Nuclear News



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Volume 59, Number 4



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Power

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Bechtel takes charge of mPower development. The latest milestone in the construction of Vogtle-3 was reached on March 6. NRC staff considers lingering Levy design issues to be resolved. Watts Bar-2 startup awaits completion of preoperational tests. Renaissance Watch: An update on developments that may lead to new power reactors. NRC issues 2015 performance appraisals for all power reactors. Pilgrim found to comply with two post-Fukushima orders. Outside requests for NRC action on safety issues met with mixed results. Seabrook environmental impact statement upheld; other license renewal developments. NRC issues guidance on changes to NFPA 805 use. NRC audits seismic data for North Anna-3; other licensing actions. (See also Call for Papers, pp. 75–78, for the 2016 ANS Winter Meeting, November 6–10, 2016, Las Vegas, Nev.)

Security

U.S.–South Korea commission launched to address spent fuel issues and other nonproliferation matters. Last separated plutonium removed from Switzerland. NRC concerned about impact of OSHA findings at Palisades. Paraguay has ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Policy & Legislation

House of Representatives passes nuclear R&D bill. House requests GAO probe into Yucca Mountain. Legislators support lawsuit against Clean Power Plan. Senators ask GAO to conduct study on NRC's use of requests for additional information. Kentucky Senate approves bill to allow nuclear power plant construction.

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International

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Molten salt reactor design to be reviewed by Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. IAEA assists effort against Zika virus. France's president backs EDF's Hinkley Point C in United Kingdom. Japanese district court halts operation of Takahama-3 and -4. Bruce Power CEO leaves for U.K.'s Horizon Nuclear. Cold hydro tests completed at UAE's Barakah-1 and China's Taishan-1. Sweden's Oskarshamn-1 will close at the end of June 2017.

Waste Management

DOE states preference for greater-than-Class C waste disposal at Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. Acceptance testing of Kurion's prototype Modular Detritiation System completed. Gloveboxes removed from Hanford's Plutonium Finishing Plant. New finding predicts subsurface fluid flow. New americium-243 separation method developed at Idaho National Laboratory.

Industry

General Fusion receives \$9.6-million grant; other business developments. Westinghouse gets TVA, ČEZ work; other contracts. Nonconformances in AP1000 welds, supports still being evaluated.

Isotopes & Radiation

SHINE Medical Technologies receives construction permit for molybdenum-99 production facility.

Fuel

USGS studies environmental impacts of uranium mining. Environmental review planned for Kendrick expansion area. Cameco, CanAlaska plan joint venture.

Standards & Documentation

Comments requested on three standards. ANS answers inquiry on ANSI/ANS-3.4-2013. NRC issues interim staff guidance on tornado missiles, mitigation strategies.

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