

Brilliant Energy Institute

Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation

Ontario Tech University

BEI Energy News

Weekly newsletter

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Top News

Nuclear

EDF to extend operating life of four British nuclear plants - The Globe and Mail

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/article-edf-to-extend-operating-life-of-four-british-nuclear-plants/>

EDF has announced plans to extend the operational life of four nuclear plants in Britain. Over the next three years, it will invest £1.3 billion to upgrade its fleet, enhancing the UK's energy security and advancing its climate goals. The extensions include adding two years to the Heysham 2 and Torness plants until March 2030 and one year to the Heysham 1 and Hartlepool plants until March 2027. This decision supports Britain's target to decarbonize its electricity sector by 2030, with nuclear power playing a crucial role by providing a stable supply of clean energy, essential for reducing reliance on fossil fuels. The extended operations of these plants, which collectively can power around seven million homes, will bridge the energy gap as the country transitions to more low-carbon technologies and awaits the completion of Hinkley Point C, Britain's first new nuclear plant in over two decades.

Meta Seeks Nuclear Power Developers for Reactors to Start in Early 2030's -

Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/meta-seeks-nuclear-power-developers-reactors-start-early-2030s-2024-12-03/>

Meta Platforms Inc. is initiating a drive to expand its nuclear energy capacity to support its artificial intelligence and environmental objectives and will add 1 to 4 gigawatts of new nuclear generation in the U.S. starting in the early 2030s. Amid soaring power demands, particularly for U.S. data centers expected to triple by 2030, Meta is exploring small modular reactors and larger traditional nuclear plants. The company is actively seeking proposals from nuclear power developers to address the extensive capital, developmental, and regulatory challenges associated with nuclear projects, with a submission deadline set for February 2025.

Energy Policy

Varcoe: Forget reviving KXL pipeline — look west to export more Canadian energy - Calgary Herald

<https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/varcoe-forget-reviving-keystone-xl-pipeline-west-coast>

As the United States signals rising protectionism with proposed hefty tariffs on Canadian imports, Canadian energy experts are urging a strategic pivot away from the troubled Keystone XL pipeline towards enhancing infrastructure that facilitates oil and gas exports to global markets via the West Coast. With significant investments in projects like the second phase of LNG Canada and other potential pipeline expansions, this redirection aims to diversify Canada's energy markets and secure economic stability in the face of unpredictable U.S. policies. This shift underscores a critical re-evaluation of Canada's energy strategies to harness the economic potential of international markets, especially in Asia, where demand for oil continues to grow.

Ontario says federal clean electricity regulations would add \$35B in costs - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/electricity-costs-ieso-ontario-federal-regulations-1.7398445>

Ontario is challenging the federal government's proposed clean electricity regulations, which the province's Independent Electricity System Operator predicts could lead to an additional \$35 billion in costs by 2050. The new regulations target emissions reductions from electricity generation, particularly natural gas, and may require Ontario to double its new generation capacity. Experts have called the proposed timeline for achieving this goal "unrealistic." These regulations could increase residential bills by \$132 to \$168 annually starting in 2033. Energy Minister Stephen Lecce has called for amendments, stressing that while Ontario aims to meet its emissions targets, the regulatory frameworks must boost economic competitiveness without compromising system reliability or imposing undue financial burdens on consumers.

UK firm's cable protection solution enhances US-Canada renewable underwater energy link - Offshore Energy

<https://www.offshore-energy.biz/uk-firms-cable-protection-solution-enhances-us-canada-renewable-underwater-energy-link/>

CRP Subsea, a UK-based firm, has been selected to provide a specialized protection solution for two high-voltage direct current (HVDC) cables and a fiber optic cable as part of the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) project, a significant underwater green electricity initiative linking the U.S. and Canada. This sizable contract involves outfitting a 900-metre section of the transmission line traversing Lake Champlain with a custom Uraduct bundled solution designed for durability and performance under extreme conditions. The project aims to

deliver enough green electricity to power one million homes in New York City. It marks a significant milestone in renewable energy collaboration between Canada and the United States.

ASEAN and Canada sign collaboration for energy transition framework - ASIPOWER

<https://asian-power.com/news/asean-and-canada-sign-collaboration-energy-transition-framework>

The ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC) have signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance collaboration in the energy sector. This partnership supports the ASEAN region's transition to sustainable energy through capacity building, joint events, and advocacy. The initiative aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, promote clean energy technologies, and advance public-private partnerships, aligning with the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation to meet increasing regional energy demands.

Energy bills in 7 N.W.T. communities to go up 5.5% - CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/nwt-public-utilities-board-approves-second-interim-rate-increase-1.7399000>

Residents in seven Northwest Territories communities will see a 5.5 per cent increase in their energy bills following the approval of rate hikes by the territory's public utilities board for the Snare and Taltson zones. The increase, which is lower than the 9 per cent initially requested by the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC), took effect on December 1. This adjustment is part of NTPC's broader strategy to gradually implement an overall rate increase of 24.8 per cent across the territory to mitigate the shock of a single, substantial rise, thereby aiding residents in adjusting their budgets more manageably.

Canadian oil and gas drilling activity to reach 10-year high in 2025: industry group - Global News

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10894541/canadian-oil-and-gas-drilling-2025/>

The Canadian Association of Energy Contractors (CAOEC) anticipates significant growth in Canada's oil and gas drilling in 2025, expecting to drill the most wells since the 2014/15 commodity price crash. This surge, involving a projected 6,604 wells and a 7 per cent increase in sector employment, is driven by the expanded Trans Mountain pipeline and the forthcoming startup of LNG Canada. The optimistic outlook is tempered by President-elect Donald Trump's proposal to impose a 25 per cent tariff on all Canadian imports. Such a move could jeopardize the industry's recovery while driving up energy costs for U.S. consumers. The CAOEC is calling on Canadian leaders to present a unified response to address the potential economic impact of the proposed tariffs.

Do you have any milestones, events, or news updates to share with the energy community? Email your submission to BrilliantEnergy@ontariotechu.ca for consideration in an upcoming edition.

Thank you.

The Brilliant Energy Institute news team

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(With a little help from ChatGPT)