

Plans for Poland's first nuclear power plant move ahead as US and Polish officials sign agreement

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Warsaw, Poland. Credit: Unsplash/CC0 Public Domain

Polish and U.S. officials signed an agreement Wednesday in Warsaw for the construction of Poland's first nuclear power plant, part of an effort

by the Central European nation to move away from polluting fossil fuels.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki called the deal to build the plant at the Lubiatowo-Kopalino site in the Pomerania region near the Baltic Sea the beginning of a new chapter for Poland, and described [nuclear energy](#) as a stable and clean energy source.

"The only clean, stable energy source that is technologically proven and verified in terms of safety is nuclear energy, which is having its big day today," he said at the ceremony.

Last year, Morawiecki's government announced that it had chosen the U.S. as its partner for the project.

A consortium made up of Westinghouse and Bechtel signed the agreement with the Polish state-owned utility overseeing the nuclear program, Polskie Elekrownie Jądrowe (PEJ).

The planned site is about 280 kilometers (175 miles) from the border with Germany, which shut its last [remaining nuclear reactors](#) in April. Last year, the four German states closest to Poland said they were opposed to the Polish plan.

Within Poland, opposition to the [nuclear program](#) isn't high. While some environmentalists oppose it, even the Greens party is divided on the matter. That is a reflection of how the devastation of climate change has persuaded some environmentalists around the world to embrace [nuclear power](#) as a solution, because it doesn't involve the burning of fossil fuels.

Poland is planning to spend \$40 billion to build two [nuclear power plants](#) with three reactors each, the last one to be launched in 2043. The deal with the U.S. is for the first three reactors of the Pomerania plant, which officials saying should start producing electricity in 2033.

Poland has planned for decades to build a nuclear power plant to replace its aging coal-fired plants in a country with some of the worst air pollution in Europe.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its use of energy to put economic and [political pressure](#) on European nations added urgency to Poland's search for alternative energy sources.

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