

# NUCLEAR INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY®

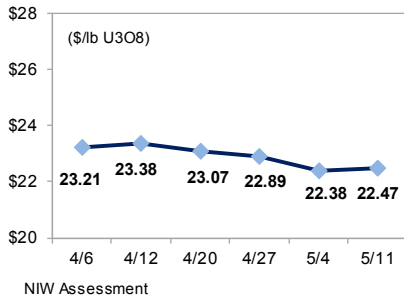
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## UPP: \$22.47/lb U3O8



## Market Points

Belgian-utility Synatom issued an RFQ for 260,000 lbs. U3O8 per year from 2018-22, with bids due at the end of the month. Duke Energy and Entergy also collected offers this week.

The average spot price reported by Nuclear Intelligence Weekly's Uranium Price Panel rose slightly this week to \$22.47 per pound U3O8 from last week's \$22.38/lb. U3O8.

Uranium Energy Corp. announced May 9 that it will take majority ownership through a stock purchase of the only permitted uranium project in the US right now, the Reno Creek in-situ recovery project in the Powder River Basin in Wyoming.

## WEEKLY ROUNDUP

### New ROK President Eager to Reset Relations With Pyongyang

- South Korea's newly elected president Moon Jae-in is set to shift the approach toward North Korea from pressure and isolation his two immediate predecessors pursued toward dialogue (NIW Apr.28'17). In his May 10 inauguration speech Moon also vowed strong leadership from Seoul in resolving the Korean peninsula's security issues: "I will fly to Washington immediately if necessary. I will go to Beijing and Tokyo, and to Pyongyang under the right circumstances." Moon attempted to allay concerns that his policies would run counter to a strong alliance with Washington. US President Donald Trump was the first foreign leader Moon spoke to after the May 9 election, and Moon reportedly told Trump the Korea-US alliance "has been and will be" the foundation of Seoul's foreign and national security policy. At the same time Moon wants to improve relations with China that have soured over the deployment of the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (Thaad) antimissile system. Moon said in a phone conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping that no provocation from North Korea would help resolve the Thaad issue and he hopes to communicate further with China on Thaad. Both Trump and Xi invited Moon to visit their respective capitals. Meanwhile on the domestic front Moon is poised to push for a phase-out of South Korea's nuclear power program (p4).

- Former Finance Minister Emmanuel Macron won the French presidential election May 7, guaranteeing that the country's next president will be committed to implementing a phase-down of nuclear power (NIW Apr.21'17). But Macron's government will face some major decisions on the nuclear front, including whether a phase-down of nuclear as a percentage of total power generation can realistically reach 50% by 2025, from 75% today, and whether state-owned EDF will have the funds to modernize and extend the life of its 58-unit fleet (NIW May5'17). "We consider it will be appropriate to discuss" with Macron's government "a kind of CFD for the future nuclear new builds in France," EDF executive Xavier Girre said in an analyst conference call on May 9, referring to the "contract-for-difference" that guarantees a pre-set price for low-carbon power generation in the UK. EDF is relying on a generous CFD for its 2-unit EPR newbuild in western England, and wants the same in France to help fund an ambitious reactor lifetime extension program.

- The board of government-controlled Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) this week approved a \$450 million contract with US-based Westinghouse for the supply of fabrication to four of TVA's seven reactors through 2030. This was one of the largest contracts signed with Westinghouse since its Mar. 29 bankruptcy filing, and demonstrates the extent of industry confidence in the company's fuel business (p5). The contract was "with Westinghouse Electric, or a successor," TVA said in a May 11 statement, although its approval is contingent on TVA obtaining appropriate credit assurances, according to local news reports. Meanwhile the board also approved a \$500 million enriched uranium product contract with Urenco's US subsidiary, also through 2030 and for the same four reactors — two at Sequoyah and two at Watts Bar. These are the four reactors that TVA announced last month may host tritium-producing burnable absorber rods that when irradiated will produce tritium for the US nuclear weapons program (NIW Nov.21'14).

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