

# U.S. Nuclear Reactor Loans Announced

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than \$8 billion in new federal loan guarantees to build two nuclear reactors in Georgia could be the first step toward a nuclear renaissance in the United States, three decades after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident halted all new reactor orders.

With the nuclear industry poised to begin construction of at least a half dozen plants over the next decade, President Barack Obama announced the first loan guarantees Tuesday, casting them as both economically essential and politically attractive. He called nuclear power a key part of comprehensive energy legislation that assigns a cost to the carbon pollution of fossil fuels, giving utility companies more incentive to turn to cleaner nuclear fuel.

"This is only the beginning," Obama said in designating the new federal financial backing for a pair of reactors in Burke County, Ga., to be built by Atlanta-based Southern Co. Obama's budget would triple — to \$5.4 billion — loan guarantees available for new nuclear construction.

The federal guarantees, authorized by Congress in 2005, are seen as essential for construction of any new reactor because of the huge expense involved. Critics call the guarantees a form of subsidy and say taxpayers will

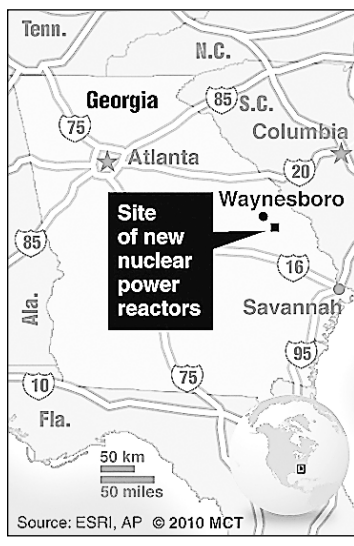
assume a huge risk, given the industry's record of cost overruns and loan defaults. Reports by Congressional Budget Office and Government Accountability Office have estimated that the risk of default for new nuclear reactors could be as high as 50 percent.

"This is a pre-emptive bailout where the government has already guaranteed to saddle taxpayers with any failure that the (nuclear) industry might run into," said Allison Fisher, an energy organizer at Public Citizen, a Washington-based consumer advocacy group.

Critics also note that the loan guarantees come at the same time Obama has proposed eliminating a long-planned nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Obama has appointed a commission to find a safe solution for dealing with nuclear waste, but in the meantime the government has no long-term plan to store commercial radioactive waste.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu told a Senate committee this month that for the foreseeable future nuclear plants likely will store spent fuel rods on site.

Environmentalists say renewable energy such as wind and solar are more cost-effective than nuclear power and do not come with side effects such as



radioactive waste.

But Marvin Fertel, president of the Nuclear Energy Institute, a policy organization for the nuclear industry, said the loan guarantees will spur construction of nuclear plants all over the country, reducing greenhouse gases blamed for global warming and creating thousands of high-paying jobs.

The Georgia project is expected to create about 3,500 construction jobs and permanently employ 850 people, and Obama coupled the loan guarantee announcement with a visit to a job training center in Lanham, Md., at the headquarters of Local 26 of the

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The union represents electrical and telecommunications workers, and it offers training for energy jobs, including the construction of nuclear power plants.

Obama said the new reactors would reduce carbon pollution by 16 million tons a year, compared with a similar coal-fired power plant.

Although Chu called Tuesday's announcement a significant step to restart the domestic nuclear industry, actual construction of the first reactor is still years away. Southern Co.'s application for a license to build and operate the reactors is pending with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, one of 13 such applications the agency is considering. The earliest any could be approved would be late 2011 or early 2012, the NRC said.

Southern Chief Executive David Ratcliffe and Chu both said the new generation of nuclear reactors will be significantly safer than those built during the 1970s because of improvements in technology. This time around, the industry and regulators have streamlined licensing and are planning to use a standard design. The Three Mile Island accident in 1979 forced numerous power plants to be redesigned during construction.

