A strategic approach to improved EPU implementation
BY DAN O’LOUGHLIN

NRC approves proposed rule on emergency core cooling systems cladding acceptance criteria. NRC hears arguments for and against filtered containment venting systems. NRC upgrades status of five power reactors in Reactor Oversight Process action matrix. One hearing request denied, another under review concerning issues at San Onofre. NRC commissioners briefed on status of Fort Calhoun; no restart target date set. ASLB to hold hearing on Fermi-3 license application in late October or early November. Renaissance Watch: An update on developments that may lead to new power reactors. Challenges to Davis-Besse and Seabrook license renewals rejected. NRC to consider petition concerning solar flares. Massachusetts asks NRC to revise its regulations for spent fuel pools. NRC issues revised format for mandatory hearings on license and license renewal applications. NINA’s request that ASLB proceed with hearing on license application for South Texas-3 and -4 is held in abeyance; other licensing developments.

EnergySolutions sold to private equity firm Energy Capital Partners. Savannah River Site contemplates its role in spent fuel management. Environmental groups say NRC’s waste confidence review is being rushed. ASLB to hold hearing on Prairie Island ISFSI license renewal. Private Fuel Storage asks NRC to terminate license for spent fuel storage facility in Utah.

New firm chosen to manage Y-12 complex and Pantex Plant. U.S. government thwarts efforts to export sensitive material. Report criticizes DOE’s cybersecurity management.

Regulators approve restart of South Korea’s Yonggwang-5 and -6. Posiva submits final waste repository application to Finnish government. China begins construction of HTR-PM demonstration plant. Construction begins on China’s Tianwan-3. Negotiations for three Polish companies to join nuclear project can continue into March. Agreement allows Russia to supply nuclear material to United Arab Emirates. Electricité de France to reinforce basemat at Fessenheim-1. German utilities may seek halt to Gorleben funding. U.K. government sets out Supply Chain Action Plan.
FUEL  57

Open cut mining completed at Energy Resources of Australia’s Ranger mine. Australian minister delays decision on Wiluna uranium project. European Uranium Resources signs accord with the Slovak government. Peninsula Energy to acquire ARSA’s assets in South Africa; Cameco completes acquisition of Nukem Energy GmbH.

EDUCATION, TRAINING & WORKFORCE  59

Admissions to the University of Missouri’s Nuclear Science and Engineering Institute put on hold. National Nuclear Gateway project in the United Kingdom is approved. DOE announces education and infrastructure grants.

ISOTOPES & RADIATION  62

Radiation dose to astronauts on mission to Mars deemed tolerable.

INDUSTRY  63

Toshiba acquires Nuclear Energy Holdings’ interest in Westinghouse; other business developments. TVA reports that valve pin break was result of manufacturing defect. U.K. nuclear submarine contract awarded to BAE Systems; other contracts.

STANDARDS & DOCUMENTATION  65