

from DOE for Lightbridge fuel, which is designed to increase power output, enhance economics, and provide additional safety benefits for existing and future reactors worldwide. We look forward to working closely with Framatome, INL, and DOE to further advance Lightbridge fuel toward commercialization.”

Lightbridge’s solid metallic, helically twisted, multi-lobed fuel rods represent a departure from conventional UO₂ fuel, and the Framatome-INL research will identify failure/damage modes and mechanisms to define design-specific criteria for Lightbridge’s uranium-zirconium fuel. Over 12 months, Framatome and INL will generate failure modes and effects analysis (FMEA) and a Phenomena Identification Ranking Table (PIRT) for Lightbridge fuel. The FMEA and PIRT are important steps in licensing an advanced fuel product, according to Lightbridge, and will be submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

“Specific outcomes of this collaboration between INL and Framatome will include recommended experimental (ex- and in-situ reactor) verification of failure/damage modes and associated mechanisms,” according to Framatome’s GAIN voucher abstract.

■ Enfission announced on May 20 that EDF Energy, a subsidiary of Électricité de France, has joined Enfission’s Nuclear Fuel Advisory Board (NUFAB), where it will be represented by Roger Float, nuclear fuel strategy and commercial manager for EDF Energy. NUFAB, formed in 2011, includes senior fuel managers from U.S. electric utilities that account for about half of the installed nuclear capacity in the United States. EDF Energy is the first international utility to join Enfission’s advisory board.

MINING DEVELOPMENTS

EIA, MOU for Wheeler River project; other news

Denison Mines announced on June 3 that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment have accepted the provincial technical proposal and federal project description submitted by Denison for the *in situ* recovery uranium mine and processing plant proposed for the company’s Wheeler River project.

“Acceptance of the project description by the regulatory agencies is a critical first step for the development of the Wheeler River project,” said David Cates, president and chief executive officer of Denison.

The federal and provincial agencies plan to conduct a coordinated environmental impact assessment in order to produce a

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