

Algeria plans law for nuclear power this year

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Algiers: Algeria's government will send a bill to parliament this year to regulate nuclear power generation, as the North African country aims to build a nuclear plant in 10 years, Energy Minister Chakib Khelil said.

Algeria, Africa's largest natural gas producer, will also seek to develop renewable sources of energy, Khelil told the World Petroleum Congress today in Madrid.

The country has the potential to generate 170,000 terawatt hour of electricity from solar energy, and 35,000 terawatt hour from wind energy, he said.

Algeria has already found enough uranium deposits to fuel two nuclear power stations for 60 years, Khelil said in November. Algeria, a mostly desert nation that is Africa's largest by area behind Sudan, would also use nuclear power for water desalination, he said.

Algeria's petroleum reserves are expected to last at least 40 years at current production rate.