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ANS Headquarters

GENERAL NUMBER

708/352-6611

Fax 708/352-0499

Web site <www.ans.org>

NUCLEAR NEWS ADVERTISING
708/579-8226, 800/NUC-NEWS
Fax 708/352-6464

Web site <www.ans.org/advertising>
e-mail <advertising@ans.org>

NUCLEAR NEWS EDITORIAL
708/579-8245

Fax 708/352-6464

e-mail <nucnews@ans.org>

INTERNATIONAL EDITOR
(DICK KOVAN)

+44 1737 842687

e-mail <dkovan@compuserve.com>

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FEATURE ARTICLE

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A look ahead at some fuel issues for 2010

BY RICK MICHAL

INTERNATIONAL

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United Arab Emirates awards contract for four reactors to South Korea-led consortium. Lithuania's Ignalina-2 shut down on New Year's Eve. Two Chinese-French EPR joint ventures given official go-ahead. China and France to increase nuclear cooperation. India and Russia expand nuclear cooperation agreement. Canadian government seeks investors for AECL. New nuclear plant in Saskatchewan put on hold. France's CEA aims to take lead in low-carbon technology. Russia's Rosatom and En+ Group form joint venture to produce lead-bismuth fast reactor. IAEA's INPRO poised for further achievements. IAEA's D&D forum highlights new initiatives.

POWER

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NRC affirms ESP/LWA for Vogtle-3 and -4. Appeals court denies challenge to NRC's stance on on-site spent fuel storage. NRC directs ASLB to reconsider contention in Summer-2 and -3 licensing proceeding. Renaissance Watch: An update on developments that may lead to new power reactor orders and construction. NRC issues final rule on alternative to requirements for protection against pressurized thermal shock events. New Jersey may require cooling towers at Oyster Creek; Exelon says it would have to close plant. NRC's authority to restore canceled Bellefonte construction permits upheld. Costs may spur part-owner to get out of South Texas-3 and -4 project. Public hearing for Watts Bar-2 license application to follow issuance of final EIS, SER in 2011. NRC reaches settlement agreement with TVA. Web access, facilitator training boost openness at NRC. No contentions admitted in Bell Bend licensing proceeding; other licensing developments. News analysis: Will Jaczko's NRC impede new reactors?

SECURITY

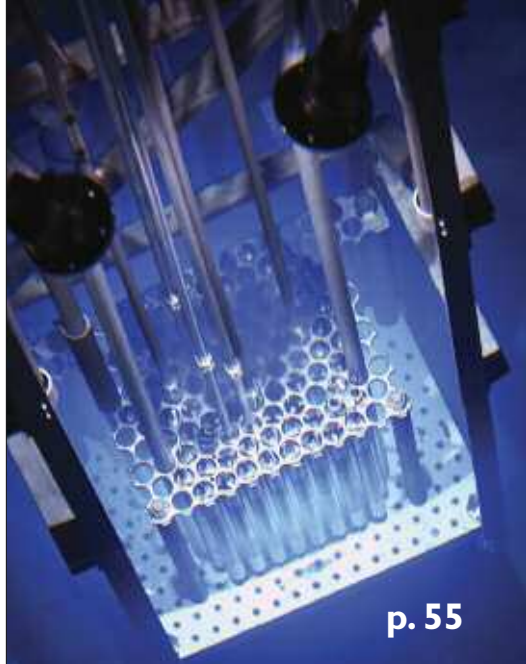
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GAO investigates public release of sensitive nuclear information. U.S., Cambodia agree to secure seaport cargo.

FUEL

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International Isotopes submits license application for uranium deconversion and fluorine extraction plant. NRC issues confirmatory action letter to Nuclear Fuel Services. Kazakhstan is top uranium producer for 2009. Malawi uranium mine not affected by earthquakes. Uranium One buys 50 percent of Karatau mine.



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Penn State research reactor license is renewed. Grand Gulf puts reactor operators to the test. DOE funds workforce, education research. UT-Knoxville, ORNL establish fellowship. GSE Systems trains instructor, operator candidates for Southern Nuclear. NRC issues information notice on emergency contacts for nonpower reactors.

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Coming up ...

March—12th Annual Reference Issue

April—Special Section on Outage Management

Mid-April—Nuclear News Buyers Guide 2010 (See pp. 25–26, 43–44)

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