## NATION/WORLD DIGEST

### Afghan Taliban's No. 2 Commander Captured

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The capture of the Afghan Taliban's No. 2 commander by a joint CIA and Pakistani team dealt a fresh blow to insurgents under heavy U.S. attack and raised hopes that Pakistani security forces are ready to deny Afghan militant leaders a safe haven.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar's arrest in the Pakistani port city of Karachi may also push other insurgent leaders thought to be sheltering on this side of the border toward talks with the Afghan government — a development increasingly seen as key to ending the eight-year war.

Baradar, in his late 40s, was the second in command behind Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar and was said to be in charge of the day-to-day running of the organization's leadership council, which is believed based in Pakistan. He was a founding member of the Taliban and is the most important figure of the hardline Islamist movement to be arrested in the war.

Baradar, who also functioned as the link between Mullah Omar and field commanders, has been in detention for more than 10 days and was talking to interrogators, two Pakistani intelligence officials said Tuesday. One said several other suspects were also captured in the raid. He said Baradar had provided "useful information" to them and that Pakistan had shared it with their U.S. counterparts. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information.

### U.S. Wants Toyota Docs Tied To Major Recalls

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government ordered Toyota to turn over documents related to its massive recalls Tuesday, pressing to see how long the automaker knew of safety defects before taking action. Toyota, concerned about unsold cars, said it would temporarily idle some production in three states.

The Transportation Department is demanding that Toyota reveal when and how it learned of problems with sticking accelerators and with floor mats trapping gas pedals, and the company must respond within 30 to 60 days or face fines. Those defects and problems with brakes on new Prius hybrids have now led to the recall of 8.5 million vehicles.

The intensifying investigation and the production halts at Toyota's assembly plants are fresh signs of the ripple effect the recalls are having on the world's No. 1 automaker — even as car-owners are streaming to dealers for fixes. Toyota faces separate probes by the Obama administration and Congress as it struggles to maintain its loyal customer base and its reputation for safety and quality.

Toyota said it was halting production temporarily in San Antonio, Texas, and Georgetown, Ky., to address concerns that too many unsold vehicles may be building up at dealerships because of the large recalls.

Company spokesman Mike Goss said the Texas plant, which builds the Tundra pickup truck, would take production breaks for the weeks of March 15 and April 12. The Kentucky plant, which makes the Camry, Avalon and Venza vehicles, plans to take a non-production day on Feb. 26 and may not build vehicles on three more days in March and April.

### Survivor: Ala. Shooter Fired Methodically

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — A professor who survived a deadly university shooting rampage said the colleague charged in the attack methodically shot her victims in the head until the gun apparently jammed and she was pushed out of the room.

Associate professor Joseph Ng told The Associated Press on Tuesday he was one of 12 people at a biology department meeting Friday at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. He described the details in an e-mail to a colleague at the University of California-Irvine.

Ng said the meeting had been going on for about half an hour when Amy Bishop "got up suddenly, took out a gun and started shooting at each one of us. She started with the one closest to her and went down the row shooting her targets in the head."

Bishop, a Harvard-educated neurobiologist, was arrested and charged with one count of capital murder and three counts of attempted murder.

It's not the first time Bishop has been accused in a killing. In 1986, she killed her 18-year-old brother with a shotgun at his suburban Boston home. She told police she had been trying to learn how to use the gun, which her father had bought for protection, when it accidentally discharged.

■ Get Updates At Yankton Online (www.yankton.net)

## OBITUARIES

### Julius 'Stub' McGinnis

Julius "Stub" McGinnis, age 87, of Yankton, South Dakota passed away peacefully at home on Monday, February 15, 2010.

Funeral services are 10:30 a.m. Thursday, February 18, 2010 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton with Reverend Mark Lichter officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton with military honors provided by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791.

Visitation is from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a vigil service at 7:00 p.m. Visitation resumes one hour prior to the funeral at the church.

Pallbearers are Randy Hauger, Chris Hauger, Dan Hauger, Nick Hauger, Mike Dupic and Doug McCain.

