Nuclear News

October 2014

EDITORIAL

Volume 57, Number I I





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Coming up ...

December—Special Section on Advanced Reactors

January—Special Section on Education, Training & Workforce Issues

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Predictive maintenance keeps plant operational

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Dealing with "cumulative impact" in plant maintenance BY E. MICHAEL BLAKE

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POWER 20

PG&E says new 3-D study confirms Diablo Canyon seismic safety. Vogtle-3 pressurizer delivered to site. TVA says that Watts Bar-2 commercial start remains on schedule; final SER delayed again. Georgia Power maintains that Vogtle-3 and -4 are on schedule. Limerick EIS, Callaway SER issued for license renewal; ASLB named for Fermi-2. Spent fuel contentions dismissed in Callaway, Seabrook renewal cases. NRC issues mid-cycle assessment letter for all operable reactors. Renaissance Watch: An update on developments that may lead to new power reactors. Blue Castle Project plans AP1000s, COL application to follow ESP. NRC approves new public contact office, hears staff options to revise foreign ownership position. Turkey Point-6 and -7 safety review schedule set; other licensing actions.

SECURITY 3

Navy expels 34 for reactor exam cheating. National Nuclear Security Administration dedicates new National Security Campus; other NNSA news. Senators seek more funding for nonproliferation in FY 2016 federal budget. NRC amends security information regulations for large irradiators.

INTERNATIONAL

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Olkiluoto-3 commercial start delayed to 2018. Every nuclear utility in Japan has now applied for restart permission for at least one reactor. Partnership agreement reached for nuclear power plant project in Poland. Argentina signs framework agreement with China to develop Atucha-3. U.S.-based Lightbridge Corporation to assist civil nuclear regulator in Vietnam. United Kingdom regulators start Step 3 of ABWR design assessment. Heysham, Hartlepool reactors expected back on line by year end. China announces launch of indigenous Generation III reactor design. Argonne National Laboratory, Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute collaborate on Generation IV reactor design.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

H Canyon modifications finished at Savannah River Site. Generic environmental impact statement issued for spent fuel continued storage rule. NRC approves Kewaunee emergency plan exemptions.

MEETINGS

Utility Working Conference: Reevaluating work and its costs.

INDUSTRY

Radiation Safety & Control Services acquires Millennium Services; other business developments. Westinghouse gets pump, fuel contracts; other pacts. More ripple effects from too-low Steris Isomedix irradiation; other Part 21 reports.

EDUCATION, TRAINING & WORKFORCE

DOE invests \$67 million in university and laboratory grants. NRC Commissioner Magwood attends South Carolina State University ABET reaccreditation event. NRC awards \$15 million in education grants. Savannah River contractor signs pact to support local education.

RESEARCH

First plant system hardware delivered to ITER. Ion-beam technique found to emulate reactor aging.

FUEL

USEC reorganization plan confirmed by federal bankruptcy court. Uranium supply, demand continue to increase. Progress made on NRC licensing issues. Several uranium mining properties change hands.

ISOTOPES & RADIATION

Niowave to seek Mo-99 production license; Coquí presents Mo-99 production plan to NRC. DOE affirms partial germanium-68 production withdrawal. NRC takes Georgia agreement state program off probation.

STANDARDS & DOCUMENTATION 107

Standards approved, comments requested. NRC issues strategic plan for FY 2014-2018, other documents.

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