

What Lies Ahead

Like most people, every once in a while I will say something really stupid. Case in point: Several years ago, I worried out loud about what the magazine could possibly cover once all the current nuclear power plant decommissionings were finished and once Fernald and Rocky Flats were cleaned up and closed. In retrospect, I was sort of like the gentleman who, at the end of the 19th century, recommended that the Patent Office be closed because everything that could be invented already had been. In truth, a good deal of D&D and clean-up work has taken place since my worried moment; people still keep writing relevant, informative articles for this magazine (for which I am extremely grateful); and there is always something new coming up.

As we wrap up the year 2010 and look ahead into 2011, the biggest issue on the horizon remains Yucca Mountain. Are reports of its death premature, or, to paraphrase Mark Twain, greatly exaggerated? Will U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission decisions and/or court rulings breathe

life back into the proposed high-level waste/spent fuel repository? In the meantime, what will the President's Blue Ribbon Panel on America's Nuclear Future recommend as a path forward? This is one issue that may achieve clarification in 2011.

The \$6 billion in stimulus money that was poured into U.S. Department of Energy cleanup projects must be spent by September 30, 2011 (the end of the 2011 fiscal year), so for the first nine months of the year, there will be a big push at the government cleanup sites to get the projects completed. It will be good to see the final results of this extra funding provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as 2011 wraps up.

As reported in the "Headlines" section of this issue (see page 10), the NRC approved the transfer of the license for the Zion nuclear power plant from Exelon to ZionSolutions, a subsidiary of EnergySolutions. This means there is more commercial nuclear power plant decommissioning work ahead. With a cost estimate of \$1 billion, this commercial decom-



*Peeking into
what 2011
has in store*

missioning project promises to be the largest yet undertaken in this country.

On the low-level waste front, Waste Control Specialists plans to open its LLW disposal facility sometime in 2011. And perhaps the Texas/Vermont Compact will also make a decision sometime during the year on whether to allow disposal of out-of-compact waste.

So, 2011 promises to be a busy, productive year. And we at *Radwaste Solutions* promise to keep you informed every step of the way.—Nancy J. Zacha, Editor

Changes Ahead for *Radwaste Solutions*

Like everyone else these days, the *Radwaste Solutions* management has been concerned about reducing our operating costs. One option we seriously considered was reverting to a quarterly publication schedule instead of the current bimonthly schedule. In the end, we decided to compromise, so next year *Radwaste Solutions* will publish *five* issues a year instead of six. We pledge, however, to publish the same number of articles and pages as would have appeared in six issues, so our subscribers and readers will still get the same benefit from the magazine. The first issue of the year will be the January-April issue, and it will be mailed in February. After that, the issues will appear on a bimonthly basis as usual. We hope you continue to find *Radwaste Solutions* a helpful and valuable publication.