French Energy Policy And Nuclear Power

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Situation in France

A mature nuclear generation programme

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• Specifics :

- Post-1973 : strategic decision to shift to N-power for electricity
- Massive development of electricity usage :10% of final. consumption in 1973, 23% 25 years later, total consumption X 3 (mainly residential and tertiary).
- World largest net exporter of electricity (60 to 70 billion kWh net each year).
- Nuclear in France today :
 - 59 reactors, 63 GWe installed, 78% of electricity produced, 17% of world nuclear electricity.
 - Most of the reactors started between 1980 and 1995 (49 units).
 - A full-fledged fuel-cycle strategy.

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Situation in France

The environment and energy policy

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- Lowest per capita emissions in the EU, 1/3 lower than OECD average.
- Lowest emissions per GDP unit in EU.
- Lowest Heat and Electricity CO2 emissions : 3,4 pc of EU emissions for 15 % of production, ¼ of the EU average in terms of CO2 per kw/h.

For 56 % of the French, environment = FIRST factor in energy policy



Preparing the future (1)



Preparing the future (2)

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Transparency and nuclear safety law adopted in 2006

- > An independent administrative authority for safety.
- Improved public information.

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Waste management law adopted in 2006

Reduce toxicity and quantity of waste plus

- Pursue research on three complementary paths for waste : transmutation, reversible geological disposal, long-term conditioning/storage (Public confidence in R/D 75 %).
- Decision on repository location in 2015 for implementation 2025.
- Decommissioning Funding with ring-fenced assets.

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Preparing the future (3)

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The future :

- French public opinion : 59 % wish for N-power to be a part of mix (among others), 74 % believe it will, 49 % of "Green" sympathisers wish N-power be abandoned vs. 44%.
- From 2010 : Extension of Gen II reactors lifespan.
- From 2020 : Replacement by Gen III units (First French EPR operational in 2012).
- From 2040/2050 : deployment of Gen IV fleet (Prototype in 2020).

Le Blayais

2050 : factor 4 in CO2 emissions → nuclear a permanent feature of a low – carbon economy

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The European energy scene :

European scene :

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- More than 50% of European energy requirement are met by imported products, often from regions potentially concerned by insecurity. This ratio will be 70% in 20 to 30 years if nothing changes.
- Opening of the European energy market.
- Europe is entering a reinvestment cycle : over 100 GW capacities need to be replaced between 2010 and 2030.
- 20/20/20 commitment : in 2020, 20% of final energy consumption to be met by renewables, reduction of GHG emissions by 20%.
- European SET Plan (jan 08).

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SNE / TP : a platform for sustainable fission.