Feature Article

A diamond in Dogpatch: The 75th anniversary of the Graphite Reactor—Part 1
by Sherrell R. Greene

Quoting at Random

Ostendorff: Nuclear energy and national security

Power

Appeals court upholds New York’s zero-emissions credit program. Judge sides with the Nuclear Energy Institute in dispute with NextEra Energy. Connecticut agencies find Millstone plant at risk of closure in 2023. Transatomic Power stops work on its molten salt reactor design, releases technology. First of four 375,000-pound reactor coolant pumps placed in Vogtle-3 containment vessel. Court approves settlement in FirstEnergy Solutions bankruptcy. NEI publishes road map for Defense Department micro-reactor pilot program. Maximizing the Assets: A status report on license renewal and power uprates. South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff recommends that SCE&G not be allowed to recover Summer-2 and -3 construction costs incurred after March 2015. NRC issues final safety evaluation report and standard design approval for APR1400. Co-owners of Vogtle plant suffer credit-rating downgrades. NRC’s escalated enforcement actions in 2017 down from previous year. NRC issues revised Regulatory Guides on maintenance, other topics.

Security

International


Waste Management

DOE to clarify definition of high-level radioactive waste. DOE extends Hanford, Portsmouth contracts. DOE cleared to begin grouting of PUREX Tunnel 2 at Hanford Site. EPA finalizes cleanup decision for West Lake Landfill. Stop-work order lifted, cleanup of Shallow Land Disposal Area to proceed. Floating nuclear power plant Sturgis makes final journey before dismantlement.

Fuel

Wyoming to regulate uranium recovery as first “limited agreement” state. Commerce Department receives comments on investigation into uranium imports. NRC releases plan for licensing accident-tolerant fuel. License renewal proceeding for Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility delayed for leak assessment.

Isotopes & Radiation

Canada’s TRIUMF and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories to pursue production of actinium-225. Canada’s Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization and McMaster reactor facility sign R&D agreement for medical radioisotope production. NRC issues confirmatory order, violation notices.

Research

Oak Ridge National Laboratory, U.K. National Nuclear Laboratory to cooperate on nuclear R&D. Idaho National Laboratory awards $3.9 million for university-led projects.

Industry

BWXT, Brotech open nuclear component manufacturing facility in Canada; other business developments. GE Power to supply turbines for Egypt’s El Dabaa nuclear power plant; other contracts. 10 CFR Part 21 reports submitted to NRC.