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Politics

More checks on reactors ordered after cracks found

 The Guardian, Thursday July 6 2006
 John Vidal and Ian Sample

The government's nuclear watchdog has demanded that British Energy carry out more frequent checks on its nuclear power stations amid concerns over cracks in the reactors' cores, it emerged yesterday. The Nuclear Safety Directorate (NSD) wrote to British Energy urging it to step up inspections after an assessment of the Hinkley Point B advanced gas-cooled (AGR) nuclear plant in (...)

(...)government's nuclear watchdog has...its nuclear power stations amid...AGR) nuclear plant in April...serious nuclear accident, a (...)

Science

Documents reveal hidden fears over Britain's nuclear plants

 The Guardian, Wednesday July 5 2006
 John Vidal and Ian Sample

Government nuclear inspectors have raised serious questions over the safety of Britain's ageing atomic power stations, some of which have developed major cracks in their reactor cores, documents reveal today. The safety assessments, obtained under Freedom of Information legislation, show the Nuclear Safety Directorate (NSD) has issued warnings over the deterioration of reactor

Government nuclear inspectors have...ageing atomic power stations, some...British nuclear plants. The directorate...of an accident. While (...)

Science

Bad news at crucial time for nuclear industry

 The Guardian, Wednesday July 5 2006
 Terry Macalister

Safety scares at British nuclear sites could not come at a worse time for an industry which believes that the government is poised to give the green light to a new generation of atomic plants. The energy review - to be published as early as next week - will endorse a new era for an energy sector that was written off by critics as environmentally dirty, obsessively secretive, a

(...)at British nuclear sites could...of atomic plants. The energy...over nuclear power. Many of...from that accident

Science

Why cracks at the cores of ageing AGRs worried safety inspector

 The Guardian, Wednesday July 5 2006
 Ian Sample, science correspondent

No one knows when the cracks first started to appear, but as long ago as 2004, British Energy voiced concerns about fractures in the cores of its 14 reactors. The cracks were spotted in graphite bricks in the cores of all the company's advanced gas-cooled reactors, or AGRs. Collectively, they provide the country with nearly one fifth of its electricity. But the extent of the p

(...)government's Nuclear Safety Directorate...B nuclear power station in...other nuclear plants weakened by...of an accident significantly: (...)

Science

Deep in permafrost - a seed bank to save the world

The Guardian, Tuesday June 20 2006
Alok Jha, science correspondent

An ambitious project to safeguard future food supplies began yesterday with the launch of a "Noah's ark" for the world's most important plants. The new Svalbard International Seed Vault will serve as a repository for crucial seeds in the event of a global catastrophe, said Norway's agriculture minister, Terje Riis-Johansen. Carved into the permafrost and rock of the remote Sv

(...)most important plants. The new...as a nuclear war, but...natural disasters, accidents, mismanagement, and...if the power fails, (...)

Science

Norway launches global seed bank

The Guardian, Monday June 19 2006
Alok Jha, science correspondent

An ambitious project to safeguard future food supplies began on Monday with the launch of a "Noah's ark" for the world's most important plants. The new Svalbard International Seed Vault (SISV) will serve as a repository for crucial seeds in the event of a global catastrophe, said Norway's agriculture minister, Terje Riis-Johansen. Carved into the permafrost and rock of the (...)

(...)most important plants. The new...as a nuclear war, but...natural disasters, accidents, mismanagement, and...if the power fails, (...)

Society

Eco soundings

The Guardian, Wednesday June 14 2006
David Adam

Childish arguments Is there any hope of a rational, grown-up debate on nuclear power? While former industry experts - sorry, independent academic scientists - were gloating to the UK press that the Sustainable Development Commission had praised atomic stations as "low carbon" (in a report that, you may remember, also labelled the technology as being uneconomic and unnecessary)

(...)debate on nuclear power? While former...to a plant in Pennsylvania...worst nuclear accident, there (...)

Comment is free

The nuclear reaction

guardian.co.uk, Monday June 5 2006
John Harris

If Al Gore's eco-oratory at the Hay Festival mixed up apocalyptic warnings with the go-getting idea that we may yet wake up and save ourselves, there have now come altogether bleaker tidings, courtesy of Professor James Lovelock - inventor of the Gaia hypothesis, and an incisive practitioner of the art of telling people what they don't want to hear. "Humans will survive," he (...)

(...)a revival of nuclear power - as he pointed...of the Chernobyl accident as a (...)

Society

Tracking hazard

The Guardian, Wednesday May 31 2006
Madeleine Brettingham

On Monday last week, a car collided with a train at a small gated level crossing in Suffolk. The driver, a local, had simply forgotten to check for the once-daily train that makes its way along the narrow rural track. He unbolted the gate, drove straight on to the crossing, and did not see the two-car train bearing down on him until it was too late. The train was on its way (...)

(...)A energy plant in Suffolk. The accident, in which...debate over "nuclear trains", which...from rural power stations (...)

Environment

Irish Sellafeld appeal ruled illegal

guardian.co.uk, Tuesday May 30 2006
David Fickling

An attempt by the Irish government to take Sellafeld nuclear power plant to a UN tribunal has been ruled as illegal by the European Union, in a blow to local anti-nuclear campaigners. The European court of justice ruled that the appeal had breached European community law, which insists that European bodies are the only organisations capable of judging such issues. Less than

(...)take Sellafield nuclear power plant to a...major nuclear accident at (...)

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