Julius was born November 24, 1922 in Yankton County, South Dakota to Arthur and Anna (Rudd) McGinnis. He was the middle child in a family of seven. He was educated in Yankton County and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church. When Julius was 16 years old, he moved to Yankton and worked at various places, mainly in construction. In 1942, he joined the United



McGinnis

States Army and spent three years serving in Europe until the end of World War II. On May 6, 1946, Julius married Ruby Unruh in Yankton. They lived in several places before settling on the Unruh family farm near Marion, South Dakota. Julius farmed there for 40 years while also operating a roofing and painting business in Turner and Hutchinson Counties. In 1996, Julius retired and moved to Yankton where he enjoyed helping the United Way for several years.

Julius is survived by his wife, Ruby McGinnis of Yankton; two children, Judy (Dennis) Sues of Vermillion and David McGinnis, O.Carm. of Yankton; one grand-

daughter, Jennifer Sues of Denver, CO; one sister, Anna Mae Hauger of Yankton; and many nieces and nephews.

Julius was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers and three sisters.

To post an online sympathy message or to view his video tribute, please visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
February 17, 2010



Online condolences at:  
[www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com)

### Mildred Ven Osdel

HILL CITY — Mildred Edna "Millie" Ven Osdel was born to John and Edna (Mayer) Hafner on October 26, 1927 in rural Freeman. She grew up on the family farm, in Wolf Creek Township, a half mile from Unity Lutheran Church, where she was baptized and confirmed. There were many fond memories shared by her beloved



Osdel

sisters Ruby, Lula and Bonnie and a brother Wilfred and the many cousins with whom she remained close throughout her life.

A child during the "dirty thirties," Mildred worked hard, but enjoyed riding the pony and playing imaginative games with her siblings and cousins. She treasured the hard sought opportunity to go to school and graduated from Freeman Public High School in 1946. She remembered their class motto, "The less you know, the less you forget," which tickled her. Millie's family and friends truly enjoyed her humble yet witty spirit, and ready smile. She went on to attend General Beadle College in Madison, SD for one year, earning her teachers certificate and subsequently working a year in Minneapolis, then teaching in a one room country school back in South Dakota for 3 years. On a rainy day in June 2, 1951 Millie was married to Gerald "Dean" Ven Osdel in Orange County, Iowa. She continued to

teach the first year, while they set up farming in the Wolf Creek area near the Jim River in Hutchinson County. On May 3, 1952, Ivan, the first of their 6 children was born, thus beginning their family; this soon became the most important work of her life.

Millie enjoyed gardening and working along with Dean out of doors. Taking lunch out to the field with the kids in tow seemed as natural to her as could be. There was always a thermos of coffee, home-made bread and jelly, and often cinnamon rolls or cookies. A very practical woman of German heritage; fishing, visiting with family, friends and neighbors; a good game of cards or a quick two-step were some of her life's simple pleasures.

A strong faith in Jesus Christ and his teachings brought her through the many tough times and worries in life. She and Dean were members of Unity Lutheran Church where they worshipped with their children regularly and were pleased to celebrate each one's baptism and confirmation. She never stopped praying, or sharing her faith with others.

Retiring from farming in 1989, Millie and Dean settled in their home in Yankton for a year and a half before Dean died, just a few months before their 40th wedding anniversary. Millie continued her faith at Trinity Lutheran Church and treasured the fellowship she had there. Having spent most of her working life on the farm, it was quite an adventure for her to experience a variety of jobs in Yankton, making friends

with a good many people. After 10 years at Casey's Convenience Store, she gave up the paycheck and started volunteering. She delivered meals on wheels and helped with the soup kitchen. She was a member of the Senior Citizen Center and VFW Auxiliary in Yankton.

Millie peacefully entered the arms of Jesus at the home of her daughter, Jan, on Feb. 13, 2010 while visiting for the winter in Hill City, South Dakota. She will be missed by all of her family and friends. A memorial service is planned on Saturday, February 20, 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Yankton with a prayer service Friday evening February 19th at 7 p.m. She will be buried next to her husband at Unity Lutheran Cemetery in the spring.

