

Insight

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007

Nuclear Energy Revival Enters New-Plant Licensing Phase

Revitalized interest in building new nuclear power plants in the United States has reached a new phase: the submission of license applications to federal authorities.

In July, UniStar Nuclear became the first company to submit a portion of its combined construction and operating license (COL) application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. UniStar submitted the environmental section of its application.

Although the joint Constellation Energy-AREVA consortium is the first to submit a partial license application, companies could send COL applications for as many as four new reactors by year's end. Altogether, 17 companies and consortia have announced plans to submit license applications for up to 31 reactors in the next few years.

The carbon footprint for a nuclear power plant ... is less than every other electric generating source except hydro."

—Adrian Heymer
Nuclear Energy Institute

The licensing phase is one of the first steps in nuclear plant construction. Interest in building new reactors has found support among policymakers at the local, state and national levels. That renewed interest is the product of several converging factors, according to Adrian Heymer, senior director of new-plant development at the Nuclear Energy Institute.

"There is a need for more power as we see continuing electricity demand and tightening supply,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONSTELLATION ENERGY

UniStar Nuclear became the first company to submit a partial license application for a new reactor at Constellation Energy's Calvert Cliffs plant in Maryland.

Heymer said. "We also see a need for power that emits little or no greenhouse gases. In fact, the carbon footprint for a nuclear power plant, based on the amount of carbon dioxide emitted through the entire power-generation cycle, is less than every other electric generating source except hydro."

An International Energy Agency analysis found that nuclear power's life-cycle emissions range from 2 to 59 gram-equivalents of carbon dioxide per kilowatt-hour, while hydropower's range from 2 to 48 gram-equivalents of carbon dioxide per kilowatt-hour. Nuclear energy life-cycle emissions include emissions associated with construction of the plant, mining and processing the fuel, routine operation of the plant, disposal of used fuel and other waste byproducts, and decommissioning. Nuclear plants do not generate greenhouse gases during operation.

Nuclear energy's life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions are generally lower than wind (7 to 124 gram-equivalents) and solar photovoltaic (13 to 731 gram-equivalents), according to the agency. The life-cycle emissions from natural gas-fired plants range from 389 to 511 gram-equivalents of carbon dioxide per kilowatt-hour.

Policymakers from the statehouse to the White House are touting nuclear energy's benefits. "For Democrats and nuclear energy, the landscape has changed rather significantly," Iowa State Rep. Phil Wise, a Democrat, wrote in a July 6 op-ed in the Des Moines Register. "This brings with it the possibility of a fresh, bipartisan consensus on nuclear power. Why? Because nuclear power works. It is safe. It is environmentally benign. And because the 'times they have changed.'"

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NEI Launches Redesigned Web Site

Change is the only constant, and nowhere is that more evident than on the Internet. The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) is the latest to embrace the ever-changing nature of the online community with a redesigned, retooled and updated Web site.

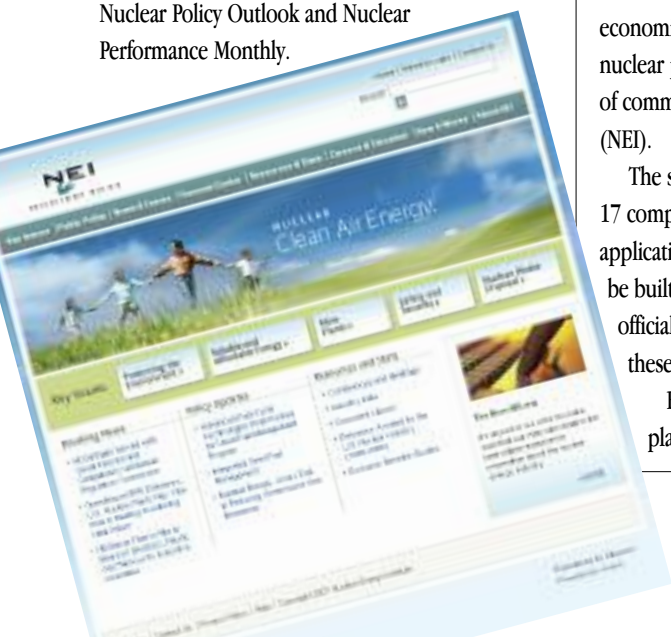
The site, www.nei.org, serves as the information hub and news resource for nuclear energy and technology. The site discusses how nuclear power plants work, nuclear energy policy, plans for new reactors and the environmental benefits of clean-air nuclear power.

