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FEATURE ARTICLE

Challenges and strategies for nuclear energy policy in JapanBY TADAO YANASE

POWER

NuStart applies for COL for two reactors at Bellefonte. Renaissance Watch: An update on developments that may lead to new power reactor orders and construction. Elevated tritium readings reported at three plants. NRC holds special inspections at Byron, Fermi-2, ANO. Toshiba may apply in 2009 for approval of 4S design. Oconee-1 and -2 shifted to second ROP column. Valve test failures at Farley lead to "yellow" oversight finding. Beaver Valley license renewal application docketed. NRC orders actions over falsified records at Palo Verde.

SECURITY

DOE's SNM storage, disposal plan a few years behind schedule. Pipe bomb causes sevenhour lockdown at Palo Verde. NRC sends second review team to Peach Bottom. Mongolia, Slovakia help thwart nuclear smuggling.

INTERNATIONAL

Asia-Pacific project to map marine contamination. Work begins on Chinese-U.S. neutrino experiment. China's State Council approves plans for 23 GWe of new nuclear capacity by 2020. Fennovoima to conduct environmental impact assessment at three potential plant sites in Finland. Russia's Rosatom to become a state corporation. Japan's METI to strengthen cooperation with potential new nuclear power countries. Nuclear engineering center to be built in Yokohama. Minor actinide burnup to be tested in Japan's breeders. IAEA response to nuclear trafficking is strengthening. National Research Universal reactor at Chalk River, in Ontario, achieves 50th anniversary of first criticality. IAEA forecasts uncertain over "renaissance."

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NAS committee issues draft report opposing GNEP. Sproat stresses need for Yucca Mountain funding at House committee hearing. NRC reports on high-priority LLW tasks as Barnwell closure nears.

INDUSTRY

Rolled Alloys acquires U.K.'s Super Alloys; other business developments. USEC to enrich fuel for Korea Hydro & Nuclear; other contracts.

RESEARCH

GAO questions DOE on ITER costs, other fusion options. ITER HQ agreement gets French legal status.

ISOTOPES & RADIATION

NRC denies petition, maintains training hour levels for radioactive drug therapy.

FUEL

Tenex asks Cameco to renegotiate deal on weapons-derived uranium.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

National academy for nuclear-related skills opens in United Kingdom. U.K.'s Lancaster University establishes post in nuclear engineering and decommissioning. Nuclear worker receives above-normal dose at MIT. Penn State research reactor may have leak.

STANDARDS

Standards approved, other actions.

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Coming up ...

January—Report on the 2007 ANS/ENS International Meeting March—10th Annual Reference Issue





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