

China breaks ground on nuclear power plant

by UPI

BEIJING -- China began work on an advanced nuclear power plant with help from U.S. company Westinghouse Electric Company, a state nuclear engineer said. The Chinese government selected Westinghouse Electric Company in 2007 to help develop a new generation of nuclear power plant that is considered one of the safest generators yet developed. Zhao Hung, a Chinese nuclear engineer, said the AP1000 reactor design hasn't been used at any nuclear facility previously, China Daily said Wednesday. Builders will dig a 40-foot deep hole that is more than 65-feet in circumference to house the reactor, which is scheduled to go on line in 2013. Each of the planned six reactors has a 1.25 million-kilowatt capacity and Chinese officials expect to generate 4 percent of the country's electricity needs by nuclear power by 2020.

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