
CENTRAL ASIA'S NUCLEAR PUSH: UZBEKISTAN STARTS CONSTRUCTION AS KAZAKHSTAN PLANS AT LEAST THREE PLANTS

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Uzbekistan has poured concrete for its first nuclear power plant, while Kazakhstan has signed a \$16.5 billion agreement for a two-reactor facility near Lake Balkhash and approved a site for a second plant. Kazakhstans long-term strategy calls for at least three nuclear power plants by 2050, with a fourth possible.

Both governments are presenting nuclear power as a way to meet rapidly growing electricity demand and strengthen energy security. Yet the projects are advancing at different speeds and are reviving questions over water use, cross-border safety, financing, and long-term reliance on Russian technology and credit.

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