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Taiwan: Go-Ahead for Construction of Waste Solidification Plant

The Institute of Nuclear Energy Research (INER) in Taiwan has signed an agreement with national power utility, Taipower, to construct a waste solidification plant at the Kuosheng nuclear power plant.

Under the agreement, signed on 23rd December, a full-scale waste solidification plant will now be built at the site of the two boiling water reactor (BWR) units at Kousheng, with a target completion date of mid-2005.

The announcement comes after the successful demonstration of the new solidification technology at a demonstration unit by the INER.

The Atomic Energy Council (AEC) in Taipei told NucNet that it is hoped the technology will enable a current annual total of approximately 345, 200-litre drums of waste – produced by each unit at the Kousheng site – to be reduced to 115 drums per annum, per reactor unit.

The development follows successful implementation of similar technology designed for pressurised water reactor (PWR) units at the two-unit Maanshan nuclear power plant in the south of Taiwan, which was started in 1998. The AEC says that to date, a previous annual total of between 400 to 500, 200-litre drums has been reduced to an average of 25 drums per annum for both units at the Maanshan site.

The Kuosheng and Maanshan nuclear power plants generated totals of 12.9 and 12.8 terawatt-hours of electricity respectively in 2001.

Source: AEC

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