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p. 47

FEATURE ARTICLES

VCU program makes big strides in just five years

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More than 100 miles of piping being installed
in one WTP facility

BY RICK MICHAL 46

POWER

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AP1000 certified, COL applicants still waiting. NINA wins partial initial ASLB decision on South Texas-3 and -4, disputes NRC staff on ownership. Renaissance Watch: An update on developments that may lead to new power reactors. Nine Mile Point-2 gets 15 percent power uprate. Exelon-Constellation merger gains on two fronts. August earthquake exceeded North Anna-3 early site permit design limits. ACRS backs Levy new reactor licensing; new contentions denied. Unanalyzed conditions noted at four plants. ASLB named for Limerick license renewal; Grand Gulf-1 docketed. Four reactors downrated in NRC oversight; a fifth may go further. \$140 000 fine proposed for River Bend operators' Internet use. Progressive Policy Institute calls for risk perspective on nuclear. Roughly one-year delay in PSEG early site permit schedule. First partial hearing set for Calvert Cliffs -3; other licensing actions. Four issue summaries, two information notices released.

SECURITY

34

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moves its Doomsday Clock to five minutes to midnight. Refurbishment to go ahead at Y-12; other NNSA news. Pakistani national sentenced for illegal nuclear exports.

INTERNATIONAL

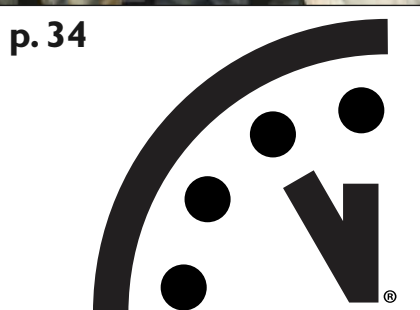
40

All parties in Fukushima Daiichi accident assigned blame by Japanese commission. Japan approves nuclear cooperation agreements with four countries. Lithuania signs interim pact with Hitachi for ABWR. French nuclear regulator calls for post-Fukushima upgrades. Commercial start for Finland's Olkiluoto-3 delayed to August 2014. Canada's Bruce Power decides against new-reactor project in Alberta. IAEA coordinates 24 countries in monitoring of Fukushima radionuclides in Pacific Ocean. Regulators in United Arab Emirates and South Korea sign new agreement.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

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NRC seeks public comment on spent fuel storage report related to "waste confidence." Draft EIS issued for proposed uranium deconversion facility in New Mexico. France's high-level waste repository project enters industrial design phase.



FUEL

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Interior Department imposes 20-year ban on new mining claims near Grand Canyon. Cameco's Cigar Lake mine shaft reaches working area. Moratorium on mining claims lifted in Labrador Inuit Lands in Canada.

ISOTOPES & RADIATION

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Study casts doubt on linearity of radiation dose response at very low levels. NRC imposes, proposes fines totaling \$20 500.

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NSA works with EPM, acquires Omicron assets; other business developments. Part 21 issues found by three companies. Three deals for Areva worth more than \$1 billion; other contracts.

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Standard approved; comments requested.

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Coming up ...

March—14th Annual Reference Issue

April—Special Section on Outage Management

Mid-April—43rd Annual Buyers Guide (see pp. 26a-b, 42a-b)

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