IAEA reorganizes nuclear information services

POWER

Duke-Progress merger closes curiously. Allison Macfarlane is sworn in as NRC chairman. NRC updates action letter on Fort Calhoun restart requirements. Extended power uprate approved for St. Lucie-1. Invalidated NRC rules spur filing of new contentions in license renewal and reactor licensing proceedings. Energy Information Administration sees growth of nuclear power to 2025, then decline. ASLB for new reactors at South Texas Project keeps hearing on hold. NRC agrees with FENOC on cause of shield building cracks at Davis-Besse. NRC cites FENOC for security violation at Perry. Confirmatory orders issued to TVA and Indiana Michigan Power Company for violations of NRC regulations. Final EIS for Watts Bar-2 delayed until December; other licensing developments. Renaissance Watch: An update on developments that may lead to new power reactors.

SECURITY

Bilateral effort to convert Russian research reactors to low-enriched uranium fuel moves forward. Bill boosting nuclear security passes in House of Representatives. House bill calls for merger of two Department of Homeland Security offices. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory’s Sequoia computer is world’s fastest; other NNSA news.

INTERNATIONAL

France’s nuclear regulator imposes post-Fukushima measures on nuclear plant operators. Japan’s Diet enacts bill to create new nuclear regulator. Oh-3 is first Japanese reactor to be restarted since Fukushima accident. Lithuanian parliament passes bill for new reactor project. Explosives found outside Sweden’s Ringhals nuclear plant. Czech utility ČEZ receives three bids for two new reactors at Temelin. European Commission closes Areva-Siemens antitrust investigation. The United Kingdom’s Nuclear Decommissioning Authority considers options for managing plutonium stockpile. Belarus making progress on path to nuclear power. ASME certifies UAE’s Emirates Steel for nuclear work. India’s NPCIL gets new chief as Jain goes to WANO.
WASTE MANAGEMENT
Hanford Site’s S Reactor placed in safe storage; Waste Treatment Plant construction schedule delayed. Justice Department sides with NRC in Yucca Mountain lawsuit.

INDUSTRY
Westinghouse, Curtiss-Wright Flow Control form alliance; other business developments. Global Power Equipment Group awarded $150-million contract for work at Columbia nuclear plant; other contracts. NRC receives reports on issues with four new products, updates of two earlier reports.

RESEARCH
Researchers at CERN’s Large Hadron Collider may have found the Higgs boson (or not). R&D magazine’s 2012 R&D 100 Awards recognize eight nuclear-related innovations.

ISOTOPES & RADIATION
NRC imposes fine against radiography firm, proposes fine against an Air Force hospital.

FUEL
Canadian workers exposed to yellowcake from U.S. facility. Aldershot Resources acquires Royal Uranium; Alliance Resources forms alliance with Itochu Corporation. Mining operations may restart in Hungary’s Mecsek Hills.

EDUCATION, TRAINING & WORKFORCE
European Nuclear Energy Leadership Academy to cease operations. Entergy, Excelsior College collaborate to address workforce needs.

STANDARDS
Comments requested on two ANS standards. Comments requested on ANSI/NIRMA standard. NRC proposes three regulatory guides; other actions.

Coming up . . .
September—Report on the ANS 2012 Annual Meeting
October—Special Section on Nuclear Power Plant Maintenance (See insert on pp. 22A-B)

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