

Eesti Energia To Install IRIS Nuclear Reactor In Its Planned Nuclear Plant

Email

Published: 20-May-2009

By Staff Reporter

Eesti Energia AS (Eesti Energia) has planned to utilize an untested type of reactors in its planned nuclear power plant. Eesti Energia has opted international reactor innovative and secure (IRIS) reactors which Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC expects to develop by 2015. According to the company officials, the 335 megawatt IRIS reactor is very small in size when compared to the standard nuclear reactors and therefore are more suitable for small countries like Estonia.

If Estonia were to start construct a nuclear power plant then it could be the first country to install an IRIS reactor. This is making the whole venture increasingly risky and could increase the cost of the project.

For instance, in Finland's Olkiluoto nuclear power plant in which France-based group Areva is installing a new type of EPR reactor the construction costs are already above budget by two billion euros and the construction is badly delayed. Olkiluoto is the first site to have the new EPR reactor.

While in Olkiluoto such risks are borne by Areva, Westinghouse executives have already said that the company will not assume the whole risk.

"We would not sign a similar agreement that Areva has done in Finland," said Mike Kirst, Central and East European area manager for Westinghouse.

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