
ARMENIA SENDING SIGNALS THAT IT WANTS TO BACK OUT OF A NUCLEAR-ENERGY DEAL WITH RUSSIA

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Brawley Benson

Yerevan pursuing US option for building new plant.

The future of nuclear energy in Armenia is fast emerging as another flashpoint of acrimony between Armenian and Russian leaders.

The countrys aging Metsamor nuclear power plant, the first unit of which went online in 1976, is nearing the end of its lifespan. Armenia in late 2023 struck a deal with Russia to upgrade the facility and extend its operations until 2036. But with bilateral relations now experiencing a quick freeze, underscored by Armenias efforts to ice Russia out of the Armenian-Azerbaijani peace process, officials in Yerevan are openly exploring other nuclear-energy options.

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