

UAE further delays launch of first nuclear reactor

July 4 2018



The first unit at the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant in Al-Dafrah is seen in a handout picture released by the United Arab Emirates News Agency, WAM, on March 26, 2018

The United Arab Emirates said Wednesday that its first nuclear reactor would come online in late 2019 or early 2020, further delaying the

launch of the Arab World's first atomic power station.

Construction of the first of four reactors at the \$20 billion (17 billion euro) Barakah plant has been completed ahead of "operation by the end of 2019 (or) early 2020," Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation said, quoted by the state-run WAM news agency.

The first [reactor](#) had been due to come online last year, but the launch was initially delayed until 2018 to make time for regulatory approvals and complete safety checks.

No reason was immediately given for the latest postponement.

State-owned ENEC said a second reactor was 93 percent complete, a third is 83 percent finished and the fourth was 72 percent complete.

The nuclear plant west of Abu Dhabi is being built by a consortium led by the Korea Electric Power Corporation.

When fully operational, the four reactors should produce 5,600 megawatts of electricity, around 25 percent of the UAE's needs, according to the energy ministry.

Nuclear and renewables are targeted to contribute around 27 percent of the UAE's electricity by 2021.

The UAE says it wants 50 percent of its [energy](#) to be generated by clean sources by 2050.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude oil exporter, plans to build up to 16 nuclear reactors, but the projects have yet to materialise.

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Citation: UAE further delays launch of first nuclear reactor (2018, July 4) retrieved 1 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-07-uae-nuclear-reactor.html>

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