Features

Cover Stories—Decommissioning Safety

The ABCs of Decommissioning Safety 8
Despite programs involving time and money, the industrial safety effort at Big Rock Point was falling short of the plant’s high expectations. Then came the first snowfall of the 2000–01 winter season. . . .

Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk: Focusing on Safety during Fusion Reactor Decommissioning 12
Faced with an increasing number of injuries at the laboratory and within the TFTR D&D project, PPPL personnel reevaluated their safety practices and policies.

Andros and Rosie and Other Fiends to D&D Workers: Decommissioning Technologies that Improve Worker Safety 16
Since 1996, the DDFA has been demonstrating improved D&D technologies to reduce costs, accelerate schedules, and reduce risks to worker health and safety.

Making Safety Work: Safety-Enhancing Technologies and Practices at INEEL Decommissionion Projects 20
Since the nation’s nuclear D&D efforts began many years ago, many lessons have been learned in performing D&D work, helping in the development and use of safety techniques, procedures, and technologies.

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Looking in more detail at how the DOE handles what it terms “unique” low-level and mixed wastes.

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Digging in the Canyons: Simplifying Waste Removal from Chemical Separations Operations at the Savannah River Site 33
A new device to clean the waste sumps in the Chemical Separations Canyons at the SRS saves time and eliminates radiation exposure and the need for routine decontamination.

Starting from the Bottom: Lessons in Sampling Sludge from a Working Vitrification Melter 37
While the melter was operating, engineers at the West Valley Demonstration Project took and analyzed a sample of a sludge deposit in the melter, obtaining rare data about HLW melter operation.

On the Cover:
(Top) Decommissioning work can involve a variety of hazardous conditions. The articles beginning on pages 8, 12, 16, and 20 look at the safety issues and concerns that affect nuclear facility D&D. (Bottom) A red-hot sample taken from an operating melter at West Valley. The article beginning on page 37 describes why and how this sample was taken and what it may mean for future melter operations.

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High-Level Waste/Spent Fuel