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## **Taiwan N-Plants To Host New Temporary Waste Storage Facilities**

**Taiwanese utility Taipower is building temporary storage facilities for low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) at two nuclear power plants – and both facilities are scheduled to be in operation by the end of next year.**

Details of the project were outlined this week by the deputy minister of Taiwan's Atomic Energy Council (AEC), Syh-Tsong Chiou, in an interview with NucNet.

Mr Chiou said the new temporary storage was designed to stop further transports to the temporary low-level radwaste storage facility at Taiwan's Orchid Island. The move follows a 2002 government agreement to help draw up a timetable for the eventual relocation of the storage facility away from Orchid Island.

The new facilities under construction will eventually be able to accommodate 40 000 drums at both of Taiwan's Kuosheng and Chinshan nuclear power plants.

Taipower's plan for the disposal of low-level waste was approved by the AEC in January of this year, and work is now under way to identify alternative sites to Orchid Island [see News No. 13, 16th January 2004].

Once the siting process is complete, the proposed LLRW disposal site is expected to be approved by Taiwan's Executive Yuan (cabinet) by 2008, and it is hoped that construction will be finished by 2013.

Separately, Mr Chiou said he thought each country should continue to "take responsibility" for its own LLRW waste disposal. Mr Chiou was commenting on recent remarks by the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei, concerning possible international solutions to waste disposal.

Mr Chiou told NucNet: "From a regulator's viewpoint, finding a domestic disposal site would be a more practical and responsible approach for Taiwan. A licensable site at home would reduce unnecessary negative impacts and would mean more advantages over the long term.

"With regard to high level waste (HLW), we are in support of a cooperative framework to share advanced knowledge in disposal technologies. We are also in support of the concept of possible shared repositories for HLW – although many issues remain to be resolved, such as political and legal difficulties."

Meanwhile, Mr Chiou said that a separate waste-solidification plant under construction at the Kuosheng nuclear plant is now 40% complete. The plant is expected to be commissioned at the end of this year, and it is estimated that solidified waste will be reduced three-fold from the current 301 drums per reactor unit per year (the average figure over the past three years) to 100 drums per unit per year.

The Kuosheng plant comprises two 948-megawatt boiling water reactor (BWR) units. An agreement to construct the solidification facility was signed by Taipower and Taiwan's Institute of Nuclear Energy Research last year [see Business News No. 1.1, 6th January 2003].

Source: AEC

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