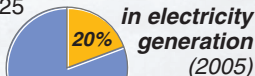


G8 powers reconsidering nuclear energy

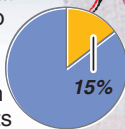
Twenty years after the Chernobyl disaster, public opposition to nuclear power on safety grounds remains high. But fears over security of gas supplies, and the need to generate power without emitting greenhouse gases, are boosting the case for nuclear, a carbon-free energy source

U.S.: Surging oil prices raising appeal of nuclear industry – virtually frozen since **Three Mile Island** accident in 1979. Utilities queuing to build up to 25 new reactors, and benefit from \$3.1bn in tax credits in 2005 energy bill

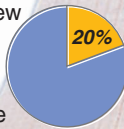


NUMBER OF REACTORS

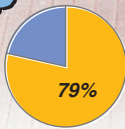
CANADA: Intends to spend \$18bn over 20 years to build at least two reactors and refurbish old plants



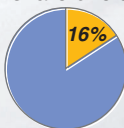
BRITAIN: Major review of energy policy expected to embrace new generation of nuclear power stations. All but one of UK's ageing plants due to close by 2025



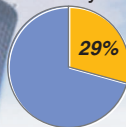
FRANCE: To build 1,600 megawatt **European Pressurised Water Reactor** by 2012 – demonstration project for next generation of nuclear plants due to replace current fleet in 2015



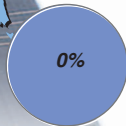
RUSSIA: Plans rapid rise in nuclear share of electricity generation to 25% by 2020. Six new reactors under construction due to start up 2009-2012. 16 more planned



JAPAN: Plans to built five new power plants to boost share of power to 40% by 2010



ITALY: Closed last two reactors after Chernobyl. But dependence on energy imports, highlighted by interruption of Russian gas this year, prompting rethink



GERMANY: Still committed to phasing out atomic power but debate underway on need to extend operational life of existing reactors

