

Buyers Guide—Take Two

With this issue, we proudly present the second annual *Radwaste Solutions* Buyers Guide, a directory of products, materials, and services that relate directly to the business of radioactive waste management and site cleanup and remediation. In this directory, we list more than 800 companies in almost 350 categories, in an easy-to-use format that will help you put your finger on anything you need to make your work more productive.

This issue also contains a few of the usual features you have come to count on as you leaf through each issue of *Radwaste Solutions*. “Headlines,” a quick wrapup of industry news, appears on page 8, and “Calendar” is still here, on page 107, to help you plan your travel schedule. And we have one feature-length photo essay, “Bye-Bye Big Rock,” which covers Consumers Energy’s greenfield celebration that highlighted the plant’s successful decommissioning and site restoration.

Sometimes it’s hard to believe that—for now, at least—we are just about finished with commercial nuclear plant decommissioning in this country. For a time in the early-to-mid 1990s, people were predicting that fully one-quarter of all operating nuclear plants would have to shut down early because they were financial black holes for their owner utilities. Instead, as we all know, only a small handful of plants actually shut down. The rest continued operating, started to make serious money for their owners, and by now have either

obtained license renewals or are thinking about applying for them. On top of that, many utilities are seriously considering building new nuclear power plants. So the commercial decommissioning boom that was anticipated only a decade ago is gone—at least for another 10, 20, or 30 years.

But that is not to say that there is no work being done. The U.S. Department of Energy, as well as many countries overseas, have stepped up their decommissioning work, so there are plenty of reasons why a directory of D&D-related products, materials, and services is so very necessary.

And then there is the everyday task of managing the radioactive waste that is produced in normal nuclear plant, research, and industrial operations.

There are billions of dollars, euros, yen, and pounds (to mention only a few of the more active currencies) being spent each year to manage the waste we are currently producing; to decommission the plants we are no longer using; and to clean up the residues of years of defense (and, yes, commercial) operations that took place before we really knew the dangers of land and water contamination. Those monies are spent on projects that need equipment, supplies, and workers. The *Radwaste Solutions* Second Annual Buyers Guide is designed to help project managers fill those needs.—Nancy J. Zacha, Editor ■



*Everything
You Need for
Everything
You Do*