

**From:** Lawrence Chandler  
**To:** Moore, Janice  
**Date:** 4/18/02 4:24PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Pebble-Bed May Well Be Dead

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**From:** Francis Cameron  
**To:** Joseph Gray; Karen Cyr; Lawrence Chandler; Stephen Burns  
**Date:** 4/18/02 4:14PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Pebble-Bed May Well Be Dead

thought you might be interested in this

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**Date:** 4/16/02 8:37AM  
**Subject:** Pebble-Bed May Well Be Dead

FYI- The much talked about (and quite wacky) pebble bed modular reactor design has now been abandoned by its largest backer, Exelon. The PBMR was Amergen-Exelon President Corbin McNeill's personal tub toy and now that Exelon President John Rowe has managed to give Corbin the corporate heave-ho, the PBMR goes with him. Too bad Had they tried to deploy it, the funky PBMR design would likely have bankrupted Exelon. Darwinian Rowe wants to build the new generation of nukes just like the old ones, we are told, only bigger. Economies of scale and all that.

The saddest part of this spectacle is all the attention the NRC gave the PBMR in eager anticipation of some way, any way, to help the industry.

In the meanwhile Andy Kadak, who presided over the demise of Yankee Atomic (Nuclear Services Division) and the early death of three New England reactors, is still hard at work on the PBMR. It is rumored that he and a group of MIT students (extra-credit) are actually constructing a PBMR with a grant and materials from Salad-Master. The newest version employs innovative controls donated by Clap-On and has dropped inert gas closed-cycle cooling in favor of open-ended hot air.

Corbin McNeill goes forth with mega-millions of retirement dollars to ease his post-partum, but remains concerned that the 'morning after' his pebble bed escapade he will not be respected.

Thanks to Mike Mulligan for passing this Reuters news story on

Ray

Monday April 15, 3:51 pm Eastern Time  
Reuters Business  
Exelon drops out of nuke plant design group-US govt

WASHINGTON, April 15 (Reuters) - Exelon Corp (NYSE:EXC - news), the nation's biggest owner of nuclear power plants, is dropping out of an international consortium developing a smaller, cheaper kind of nuclear plant, a U.S. Energy Department official said on Monday.

The Chicago-based utility will halt its funding of the so-called pebble bed modular reactor, currently in the design stage, said Norton Haberman, a DOE official.

"Exelon is dropping out of the pebble bed consortium. They are not reactor designers," Haberman told an Energy Department conference on nuclear power and research.

The pebble bed modular reactor is a smaller, merchant-type generator that produces about one-tenth of the electricity of a typical U.S. nuclear plant, which produces about 1,000 megawatts. Supporters of the new technology say it would be faster, cheaper and safer to build because it uses helium as the plant's coolant instead of pressurized water.

Exelon executives were meeting with other project investors in South Africa and were expected to make an announcement on Tuesday, said Exelon Vice President Elizabeth Moler. She refused to comment further on the status of the project

Exelon holds a 12.5 percent stake in the project. Other participants include South Africa's state-owned electric utility, the Industrial Development Corp. with 25 percent, and British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. with 22.5 percent.

Exelon was a key player in the consortium and had negotiated for the possible purchase of 40 of the new plants at a total cost of around \$6 billion

The consortium had planned to build a \$300 million demonstration model in South Africa beginning next year.

Next week, Exelon chairman and co-chief executive officer Corbin McNeill is scheduled to retire from the company

Exelon operates nuclear plants in Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey that account for nearly 20 percent of the U.S. nuclear generation capacity.

The Bush administration recently unveiled a 10-year program to spend more than \$300 million to jumpstart the U.S. nuclear industry with new nuclear technology.

No new U.S. nuclear power reactors have been built since the 1979 accident involving the partial meltdown of a reactor at Three Mile Island.

A rival new design by Westinghouse Electric Co would rely on gravity and pressure differentials to safely shut down a nuclear power plant reactor in an accident.