

Chem-Bio News

1. JAPAN COURT REJECTS CHINA POISON VICTIMS' CLAIM: "A Tokyo court rejected compensation claims Monday by a group of Chinese plaintiffs over the death and the sickening of 44 people after construction workers broke open several barrels of World War II poison gas abandoned by Japanese troops."

2. CRUNCH TIME NEAR ON A-BOMB TREATY AS EGYPT MANEUVERS TO ISOLATE ISRAEL: "The Arab countries, led by Egypt and Syria, are agitating to convene a Middle Eastern regional parley within the next two years with the aim of forcing Israel to join the NPT and open its nuclear facilities to international inspection. Western countries say such a conference will be successful only if it also rids the Middle East of chemical and biological weapons."

3. [HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION] VIT PLANT HAS NEW PROJECT DIRECTOR: "Dale Knutson, director of the strategic project division at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, was named to the job Monday, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced."

4. DOE PICKS AREVA FOR NUCLEAR FACILITY: "Areva is planning to build a \$3.3 billion nuclear enrichment facility in Idaho Falls, Idaho, that will use an advanced centrifuge technology that is not as commonly used in the U.S. DOE said the technology has been used in France for 30 years and the new plant will create 1,000 jobs."

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

JAPAN COURT REJECTS CHINA POISON VICTIMS' CLAIM

By Mari Yamaguchi

The Associated Press on Yahoo! News

May 24, 2010

"A Tokyo court rejected compensation claims Monday by a group of Chinese plaintiffs over the death and the sickening of 44 people after construction workers broke open several barrels of World War II poison gas abandoned by Japanese troops.

The plaintiffs — 43 people injured and five relatives of one who died in the 2003 accident in Qiqihar city, northeastern China — demanded the Japanese government pay 1.43 billion yen (\$16 million) in damages.

Japan's government was not responsible for the accident, the court said, noting, however, residents faced imminent danger from chemical weapons left behind in the area.

The plaintiffs have complained of painful blisters, weakened vision, coughs and chronic fatigue."

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"Tokyo has agreed to pay 300 million yen (\$3.3 million) in one-time compensation to the Qiqihar victims. But the plaintiffs say that amount would not cover their medical costs and income losses.

At home, Japan spends some 3 billion yen (\$33 million) annually to provide free medical care and other social benefits to about 4,500 Japanese who worked at three chemical weapons factories in China

during the war, the lawyers said.

Japan has removed 37,000 chemical weapons in China, but at least 700,000 are believed to remain.”

The full article can be found at:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100524/ap_on_re_as/as_japan_china_chemical_weapons_1

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CRUNCH TIME NEAR ON A-BOMB TREATY AS EGYPT MANEUVERS TO ISOLATE ISRAEL

By Benny Avni

The New York Sun

May 25, 2010

“The Arab countries, led by Egypt and Syria, are agitating to convene a Middle Eastern regional parley within the next two years with the aim of forcing Israel to join the NPT and open its nuclear facilities to international inspection. Western countries say such a conference will be successful only if it also rids the Middle East of chemical and biological weapons.

Syria is suspected of possessing large caches of sarin gas and other chemical and biological arms. Egypt was the first country in the region to have used chemical weapons, in 1964 in the Yemen war, which pitted Soviet-backed locals against Western allies in a classic Cold War era flashpoint. Both countries declined to join the international conventions on chemical and biological weapons.

Without changing their policies on those treaties, Cairo and Damascus in early May initiated the proposal to convene a 2012 regional conference that would discuss the creation of a nuclear-free zone, trying to single out Israel, the only country in the region that has not signed the NPT and kept its atomic weapons program secret while clinging to a policy of nuclear ambiguity. Egypt, however, opposes discussing other WMDs in such a conference.

“We might agree to mention those other types of weapons in the future, but nuclear first. This conference must deal only with nuclear weapons,” an Arab diplomat told me today, as NPT members met for a highly contentious closed-door session.

A Western diplomat noted that the outcome document of the 1995 NPT review conference, on which Egypt now bases its call to convene a regional parley, explicitly calls to advance the promotion of a WMD-free zone.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nysun.com/foreign/crunch-time-near-on-a-bomb-treaty-as-egypt/86976/>

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[HANFORD NUCLEAR RESERVATION] VIT PLANT HAS NEW PROJECT DIRECTOR

By Annette Cary

The TriCity Herald

May 25, 2010

“The Department of Energy has named a new federal project director for Hanford's \$12.2 billion vitrification plant as part of its efforts to strengthen the project's management.

Dale Knutson, director of the strategic project division at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, was named to the job Monday, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced.

Knutson brings a background of overseeing large construction projects, particularly for DOE Office of Science programs.”

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“Chu has taken a strong interest in the project and has pointed out that the DOE Office of Science has a stronger record than the DOE Office of Environmental Management in completing large construction projects on schedule and budget.

The plant, being built to treat up to 53 million gallons of radioactive waste for disposal starting in 2019, is under DOE Environmental Management.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2010/05/25/1027570/vit-plant-has-new-project-director.html>

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DOE PICKS AREVA FOR NUCLEAR FACILITY

By Cassandra Sweet
The Wall Street Journal
May 20, 2010

“The U.S. Department of Energy said Thursday that it has approved a \$2 billion loan guarantee for French nuclear power developer Areva S.A. to build a uranium enrichment plant in Idaho that would serve the U.S. nuclear power industry.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu said in a statement that Areva's technology is sound and the company's plant will provide enriched uranium to existing and new U.S. nuclear reactors.

Areva is planning to build a \$3.3 billion nuclear enrichment facility in Idaho Falls, Idaho, that will use an advanced centrifuge technology that is not as commonly used in the U.S. DOE said the technology has been used in France for 30 years and the new plant will create 1,000 jobs.

The loan guarantee is part of a broader effort by the Obama administration to stimulate the development of a U.S. supply base for producing enriched uranium.

A condition of the loan guarantee is that Areva obtain a combined construction and operating license for the Idaho facility from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The French state owns directly and indirectly around 93% of Areva.”

The full article can be found at:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703559004575256981895146958.html?mod=WSJ_hps_sections_business

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