

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1966?
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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY

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"SENA," FIRST JOINTLY-OPERATED NUCLEAR REACTOR GOES CRITICAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- October 18 -- The 266 megawatt (e) "SENA" nuclear reactor which has been built at Chooz, France, under the United States - Euratom Agreement for Cooperation went critical today, it was reported from Brussels, headquarters of the European Atomic Energy Community.

The SENA plant is the first in the world to be operated jointly by two countries, France and Belgium; it brings the installed nuclear power capacity of the Euratom to 1,771 megawatts (e). French and Belgian power grids each will take half of the power generated by the new plant on the Chooz River in the Ardennes.

The electric power plant, equipped with a pressurized water reactor developed by Westinghouse, belongs to the Societe d'Energie Nucleaire Franco-Belge des Ardennes -- a company incorporated in France. The shares are jointly held by the Electricite de France and the Belgian group Centre et Sud, representing virtually all electricity producers and distributors in Belgium.

Under the U.S. - Euratom Agreement, the U.S. nuclear energy industry through the U.S.A.E.C. is able to share in all of the experience gained in the design, construction and operation of SENA. In turn, SENA, through Euratom, is able to purchase U.S. fuel on deferred payment terms and have irradiated fuel elements reprocessed in the U.S. until the European Community has its own reprocessing facility.

Within the Atomic Energy Community, SENA enjoys "joint enterprise" status -- entitling the undertaking to certain fiscal and customs privileges. It also is designated as a participant in Euratom's power reactor program; thus Euratom footed certain costs during the start-up period and will contribute to manufacturing costs for fuel elements for the second core, providing they are made in the Community. SENA passes on to Euratom and member states the same information on design, construction, and operation as it is obliged to give to the U.S. In addition, engineers and specialists from other Community nuclear enterprises and laboratories are invited to work with the staff of the plant.

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