She is survived by her children and their families: Ivan, Springfield; daughter-in-law Sharon, Black Hawk; Danny and wife Lisa, Gayville; Jan and husband Steve (Johnson), Hill City; Wade, Yankton; Clay and wife Bridgette, Willmar, MN; daughter-in-law Donna, Springfield; 20 Grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, 3 sisters and a brother-in-law - Ruby Stowell, Lula Hatfield, Bonnie and husband Bill Kollman; one sister-in-law, Marlys Hafner; and many precious nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Preceding her in death are her husband, Dean; parents, John and Edna; brother, Wilfred; and

her youngest son, Lewy.

For online condolences and obituary please visit [hansenfuneralhome.com](http://hansenfuneralhome.com).

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
February 17, 2010

### Madonna Blomberg

ELK POINT — Madonna L. (Kay) Blomberg, 91, of Elk Point died Monday (Feb. 15, 2010) at a Sioux City hospital.

Funeral services are at 10:30 a.m. Friday at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Elk Point, with burial to follow at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Elk Point.

Visitation is 6-7 p.m. Thursday at the church with a wake service at 7 p.m.

Anderson-Siecke-Kober Funeral Home, Elk Point, is in charge of arrangements.

### Robert Thompson

Robert F. Thompson, MD, 86, of Yankton died peacefully Monday (Feb. 15, 2010) at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Bob Lacey officiating. Burial will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Visitations are 5-9 p.m. Friday, with a 7 p.m. rosary followed by a 7:30 p.m. Scripture service, at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

AMERICA'S FAVORITE  
**SAS**  
COMFORT SHOES

**Comfort Plus X-tra Grip Sole**  
slip resistant - waterproof

Traveler NEW Liberty

**Boston Shoes to Boots**  
312 W. 3rd • Yankton • 665-9092

**Johnson Electric, LLP**

Gary R. Johnson • Rick Merkel • Ben Merkel  
Rural • Residential • Commercial

- Electrical • Telephone
- We trench H.O Lines, footings & Electrical Lines
- Our Bucket Truck Reaches 50' PLUS! • We Set Poles

**FAST COURTEOUS SERVICE • 214 CAPITAL ST., YANKTON**  
605-665-5686

**LOWER HEATING COSTS** \$\$\$\$

With a high efficient Carrier furnace

Carrier **FREE Estimates**

Turn to the Experts

**Larry's Heating & Cooling**  
920 Broadway • 665-9461

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

Julius "Stub" McGinnis  
Thursday, 10:30 AM  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Yankton

WINTZ & RAY FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc. 605-665-3644  
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

WINTZ FUNERAL HOME INC. Harrington, Coleridge, Crofton 402-254-6547

HOME FEDERAL DOES

**RED CARPET TREATMENT**

We invite you to join our Encore! Program if you have at least 50 candles on your birthday cake and you enjoy getting extra perks and rewards.

As an Encore! member, you'll enjoy:

- Exceptional travel opportunities at a great value
- Financial seminars, educational and social events
- Free traveler's checks, money orders and bank checks

Plus, check out our Rewards Checking account:

- Choose Reward program
- No minimum balance
- No monthly fee
- Free checks and Visa® checkcard
- Free Online Banking and Bill Pay
- Free notary service
- Free or discounted coffee!

To become an Encore! member contact April Tompkins today!

260-8674 - North Broadway  
665-8205 - Hy-Vee  
[www.homefederal.com](http://www.homefederal.com)

**HOME FEDERAL BANK**

Member FDIC  
Equal Housing Lender  
A subsidiary of HF Financial Corp.  
NASDAQ: HFFC

With so much to offer, learn what Home Federal can do for you.

Personal | Business | Ag | Home Loans | Trust | Investments

Direct deposit and \$100 opening balance required to open a Rewards Checking account. Must be 50 years of age or better to be eligible for the Encore! program.