

Blogs as Fast Breeders

Blogs as Fast Breeders

- **Reprocess current news**
- **Add industry-informed comment**
- **Link to other info sources - pro and anti**
- **Provoke outside comment**
- **Minimal moderation**
- **High frequency of activity**
- **Maximise Google profile**

Blogs as Fast Breeders

- **Need wide group of intellectually-active and informed bloggers**
- **'Licensed' to operate on the site**
- **Simple upload procedure**
- **Anyone can comment in response**
- **Hosted by Blogger**

Blogs as Fast Breeders

- **<http://world-nuclear.blogspot.com>**
- **Focus the industry effort widely from outside USA**
- **Involve our detractors**
- **Head off wrong info in media**
- **Express confidence in nuclear power**



come to the **World Nuclear Association** - representing the technology, people and organisations of the global nuclear energy industry.

Wednesday, February 08, 2006

50 billion of investment

doubt: Renewable energies will play an important part in many countries' future energy mix. Trying to find ways of internalizing positive and negative externalities of the different primary energy sources is an important area of work for the economy and environmental ministries around the world. Subsidizing wind generators, bio-mass power plants and solar panels by fixing a certain fee for feeding the electricity generated by such means into the grid might a good way to start.

However, it has to be remembered that the electricity-consumers have to pay for this. Possible effects on the economy should therefore be carefully analyzed. At least there should be some kind of cost-benefit calculation.

Regarding the latest publication from the German environmental ministry BMU (a pdf-document in English can be downloaded on http://www.bmu.de/english/renewable_energy/downloads/doc/36582.php) doesn't give me the impression that either of this was the case in the case of the so-called "Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG)":

"Between 2001 and 2005 investments in plants for electricity generation from renewable energies totalled around €24.5 billion, and investment volumes in the following five-year period 2006 - 2010 are likely to be a similar sum. In total, therefore, around €50 billion can be expected in the second decade. This amounts to around €100 billion of investment, of which by far the largest share will be activated by the EEG."

"Activated by the EEG" is a nicer expression for "paid by the country's industry and population by the means of increased electricity fees".

Do we really afford this? Isn't there a more intelligent way of spending a lot less money with maybe even more positive effects for the environment and for our country's economy?

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Contributors

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- Steve Hawker
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Wednesday, February 01, 2006

Sweden to be free of fossil fuels by 2020

Swedish minister of environment, Lena Sommestad, mentioned during a speech on national climate strategy the intention to make Sweden free of fossil fuels by 2020. This was earlier stated by prime minister Goran Persson during a party congress in September 2005.

Exactly how this is going to be done remains a secret. 34 percent of the energy supply in Sweden comes from oil, mainly for heating transportation, and a distribution network for natural gas is currently being built by Fortum and E.ON.

Nuclear energy is far too politically sensitive to mention in regards to future energy supply, considering the social democrats ruling in coalition with the left and the greens. And in all honesty, it is hard to communicate a policy when in 2005 one reactor was taken out of service by the government based on a decision from 1997, and at the same time they granted other reactors permissions for major upgrades.

Nuclear energy was mentioned by Sommestad however, as one of the reasons to Sweden's low levels of historical and present greenhouse gas emissions. 34 years of commercial nuclear power plants in operation together with ample resources for hydropower make Sweden as one of the leading industrialised countries in emissions per capita.

Energy policy will most likely be a central topic in the upcoming parliament elections in September this year. The opposition coalition has after years of disagreements finally reached a united view on the continued use of nuclear power, and being able to present a feasible long-term energy policy backed by all coalition parties will surely strengthen them in the elections.

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[Nuclear energy in Sweden](#)

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Posted by [Per Jander](#) @ 3:25 PM 0 comments

Enviro minister positive re nuclear

Speaking to a UK cross-parliamentary climate change group, Margaret Beckett acknowledged that "Nuclear power is a low-carbon energy source - no-one can dispute that, and it has a contribution to make" in reducing UK carbon emissions. Action was needed now.

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- [€100 billion of investment](#)
- [Sweden to be free of fossil fuels by 2020](#)
- [UK Enviro minister positive re nuclear](#)
- [Russian gas supply strategy and German future energy policy](#)
- [Lothar Hahn appointed Chairman of the CSNI of NEA](#)
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ome to the **World Nuclear Association** - representing the technology, people and organisations of the global nuclear energy industry.

day, February 10, 2006

US initiative "a landmark event"

discussion with the UK, France, Russia, Japan and China, the US government has announced a Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) through which it "will work with other nations possessing advanced nuclear technologies to develop new proliferation-resistant fuel cycle technologies in order to produce more energy, reduce waste and minimise proliferation concerns. Additionally, these partnerships will develop a fuel services program to provide nuclear fuel to developing nations allowing them to enjoy the benefits of abundant clean, safe nuclear energy in a cost-effective manner in exchange for their commitment to forgo enrichment and reprocessing activities, also alleviating proliferation concerns." The fuel leasing plan envisages supplying enriched fuel for initial use in customer countries before return followed by separation and burning of recycled components in the "fuel supplier nations" or "fuel cycle nations".

Goals include reducing US dependence on imported fossil fuels, and expanding the US domestic use of nuclear power by building a new generation of nuclear power plants - incentives for which are already in place. GNEP includes co-operative development of small reactors for developing countries. Two significant new elements in the strategy are new reprocessing technologies which separate all uranium elements together (and not Pu on its own) - starting with the proven UREX+ process, and Advanced Burner (fast) Reactors (ABR) to consume the result of this while generating power.

An engineering-scale demonstration (ESD) plant for reprocessing is planned for operation from 2011, and the ABR program will build on previous fast neutron reactor experience. An initial Advanced Burner Test Reactor will be 100-150 MWe to prove the concept and is to be operational about 2014. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is examining licensing issues raised by GNEP, particularly for reprocessing.

From military experience with metal fuel, the USA has some experience with reprocessing oxide fuels - the small West Valley NY plant operated 1966-72, and a 1500 t/yr plant at Barnwell SC was built but not commissioned due to changed government policy. It is now mothballed. The French, UK and Japanese oxide fuel reprocessing plants use a process which would need to be adapted for GNEP use. However, it could give them a new lease of life.

Richard Ritch, Director General of WNA, said that he saw the GNEP as "a landmark event in history - the USA taking command of the global energy-environment situation and doing something very real about it. This is a major US commitment to a bold vision of the nuclear future - not just for the USA but for the whole of the developed and developing worlds. Implicitly it says: 'Environmentalists can talk about Kyoto and renewables until we fry; but the USA is going to lead the world in creating the nuclear technology and associated national arrangements that will transform deep emission cuts from rhetoric to reality'. The Bush Administration has not yet embraced the climate problem, but it has now taken an impressive step toward a global solution."

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