

Nuclear-Plant Firm Scales Up

BY CHRISTINE BUURMA

Scana Corp., a mid-sized utility company positioning itself to be at the vanguard of a U.S. nuclear power renaissance, aims to prove that bigger isn't necessarily better.

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Also helping Scana's case is the fact the proposed V.C. Summer reactors are on a short list for a portion of \$18.5 billion in federal loan guarantees for new nuclear power plants. Such guarantees should make it easier for the company to obtain financing.

"The loan guarantee probably would provide about a 3% reduction in the cost of debt," said John Reed, the chairman and chief executive of Concentric Energy Advisors, a Marlborough, Mass.-based consulting firm. "That certainly improves the economics for Scana or any other regulated utility that were to get the loan guarantees."

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