

North Korea nuke shutdown complete

by UPI

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia -- The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said Wednesday North Korea has completed the shutdown of all five nuclear facilities at Yongbyon. Speaking in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said the closure was verified by agency inspectors, Kyodo news service reported. The Yongbyon shutdown was the first step under a February deal among the six nations involved in the North Korea's denuclearization. "Yes, we now verify that all the five nuclear facilities have been shut down," ElBaradei was quoted as saying. The confirmation comes as the talks involving the two Koreas, the United States, Russia, China and Japan resumed Wednesday in Beijing to consider the next steps in the process. The five disabled facilities included four in Yongbyon, near the capital Pyongyang, and a 200-megawatt reactor under construction in nearby Taechon, the report said. The four Yongbyon facilities included a 5-megawatt nuclear reactor, a spent fuel reprocessing facility, a 50-megawatt reactor under construction and a fuel fabrication plant.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

North Korea nuke shutdown complete by UPI