Nuclear News

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Coming up ...

October—Special Section on Nuclear Power Plant Maintenance December—Special Section on Advanced Reactors

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Post-Fukushima safety enhancements to nuclear power plants By James F. Gleason, Joe Hale, Claude Thibault, and Edward L. Quinn

POWER

A National Academy of Sciences panel says NRC, industry should go further in response to the Fukushima Daiichi accident. Phase 2 of safety review for the Fermi-3 license application is finished ahead of schedule. Entergy opposes Indian Point summer shutdown proposal. Focus on Finance. ANO moved to column three of NRC's Reactor Oversight Process action matrix. Unanalyzed conditions discovered at River Bend, Diablo Canyon. Tritium, cobalt-60 found in groundwater at Callaway; tritium spill at Dresden poses no hazard. New contention denied in license renewal proceeding for Davis-Besse. Maximizing the Assets: A status report on license renewal and power uprates. One ITAAC closed, one confirmed by NRC for Summer-2. Final environmental impact statement for North Anna-3 license application needs no supplements; other licensing updates. (See also Call for Papers, pp. 61–63, for the 2015 ANS Annual Meeting, June 7–11, in San Antonio, Texas.)

SECURITY

Government Accountability Office finds that NNSA reforms may have increased security risks at some sites; other NNSA news. India's Additional Protocol enters into force.

INTERNATIONAL

Agreement reached to build an AP1000 reactor at Kozloduy nuclear plant site in Bulgaria. Taiwan's Lungmen-1 reactor to be "sealed" pending referendum. Two new CANDU reactors planned for Cernavoda site in Romania. SNC-Lavalin and China National Nuclear Corporation sign MOU on nuclear-related projects. China to take part in Argentina's Atucha-3 PHWR project. Tepco issues update on Fukushima investigation. South Africa's energy minister aims to push nuclear plan forward.

On the cover: Units 1 and 2 at the Fukushima Daiichi site in Japan tower above a worker. Post-Fukushima studies have determined that changes to safety standards should be made so that nuclear power plants are better able to withstand severe accidents caused by natural hazards. See "Post-Fukushima safety enhancements to nuclear power plants," which begins on page 32. (Photo: Greg Webb/IAEA/April 17, 2013)

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

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WIPP cited for workplace violations; leak update. Waste processing facility at Savannah River Site to get new ventilation system. NRC's waste management and materials safety offices to merge. NRC to allow decommissioning funds to be used to manage spent fuel at Zion.

MEETINGS

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Topical Meeting: Nuclear Fuels and Structural Materials, June 17–19, 2014, Reno, Nev.

INDUSTRY

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GE Hitachi, Iberdrola to cooperate on advancement of PRISM reactor technology; other business developments. Lloyd's and Lightbridge win UAE contract; other news. Six new 10 CFR Part 21 reports posted, three older ones updated.

RESEARCH

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R&D Magazine's R&D 100 includes four nuclear-related developments.

FUEL

52

Kintyre project in Western Australia receives environmental approval. NRC lifts order on seismic upgrades at Honeywell Metropolis Works; union workers locked out. Prototype SiC fuel assembly cover manufactured.

ISOTOPES & RADIATION

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NRC seeks input on aligning radiation protection regulations with recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection. NRC proposes amendments to address issues in the area of nuclear medicine. NRC reduces fine against Geisser Engineering.

STANDARDS & DOCUMENTATION 56

Standards approved, comments requested. NRC issues draft generic letter on natural hazards in fuel cycle facilities, other documents.

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