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Office of Public Affairs

In the News Today... October 8, 2004

Dow Jones Newswires reports the NRC said Thursday it is increasing its oversight at FirstEnergy's Perry nuclear plant in Ohio due to safety equipment problems and a substandard response from the company in the last two years. 8/13; http://online.wsj.com . A similar article appeared in The Cleveland Plain Dealer, 8/13, http://www.cleveland.com .

LAS VEGAS -- President Bush accused Democrat John Kerry on Thursday of shifting positions to oppose storing nuclear waste at the Yucca Mountain site in Nevada and using the issue as a "political poker chip" in a gamble to grab a state Bush won in 2000, according to Reuters. 8/12; http://www.reuters.com . Similar articles appeared in The Associated Press, 8/12, http://online.wsj.com ; The Las Vegas Review-Journal, 8/13, http://www.reviewjournal.com ; MSNBC, 8/12, http://www.msnbc.com ; The Economist, 8/7, http://www.economist.com ; and The State newspaper in South Carolina, 8/12; http://www.thestate.com .

The Las Vegas Sun reports the Energy Department will answer all 293 remaining scientific issues for the Yucca Mountain project by the end of the month, but will not wait for the NRC to deem them "closed" before submitting the project's license application. 8/12; http://www.lasvegassun.com .

An editorial in The Wilmington (N.C.) Star supports the idea of Yucca Mountain being a high-level nuclear waste dump, and criticizes how the issue has been politicized in the presidential race. 8/13; http://www.wimlingtonstar.com .

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reports that NRC General Counsel Karen Cyr issued a sharp rebuttal to a suggestion by Nevada officials that NRC evaluators are biased in favor of the Yucca Mountain Project. 8/13; http://www.reviewjournal.com . A simliar article appeared in The Associated Press, 8/12, http://www.rjg.com .

The Journal News in New York state reports that a year after the nation's worst blackout, a U.S.-Canadian task force study and industry analyses, proposed legislation and millions of dollars in transmission system upgrades, nothing has changed in the U.S. that could prevent another blackout of epic proportions. 8/13; http://www.nyjournalnews.com .

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An editorial in The Wilmington (N.C.) Star supports public interest groups' call for correcting "dangerous vulnerabilities" at 32 nuclear power plants. 8/13; http://www.wimlingtonstar.com .

The Rutland Herald reports the dispute between management and workers at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant spilled from the Vernon plant into the streets of Brattleboro Thursday. 8/13; http://www.rutlandherald.com . A similar article appeared in The Brattleboro Reformer, 8/13; http://www.reformer.com .

The Chicago Sun-Times reports a pickup truck carrying a soil moisture gauge containing radioactive material rolled over in west suburban Sugar Grove on Thursday morning, but the device wasn't damaged. 8/13; http://www.suntimes.com .

A press release from Sun Microsystems outlines the high-performance computer cluster the company will develop for next-generation nuclear reactor design at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. 8/13; http://www.stockhouse.com .

The Cordis news service reports the IAEA 2003 annual report expresses concern at the ageing of the nuclear workforce and the lack of university courses offered in the nuclear sciences. 8/11; http://dbs.cordis.lu .

TOKYO -- Japan has ordered safety checks at the country's 52 nuclear plants and 800 non-nuclear power stations to prevent the type of accident that killed four people at a reactor this week, government officials said Thursday, according to The Associated Press. 8/13; http://www.nytimes.com . A similar article appeared in Reuters, 8/13; http://www.reuters.com .

The Washington Post reports Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-Va.), who has looked out for the interests of federal employees while trying to move the government towards more flexible personnel practices, has resigned as chairman of the House civil service subcommittee to take a seat on the House intelligence committee. Page B2, 8/13; http://www.washingtonpost.com .