

Global Tender in December to Choose Nuclear Sites

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The Egyptian government will announce a world tender at the end of December to choose an international consulting firm that will carry out the necessary studies to choose nuclear plant locations

According to local newspaper al-Masry al-Youm, informed sources said that Dabaa will be among the locations to be studied, although it would not necessarily be by the international consulting firm given that the criteria for choosing these locations have changed since the 1980s

This information came yesterday on the sidelines of two conferences about hydroelectric energy in Africa and a revision of the high policies of the African cooperation AFRA in the field of nuclear sciences and hydroelectric energy in Africa. Some IAEA officials confirmed that Dabaa was on top of the list and that this location would save five years of studies to look for alternatives, the sources added. They also affirmed that the Egyptian authorities had the final say on this issue. The sources believed that the insistence on resorting to an international consulting firm to define the locations in spite of old studies that cost dozens of millions to the State in the 1980s seems to suggest that there are intentions to rule out Dabaa in favor of businessmen, who would like to use it to set up tourist resorts

The sources added that what raises even more doubts is the mystery surrounding Dabaa itself and the fact that no definitive decision has been taken yet to choose this place.

Moreover, officials at the Ministry of Electricity refuse to give a clear authorization in this sense and just say that the final say is still of the Nuclear Power Plants Authority

Ministry sources refused to comment on the details of the IAEA studies.

These studies are the result of two years of technical cooperation between the agency and the Egyptian government, which aimed at modernizing the site, and expressed a preference for Dabaa

Meanwhile, Mr. Hassan Youness the Egyptian Electricity and Energy Minister stressed the importance of supporting development and energy security in Africa and benefiting from Egypt huge hydrological resources, while only 7% of these resources are actually used.