

Where do I begin?

I'm thinking about wallpaper or rather, how to remove it. Please indulge me, as my wife and I just bought a new (old) house, and as any homeowner can attest, one's attention is quickly consumed with the innumerable projects that cry for attention—the furnace needs tuning, the windows need recaulking, the fence painting, and yes, the wallpaper needs peeling. It can be overwhelming. The trick is to make a list, prioritize, and then just get busy knocking the tasks off one by one.

It can be equally overwhelming taking over the editorship of a long-standing and respected publication such as *Radwaste Solutions*, a position I likewise now find myself in (you now see where I was going with the home projects stuff). That I am taking over from such a capable editor as Nancy Zacha, this publication's previous editor, only makes the challenge that much more daunting. Nancy knows her stuff, and she created a magazine to be proud of. I only hope that I can continue what she started.

To provide a bit of background, I most recently was an associate editor for ANS's flagship publication, *Nuclear News*, and wrote the Waste Management news section each month (among others, as well as features and meeting reports) for the past two years. That experience, I believe, has provided me with a bit of hands-on knowledge regarding the subject matter of *Radwaste Solutions*.

In addition, I have a great team to help me on this project. Betsy Tompkins and Chris Salvato are continuing their roles as publisher and desktop editor, respectively, and Christine Yoelin has come on board as my eagle-eyed copy editor. The advertising team of Jeff Mosses, Erica McGowan, and Jessica Vazquez also will be there to guide me along. (And I hope that Nancy will be willing to put down her bridge hand long enough to return my desperate calls for advice.)

Returning to the home maintenance metaphor, the key to any home-improvement project is to have

a good foundation on which to build. I believe we've done that with this issue, starting with the theme of low-level waste as our base. Lisa Edwards, of the Electric Power Research Institute, builds on that topic with a look at the collaborative research her organization is doing to help reduce the volume of LLW generated by commercial nuclear power plants (page 17). Edwards presented her article as the Hodes Honor Award lecture at this year's Waste Management Conference, held March 2–6, in Phoenix, Ariz.

Next, we turn to Hanford, where despite widespread media reports of leaky tanks and cost overruns, great progress is being made in cleaning up the site's River Corridor. Earlier this year, using hydraulic lifts, contractors removed two heavy pieces of equipment for disposal at Hanford's LLW disposal facility. The photo feature beginning on page 22 shows some of the heavy-lift equipment in action.

Rounding out the LLW theme is a report on a panel discussion of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's proposed changes to its LLW disposal rules, and in particular, the pros and cons of updating the waste classification tables in 10 CFR Part 61.55. That panel session was held at the 2014 Waste Management Conference, and during the discussion it became clear that no matter what side of the issue you may be on, once you start peeling back the layers of regulations you can never quite be sure what you'll find (much like peeling off wallpaper . . . but I digress). Read the report for yourself, starting on page 32.

Our list of tasks is not done there, however. Within our feature stories we also delve into the Department of Energy's road map for the recovery of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, N.M. (page 34). As I write this, crews are going into the mine in an effort to determine what caused the radiological release that occurred on February 14, and new information is coming in every day. Then, on page



The start of any daunting project, like a long journey, begins with the first step.

38, we present an excerpt of an International Atomic Energy Agency report on the decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The excerpt concerns the efforts of Tokyo Electric Power Company to manage radioactive water at the site, which is proving to be an enormous challenge. Finally, we nail down our coverage of the 2014 Waste Management Conference with some highlights from the meeting (page 42).

So there you have it, my first issue as editor of *Radwaste Solutions*. I trust you will like it, as well as the issues to follow. You might notice that I may add a few personal touches—hang a few pictures, put up new curtains—to make it my own, but the solid structure built by our previous and current staff, our contributors, and yes, you our readers, will stay the same. And seriously, if you have any wallpaper tips, send them to me at editor@radwastesolutions.org.—*Tim Gregoire, Editor*