxpayer-funded subsidies in exchange for building the country’s first nuclear reactor for decades. The company wants hefty subsidies, paid for by levies on consumers’ electricity bills for at least 25 years, to make its £14 billion reactor project at Hinkley Point in Somerset viable after construction costs soared.

Times 8th October 2012
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/utilities/article3561250.ece

Fennovoima 24th October 2012

E.ON has announced it is leaving the Finnish nuclear new build company Fennovoima! This means it is very likely the whole project will collapse. The Fennovoima project was composed of E.ON with 34% ownership + almost 70 small investors. No-one else believes the small investors could finance an NPP by themselves but it’s possible another big investor will be found. However, this is not so likely as the construction works should start in less than three years or the permission will be withdrawn.

Bloomberg 24th Oct 2012

Enel 4th December 2012

Enel announced it has pulled out from a project to build a next-generation nuclear reactor in northern France. EDF said Enel would receive about 700 million euros, including interest, to cover expenses the Italian group had already paid in relation to its 12.5 percent stake in the Flamanville 3 project. Enel signed a strategic partnership agreement with EDF in 2007 giving it a stake in the EPR nuclear power plant. EDF said stricter regulation in the wake of Japan's Fukushima disaster has forced it to revise up the construction cost of its European Pressurized Reactor built in Flamanville, northern France, to 8.5 billion euros ($11.12 billion). In 2005, EDF estimated the reactor's cost at 3.3 billion euros. The agreement also envisaged at the time the building of five other power plants using the
same EPR technology with an option for Enel to buy a 12.5 percent stake in each plant. Enel said a referendum in 2011 banning the development of nuclear energy in Italy had undermined the strategic importance of the partnership.

Reuters 4th December 2012
http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/04/enel-edf-idUSL5E8N4DIJ20121204

Duke Energy - Crystal River 6th February 2013

After three year outage and $1.3 billion, Duke Energy pulls plug on Florida’s cracked Crystal River 3. After landing consumers with a $1.3 billion bill for a botched power upgrade that broke the reactor and a three year outage in replacement power costs, the new owner, Duke called it quits February 5, 2013.

Beyond Nuclear 6th February 2013

Centrica 4th February 2013

Centrica has withdrawn from the UK’s nuclear re-building programme because of increasing costs and delays. Centrica, which owns British Gas, had the option of taking a 20% stake in four new reactors in a partnership with EDF, the French state-owned utility.

BBC 4th February 2013
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-21319031

Poland 20th February 2013

The Treasury Minister has thrown Poland’s nuclear power plant plans into confusion after saying that the state cannot afford it due to the economic slowdown. He said “In today’s circumstances it is not possible for the government to support the construction of a nuclear power plant”.

Polskie Radio 20th February 2013
http://www.thenews.pl/1/12/Artykul/127645,Minister-cools-power-plant-plans

Bulgaria 27th February 2013

Bulgaria’s Parliament confirmed Wednesday the country’s decision to abandon the Belene nuclear power plant project. The vote was prompted by a recent referendum on the construction of a new nuclear power plant in the country. Under the law, the recent referendum results imposed for the Belene NPP to be put back on the Parliament’s agenda, as voter turnout slightly exceeded 20%.

Novinite 27th Feb 2013

United States March/April 2013

The United States is on course to all but exit the commercial nuclear power industry - market forces will all but phase out the US nuclear fleet by midcentury, according to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. In November 2013 Forbes reported that the closure of five nuclear reactors had been announced in the last year in addition to the cancellation of development plans. Forbes listed five
more plants vulnerable to closure soon: Indian Point, New York; Ginna, New York; James A. Fitzpatrick, New York, Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania; Davis Besse, Ohio; Pilgrim, Massachusetts.

Bulletin of Atomic Scientists March/April 2013  
http://bos.sagepub.com/content/69/2/12.full

Forbes 7th November 2013  
http://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcmahon/2013/11/07/6-nuclear-plants-that-may-be-next-to-shut-down/

Even though the American government has done everything possible to encourage nuclear power – by wholly subsidizing nuclear power, reducing safety standards after Fukushima, forcing Japan to re-start its nuclear program, covering up the severity of the Fukushima accident raising acceptable radiation limits and agreeing to buy radioactive Japanese seafood – the so-called “nuclear renaissance” is over in the U.S.

Washingtons Blog 4th Aug 2013  
http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2013/08/the-american-nuclear-industry-suffers-a-meltdown.html

San Onofre 7th June 2013

In a new setback for the U.S. nuclear power industry, Edison International said it would permanently close two reactors at its San Onofre plant in California, ending a contentious battle over whether the units could be repaired and operated safely after a Jan. 31, 2012, steam leak revealed cracks in the steam generator system.

Washington Post 7th June 2013  
http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/san-onofre-nuclear-power-plant-to-shut-down/2013/06/07/7fe3e88c-cf8c-11e2-8f6b-67f40e176f03_story.html

Ontario 10th October 2013

Ontario’s government has shelved plans for a major new investment in nuclear power. It has decided against spending upwards of $10-billion to buy two new nuclear reactors, and will commit only to refurbishing existing ones.

Reuters 10th Oct 2013  
http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/10/canada-energy-ontario-idUKL1N0I01S120131010?rpc=401&feedType=RSS&feedName=mnaNewsIndustryMaterialsAndUtilities&rpc=401

Iberdrola and GDF Suez 12th October 2013

Iberdrola and possibly GDF Suez reported to be keen to sell a controlling interest in the NuGen project. The two companies set up the Nugen joint venture in 2009, agreeing an option with the state-owned Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to make progress by October 2014, but the companies now want to sell the option. (SSE pulled out of the consortium in September 2011).

Times 12th October 2013  
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/business/industries/utilities/article3892885.ece

Switzerland 30th October 2013
Mühleberg nuclear station, near Bern, owned State energy firm BKW will go offline in 2019. The Swiss Government approved a phase-out of the country’s nuclear plants by 2034 and scrapped plans to build new reactors.

Reuters 30th Oct 2013
http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/10/30/swissnuclear-idUKL5N0IK0VL20131030?rpc=401&feedType=RSS&feedName=swissMktRpt&rpc=401