Feature Article

Nuclear Power: How environmentalism lost its way
by Paul Lorenzini

Power

Watts Bar-2 nears start of commercial operation. Hurricane Matthew caused no damage to plants, but customers lost power. Challenges filed to PG&E’s closure proposal for Diablo Canyon. New York agencies launch investigation into Indian Point oil spill. Report quantifies carbon-abatement value of nuclear. NRC grants request for Bell Bend license application withdrawal. Owners of Summer-2 and -3 ordered to increase construction milestone payments to Westinghouse. Maximizing the Assets: A status report on license renewal and power uprates. New designs for small modular reactors offer potential for standardization. Three unplanned shutdowns reported, orders issued.

Security

Russia suspends plutonium disposal agreement with United States. NRC cites MOX Services for violations at the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility. NNSA declares Poland, Indonesia HEU free; other NNSA news.

Policy & Legislation


International

Waste Management 46

10 CFR Part 61 final rule on low-level radioactive waste disposal released. Parts of WIPP repository to be closed due to rock falls. Legacy waste cleanup costs at Los Alamos National Laboratory could reach $3.8 billion. New receipt tank at Savannah River Site begins receiving salt waste. Aiken, S.C., company seeks to license spent fuel facility. D&D of Soviet-era reactors could cost $12.8 billion. Delay monitoring tank at Bradwell’s ponds complex in the United Kingdom is dismantled.

Industry 51

Westinghouse acquires Nuclear Logistics Inc.; other business developments. Mid-America Conversion Services awarded contract to operate DUF6 facilities; other contracts. Two Vogtle AP1000 reports submitted to NRC; other 10 CFR Part 21 updates.

Isotopes & Radiation 53


Research 59

ITER, ANSTO forge agreement that allows Australia to contribute directly to the ITER project.

Education, Training & Workforce 60


Fuel 64

Public meeting follows inspection, corrective actions at Westinghouse’s Columbia, S.C., fuel facility. Small steps advance mining projects around the world. Centrus signs enrichment contract with UT-Battelle to continue work on American Centrifuge technology. No Kazakh U production increase in current market; other business developments.

Standards & Documentation 67

One standard published, two approved; comments requested on one other. NRC issues revised regulatory issue summary on decommissioning timeliness; other NRC documents.