

## Let's Get Together

As I write this, I've just come back from attend the 7th Biennial TLG Services Decommissioning Conference in Point Clear, Alabama. (A meeting report will appear in the January/February 2005 issue of *Radwaste Solutions*.) The decommissioning industry knows TLG Services because it has probably produced most of the decommissioning cost estimates made since, oh, the time of the Pharaohs, but the company also produces some dandy conferences. This is the first time I attended one of them, and I'm grateful to the TLG folks for their willingness to host a press attendee and for the great arrangements overall that made the conference go so smoothly.

I've taken up space in this magazine before to tout the benefits of attending industry conferences, but I'm going to do it again. I learn so much at these conferences—I get article ideas, meet the people involved in the cleanup projects, learn what's new and interesting, and hear progress reports on current projects. I value these conferences so much that I generally plan my year around them.

With my time and budget constraints, I still manage to attend around five or six conferences each year. So, in 2005, I'm looking forward to attending Waste Management '05, in Tucson. This conference is the granddaddy of them all, having been in existence since around 1974. I am always grateful to WM Symposia Inc. for the help and cooperation they

give this magazine, and each year I am pleased to print the official "best papers" from this conference.

The American Nuclear Society's two meetings each year, the Annual Meeting in June and the Winter Meeting in November, offer wonderful sessions on waste management and decontamination and decommissioning. I cannot imagine working in this industry and not attending these meetings.

The EPRI International Low-Level Waste Conference is the place to go to learn the latest in utility waste operations. Each year, Sean Bushart and Paul Williams continue to come up with a fine technical program, a good exhibit, and great meeting arrangements, and I am grateful to them for allowing me to run a few of the presentations from their meeting in this issue. (See the articles beginning on p. 12, p. 17, and p. 22.)

ANS also runs some fine topical meetings on the subject of waste and D&D. Next year, I am attending the ANS Topical on Decommissioning, Decontamination, and Reutilization, being held August 7–11 at the Hyatt Regency in Denver, and the 2005 International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference, being held September 25–30 in Las Vegas.

There are countless more conferences each year that I wish I could travel to—all the international conferences, for instance. But as I said above, given time and budget constraints, I make the best decisions I can on what to attend. Each meeting



*A Big  
Thank You  
to all the  
Meeting  
Planners  
in This World*

is a great learning experience, and not just for me, I'm sure. The calendar section in this magazine lists as many of the meetings as I can learn about. Perhaps I'll see you at one of them in the future.—*Nancy J. Zacha, Editor*