The site features a refreshed design, easier navigation, improved organization and brand-new content.

The online News & Events page offers the industry's top stories and NEI news releases. Users also will find links to in-depth resources and statistics, including fact sheets about nuclear energy and briefs detailing the industry's policy positions.

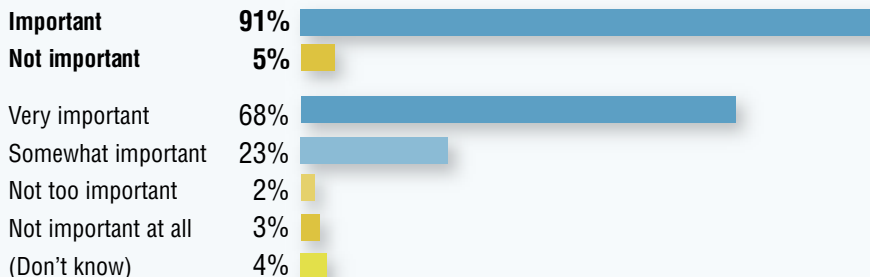
The site also offers information on a wide range of key issues, including environmental protection, reliable and affordable energy, plant safety and security, and integrated used fuel management. Other sections are devoted to public policy, careers and education in the industry, and nuclear technology.

Numerous NEI online publications are also available, including Nuclear Energy Insight, Nuclear Policy Outlook and Nuclear Performance Monthly.



Plant Neighbors Count on Nuclear Power to Meet Energy Needs

Q: How important do you think nuclear energy will be in meeting this nation's electricity needs in the years ahead? Do you think nuclear energy will be very important, somewhat important, not too important or not important at all?



SOURCE: BISCONTI RESEARCH INC./QUEST GLOBAL RESEARCH GROUP

Nuclear Plant Neighbors Put Out Welcome Mat for New Reactors

Eighty-two percent of Americans living in close proximity to nuclear power plants favor nuclear energy, and 71 percent are willing to see a new reactor built near them, according to a new public opinion survey of more than 1,100 adults nationwide.

Favorability was even higher in communities where steps are under way to build new reactors. Three-quarters of respondents in these areas would find a new reactor at the nearest site acceptable, with only 20 percent saying it would not be acceptable.

"It's obvious that people living near nuclear plants have a high degree of familiarity and comfort with nuclear energy and would welcome the economic and environmental benefits of new nuclear plants," said Scott Peterson, vice president of communications at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI).

The survey's findings come at a time when 17 companies have announced plans to file license applications for as many as 31 reactors that could be built over the next 10 to 15 years. Industry officials expect companies to file a handful of these applications by the end of this year.

By a margin of 82 percent to 16 percent, plant neighbors said they favor the use of

nuclear energy as one of the ways to provide electricity in the United States. By a margin of 86 percent to 11 percent, they said they have a favorable impression of the nearby nuclear power plant and the way it has operated recently.

When asked about the company that operates the nearest nuclear power plant, three-quarters agreed that "this company is involved in the community," and 81 percent agreed that "this company is doing a good job of protecting the environment." Eighty-seven percent are confident that the company can operate the plant safely.

NEI commissioned the telephone survey of 1,152 adults living within 10 miles of each of the nation's 65 nuclear plants sites, excluding electric company employees. Bisconti Research Inc., with Quest Global Research Group, conducted the poll, which has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Seventy-nine percent of plant neighbors said they are "very well-informed" or "somewhat well-informed" about the nearest nuclear power plant. Slightly more than three-quarters of the respondents have lived in the area for more than 10 years.

This is the second time NEI has surveyed plant neighbors about their attitudes on nuclear energy. The first was in August 2005.

Safety by Design

'Defense in Depth' Helps Nuclear Power Plants Withstand Earthquakes

When a major earthquake struck the northern coast of Japan in July, the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant responded as designed, shutting down its operating reactors safely.

A "defense in depth" philosophy employed by nuclear plants in Japan, the United States and other nations uses robust plant design and construction and redundant, physically separated safety systems to ensure public health and safety even in severe circumstances like earthquakes.

Nuclear plant seismic design must meet national codes, standards and regulations. Compliance with these standards and regulations ensures there is a substantial safety margin with respect to earthquakes.

Nuclear plants are designed to withstand earthquake-induced ground motions, focusing on systems and components most important to safety, such as critical buildings and systems involved in safely shutting down the plant and keeping it secured. The design of noncritical buildings, such as offices, uses safety standards closer to typical commercial facilities.

