

carried out the cutting and conditioning of the reactor vessel and primary circuit components using a patented segmentation process called “optimized segmentation,” according to the company. Using the process, the reactor vessel was removed in three pieces, with the segmented internal components packaged inside each section as low-level radioactive waste. Orano noted that this method limited the amount of waste required for transport and disposal.

Orano was assisted with the extraction of the sectioned 10-meter-tall, 540-ton nuclear reac-

tor vessel by heavy-lifting company Mammoet, which said it had prior knowledge of the facility after previously completing a steam generator replacement at the same location. Using a custom-installed jack system spanning the inside of the reactor containment building, Mammoet’s crew lifted the two heaviest RPV segments out of the reactor well and lowered each one down through the reactor building into a customized package on the ground level for transport to Waste Control Specialists’ site in Andrews County, Texas, for final disposal.

Holtec asked to study nonradioactive airborne pollution at Pilgrim

The state of Massachusetts is looking to require Holtec International, owner of the Pilgrim nuclear power plant, to analyze water evaporation at the plant for potential air pollution as the unit is decommissioned. At a hearing in late

January with a state Department of Environmental Protection panel, officials said that more study is needed on nonradioactive contaminants

Source Points continues

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