

# INSC Country Report

Country: USA

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## 1. Political situation in nuclear in your country

- 11/6/15 – U.S. Department of Energy announced \$2 million under the GAIN (Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear) initiative, to give small businesses greater access to the resources and capabilities of the DOE national laboratory complex.
- 11/12/15 – bilateral nuclear trade and cooperation agreement (“123 agreement”) between USA & China entered into force
- 12/11/15 – U.S. Department of Energy started collecting feedback on its approach to consent-based siting of consolidated interim storage facilities for used nuclear fuel
- 12/31/15 – U.S. nuclear power plants in 2015 operated at a median capability factor of 92.2 percent (WANO data) which is the highest capability factor achieved by the industry to date
- 2/9/16 – U.S. Supreme Court put the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Power Plan (CPP) on hold; however, numerous states continues developing plans for compliance
- 3/31/16 - 4/1/16 – Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC, USA the heads of state from more than 50 countries met to discuss the most significant issues in global nuclear security
- 4/6/16 – state of Wisconsin lifted its ban on new nuclear power plants
- 5/19/16 – U.S. Department of Energy hold summit meeting to discuss actions to avoid premature nuclear power plant shutdowns
- 8/31/16 – A U.S. Federal Appeals Court rules that government can count carbon reduction as a benefit when it decides on energy efficiency standards
- 9/31/16 – U.S. and China both ratify the Paris Agreement from COP 21

## 2. News on nuclear facilities (NPP's, WSF's etc.) in your country (power upgrades, lifetime extensions, new build etc.)

100 NPP units (66 PWRs & 34 BWRs) operating

- 1 new NPP unit [Watts Bar Unit 2 (PWRs)] delivered first power to the grid on June 3
- Fort Calhoun PWR scheduled to be shutdown by end of 2016

License Renewals and Power Uprates

- 82 20-year license renewals approved (2 units shutdown after license renewals approved)
- 12 20-year license renewal applications under review
- 5 future 20-year license renewal application reviews scheduled
- 157 power uprates approved adding 7,346 Mwe
- 3 pending power uprate applications which will add 1,482 Mwe
- 10 anticipated power uprate applications for 190 Mwe

4 NPPs under construction

- Southern Nuclear 2 W AP-1000s at Vogtle completion scheduled 2019 & 2020
- SCANA 2 W AP-1000s at V. C. Summer completion scheduled 2019 & 2020

18 COLAs for 28 new NPPs have been submitted to NRC for review

- 4 COLAs for 7 new NPPs have been approved by NRC
- 4 COLAs for 7 units are under NRC review
- 4 COLAs for 7 units have been suspended
- 6 COLAs for 7 units have been withdrawn

### 3. News on companies (projects, financial results, production etc)

- Westinghouse signed agreement with CB&I to acquire CB&I Stone & Webster in October, 2015
- Entergy announced Pilgrim NPP will be refueled in 2017 and operated until May 31, 2019
- The Portsmouth gaseous diffusion uranium enrichment plant in Ohio, USA was shutdown in April
- Waste Control Specialists (WCS) applied to NRC for a license to operate a consolidated used fuel interim storage facility in Andrews, TX on April 29, 2016
- U.S. and India Presidents signed agreement on June 7 for Westinghouse to supply six AP-1000 reactors to India
- Presidents of USA, Canada, & Mexico agreed to 50% clean power generation by 2025 on June 30
- The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a Clean Energy Standard (CES) that explicitly recognizes the zero-carbon contribution of NPPs on August 2
- Exelon will purchase the Fitzpatrick NPP because of the NY PSC CES (see above)
- Idaho National Lab was chosen as the preferred site for construction of the NuScale SMR

### 4. Public opinion towards nuclear (results latest PO polls)

- Bisconti Research survey in April 2016 (September survey currently underway)
  - 67% favor use of nuclear energy (up from 64% September 2015)
  - 29% oppose use of nuclear energy (down from 33% September 2015)
  - 82% support license renewal of operating NPPs (same as September 2015)
  - 86% think nuclear energy is important for electricity in the future (up from 76% September 15)
  - 73% believe utilities should prepare to build new NPPs in next decade (up from 70% Sept 15)
  - 69% believe NPPs operating in U.S. are safe and secure (down from 75% September 2015)
  - 76% agree U.S. should play a leading role in global nuclear markets (down from 81% September 2015)

### 5. Stakeholder dialogue (Attitudes of NGOs, media, local communities towards nuclear)

Local media articles favorable to nuclear power are found at:

- [The Columbian \(Vancouver, Wash.\)](#) benefits of SMRs in the U.S. Pacific Northwest
- [The Wall Street Journal \(tiered subscription model\)](#) regulators should recognize value of nuclear power
- [The Denver Post](#) climate change fight requires nuclear energy
- [The Post-Standard \(Syracuse, N.Y.\)](#) nuclear energy is key to clean power transition
- [The Sacramento Bee \(Calif.\) \(tiered subscription model\)](#) California needs nuclear energy
- [Esquire.com](#) renewables cannot supplant nuclear energy
- [Seeking Alpha \(free registration\)](#) nuclear energy is the only way to meet world's future electricity needs
- [DailyCaller.com](#) climate scientists issue letter to CA governor supporting Diablo Canyon NPP
- [Forbes](#) nuclear power's excellent safety record should inspire others
- [Environmental Leader](#) nuclear energy is a vital to protect the environment and to improve the economy
- [Forbes](#) nuclear power is a sustainable energy source
- [Columbia Daily Tribune \(Mo.\)](#) nuclear energy is too important to be ignored
- [The Jewish Chronicle \(Pittsburgh\)](#) U.S. should not give up nuclear energy leadership role
- [The New York Times \(free-article access for SmartBrief readers\)](#) renewable energy focus harms nuclear
- [Vox](#) New York proves nuclear and renewables can co-exist
- [High Country News \(Paonia, Colo.\) \(tiered subscription model\)](#) environmentalists urge Sierra Club to reconsider stance on nuclear energy

