Performance Features

Cover Stories—Decontamination and Decommissioning

Sheer Grit: ARRA Transforms Y-12
ARRA funding jump-started seven environmental cleanup shovel-ready projects at Oak Ridge’s Y-12 site, which accelerated previously designated work for improving site and public safety, reducing Y-12’s footprint and environmental impact, maximizing site security while reducing maintenance costs, and preparing designated areas for future beneficial use.

Decommissioning the World’s Largest Open-Air Nuclear Fuel Storage Pond
The PFSP is the largest open-air nuclear fuel storage pond in the world, containing more than 15,000 cubic meters of radioactive water, more than 300 m³ of sludge, various nuclear wastes, and legacy spent nuclear fuel.

Other Features

Groundwater Protection at Nuclear Plants
EPRI’s research activities on groundwater protection and underground piping and tank integrity support efforts to prevent inadvertent leaks or spills over the life of nuclear power plant operation.

The Journey of the MCL Trader: Ship Modification for Spent Fuel Transport
The planning, licensing, modification, and use of a Russian vessel for shipping spent nuclear fuel by sea in support of the DOE’s RRRFR program.

Preliminary Assessment for Deep Borehole HLW Disposal
Advances in drilling technologies over the last several decades suggest that construction of deep boreholes should no longer be viewed as a greater technical challenge than deep mines and that retrieval should not be viewed as unachievable.

Perspective

Radioactive Waste Disposal in the United States
Siting of radioactive waste disposal facilities involves processes that display a great degree of similarity, regardless of the toxicity of the waste.

Meeting Report

HLW Disposal Programs Around the World: What They’re Doing and What They’ve Learned
A report from the American Nuclear Society’s International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference, held April 10–14, 2011, in Albuquerque, N.M.

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On the Cover:
Working on the demolition of Building 9735 at the Oak Ridge Y-12 site. An article on how American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding speeded up D&D work at Y-12 begins on page 22.

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Environmental Remediation