FEATURE ARTICLE
Hybrid baseload nuclear power for variable electricity and fuels
by Charles Forsberg

SPECIAL REPORT: 2012 ANS ANNUAL MEETING
ANS Annual Meeting: Managing the global impact of economic and natural events
Embedded Topical Meeting: International Congress on Advances in Nuclear Power Plants (ICAPP 2012)
Embedded Topical Meeting: Decommissioning, Decontamination, and Reutilization (DD&R 2012)

POWER
NRC suspends final licensing decisions. NRC issues bulletin on off-site power vulnerability. Basemat concrete work for new Vogtle reactors allowed pending NRC review of amendment request. Security returns to NRC’s Reactor Oversight Process, changes reactors’ status. Focus on Finance. Three reactors to receive more NRC oversight, one less. INPO report on lessons learned from Fukushima Daiichi accident is made public. Maximizing the Assets: A status report on license renewal and power uprates. Safety evaluation reports with open items issued for Davis-Besse, Limerick license renewal applications. Safety review of COL application for Lee-1 and -2 goes to at least late 2013. STARS Alliance revamped to take on more tasks. (Also see Call for Papers, pp. 91–94, for the 2013 ANS Annual Meeting, June 16–20, in Atlanta, Ga.)

SECURITY
Three antiwar/antinuclear activists breach security at Y-12 National Security Complex. NNSA approves $3 million for security R&D; other news. Nuclear security to receive a boost from space technology. DHS allocates over $1.3 billion for antiterror programs.

INTERNATIONAL
Defect indications found in Belgium’s Doel-3 reactor vessel. Belgium revises schedule for reactor closures. Japan’s road map for the decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi is revised. Tsunami defense upgrades at Japan’s Hamaoka nuclear station to take an extra year. Finland’s Olkiluoto-3 start date delayed until 2015. France’s Bugey-2 cleared for 10 more years of operation. Sweden’s Vattenfall to investigate the possibility of building new reactors to replace existing ones. The United Kingdom’s Nuclear Decommissioning Authority takes ownership of German plutonium.
Department of Energy awards nearly $13 million in nuclear energy innovation grants.

DOE transforming Oak Ridge legacy site into industrial park. Black cells at Hanford Site’s Waste Treatment Plant to be assessed. Spent fuel at La Crosse site transferred to dry cask storage.

Chicago Bridge & Iron acquires the Shaw Group. Westinghouse and Vitkovice team up; other business developments. Bechtel signs agreement with China Nuclear Power Engineering Corporation; other contracts. Enidine reports discrepancies regarding transducers, filter regulator to NRC. Vendors report defects in timing relay, valve seal cup.

NEA/IAEA publication Uranium 2011: Resources, Production and Demand predicts that uranium supply will be able to meet projected demand. Honeywell evaluating post-Fukushima upgrades at Metropolis Works uranium conversion facility. Canada and China sign agreement on uranium trade.

NRC revises regulations regarding the distribution of sealed radiation sources containing by-product material.

New ANSI/ANS standard published; other actions. ANS answers inquiry on ANSI/ANS standard. NRC issues five information notices, other documents.