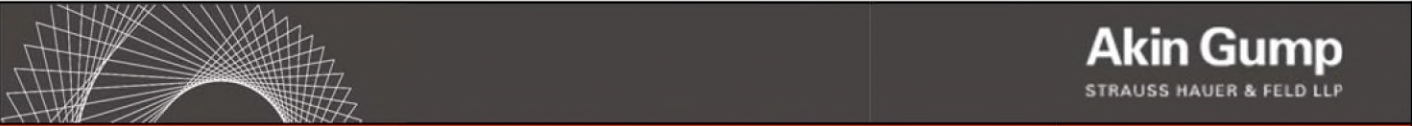


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**Subject:** UAE Update- First Nuclear Fuel Load Completed!



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## UAE Update- First Nuclear Fuel Load Completed!

March 9, 2020

Good morning Colleagues,

Happy Monday to you all and I hope you are staying healthy! I would like to share with you the news of the UAE's first official and successful fuel load into Unit 1, ( out of 4 units), of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant. The Barakah Plant will provide up to 25% of the UAE's electricity with zero carbon emissions once operating at full capacity.

Additionally, as you may already be aware, the UAE recently celebrated the ten year anniversary of the US-UAE 123 Nuclear Deal at the end of last year. The 123 Agreement allows the US to share nuclear technology, expertise, and fuel in exchange for commitments from the UAE to abide by the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. As UAE Ambassador to the U.S., Yousef Al-Otaiba, explains in his recently published Wall Street Journal op-ed below, the 123 Agreement has allowed the UAE to pursue sources of "clean power and reduced the risk of nuclear proliferation."

Both events are significant for the country and the US-UAE partnership, and I invite you to read more about it in the article below. As always, please reach out with questions or just to re-connect!

~Hagir

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### *A Successful Mideast Nuclear Deal*

*The United Arab Emirates finishes loading fuel in its new civilian nuclear power plant.*

The Middle East nuclear agreement is working well. It contains the strongest commitments ever agreed to for nonproliferation and transparency and no pathway to weaponization. No, not that nuclear deal.

On March 3, the United Arab Emirates announced it had finished loading fuel into Unit 1 of the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant. When all four units become operational, the plant will provide up to 25% of the U.A.E.'s electricity with zero carbon emissions.

The seeds for this ambitious project were planted 10 years ago, when the U.S. and U.A.E. signed the strongest bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement in history. The deal wasn't a sure thing. As negotiations progressed during the final year of President George W. Bush's administration, the nonproliferation community was

concerned. Skeptics feared the Middle East was ill-suited for a peaceful nuclear program. Arms-control experts argued that if Iran used its program as cover for building a nuclear bomb, the U.A.E. could too.

Rejecting any interest in nuclear weapons, the U.A.E. voluntarily made the strongest possible nonproliferation commitments, pledging to forgo domestic enrichment and reprocessing of nuclear material. There was no hesitation in acceding to the International Atomic Energy Agency's Additional Protocol, allowing for short-notice inspections of any nuclear facility at any time. Later termed the "gold standard," these historic and binding guarantees represented a new and innovative solution to a longstanding problem created by the inherent dual-use nature of some elements of the nuclear fuel-supply chain.

The agreement was signed at the end of the Bush administration and endorsed by the Obama administration. Skillfully shepherded through congressional review by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman, the agreement entered into force in December 2009.

The U.A.E.'s voluntary commitments significantly exceed those extracted from Iran in the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Tehran insisted on maintaining a pathway to enrich uranium domestically and to develop advanced centrifuge technologies—capabilities first developed clandestinely in defiance of binding United Nations Security Council resolutions. Iran also demanded that the most significant restrictions lapse in January 2026. These demands reveal Iran's real long-term aspirations.

Iran could send no clearer signal of peaceful intentions than signing on to the same voluntary commitments as the U.A.E. The international community should insist on this as a precondition of a renewed nuclear pact with Iran, which would create a virtuous nuclear pathway. Iran could then modernize its nuclear-energy program and boost its economic prosperity. Barakah will supply 6 gigawatts of low-carbon electricity in the next few years. The 45-year old Iranian program limps along with a single, nonstandard 915-megawatt plant.

Peaceful nuclear technology is critical to the world's energy mix, particularly now that lower-carbon alternatives are required. But a greener world shouldn't become a pretext for a more dangerous one. The U.S.-U.A.E. nuclear deal has worked. New and better rules have delivered a new huge source of clean power and reduced the risk of nuclear proliferation.

*Mr. Otaiba is the United Arab Emirates' ambassador to the U.S.*

*These materials are being distributed by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP on behalf of the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.*

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