This commitment to safe plant operation begins with a detailed evaluation of potential earthquake-



PHOTO BY KOICHI KAMOSHIDA/BETTY IMAGES

The Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant in Japan shut down safely as required during a July earthquake and sustained little damage, the International Atomic Energy Agency concluded after an on-site inspection by its team of seismic experts.

induced ground motion at the site, followed by a thorough analysis and testing of plant structures, systems and equipment, using simulated earthquake-induced vibrations. If a tremor above a specified level affects a plant, officials must perform extensive inspections before a company can restart a reactor.

All U.S. nuclear plants are designed to withstand earthquakes of a magnitude that is equivalent to or greater than the largest known tremor for the region where it is built. Plant operators will shut down the reactor even if the seismic event is well within levels the design can accommodate.

Operators then perform extensive inspections prior to restarting the plant. If an earthquake exceeds the maximum level, the plant cannot restart without U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval, following extensive inspections to determine if it is safe to resume power production.

Each nuclear plant has seismic instrumentation to record earthquake-induced motions at the site. For instance, Kashiwazaki-Kariwa has 97 seismographs on its site. Plant operators use the recordings to evaluate the level of earthquake vibrations at the site and determine if it must shut down. Detailed physical inspections supplement the recordings to evaluate the impact of an earthquake at the site and the condition of the plant structures, systems and equipment. In the event of an earthquake, employees analyze the recordings and the inspection results before restarting the reactor.

Engineers and scientists calculate the potential for earthquake-induced ground motion for a site using a wide range of data. They also review the impacts of historical earthquakes up to 200 miles, with careful study given to those within 25 miles. They use this research to determine the maximum potential earthquake that could affect the site.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO.

In the event of an emergency, such as an earthquake, nuclear plants' personnel and community emergency response organizations work together to ensure public health and safety.

New Licensing Process Allows More Public Input

The next generation of nuclear power plants will benefit from an improved licensing process that gives the public opportunities for early participation and ensures safety is foremost throughout the process.

The federal government licensed most of today's 104 nuclear power plants during the 1960s and 1970s. Commercial nuclear energy was in its early stages, and the regulatory process evolved with the new industry. The regulatory agency issued a construction permit for a plant based on a preliminary design. Safety issues were not fully resolved until the plant was essentially complete—a process that had substantial financial ramifications.

"Some construction projects went really well and were completed in four to four and a half years; others took 14 to 20 years," said Adrian Heymer, senior director of new-plant development at the Nuclear Energy Institute.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1989 established a new, more efficient process for licensing nuclear power plants, and Congress strengthened the new licensing process as part of the 1992 Energy Policy Act.

The process consists of four parts:

- Design certification allows plant designers to secure advance NRC approval of standard nuclear plant designs. Later, companies can order the reactor design, license it for a particular site and build a reactor.
- Early site permitting enables companies to obtain NRC approval for a nuclear power plant site before deciding to build a plant. The process resolves site suitability and environmental issues and allows companies to "bank" sites approved by the NRC for up to 20 years and build when the time is right.
- Combined construction and operating licenses (COLs) focus on ensuring safety during construction and startup of the plant.
- Finally, the NRC uses a series of inspections, tests, analyses and acceptance criteria to assess the new plant. It determines whether the constructed plant conforms to all license requirements and is ready to operate.

Status of New-Plant License Applications			
Company	Site(s)	Design (# of units)	Construction / Operating License Submittal
Alternate Energy Holdings	Bruneau, ID	EPR	FY 2009
Amarillo Power	Vicinity of Amarillo, TX	EPR	FY 2009
AmerenUE	Callaway, MO	EPR	FY 2008
Constellation (UniStar)	Calvert Cliffs, MD, plus two other sites	EPR (3)	First submittal-FY 2008
Detroit Edison	Fermi, MI	Not yet determined	FY 2008
Dominion	North Anna, VA	ESBWR (1)	FY 2008
Duke	William States Lee, Cherokee County, SC	AP1000 (2)	FY 2008
Duke	Davie County, NC	Not yet determined	Not yet determined
Duke	Oconee County, SC	Not yet determined	Not yet determined
Energys	River Bend, LA	ESBWR (1)	FY 2008
Energys (NuStart)	Grand Gulf, MS	ESBWR (1)	FY 2008
Exelon	Clinton, IL	Not yet determined	Not yet determined
Exelon	Matagorda and Victoria County, TX	Not yet determined	FY 2009
Florida Power & Light	Turkey Point, FL	Not yet determined (2)	FY 2009
NRG Energy / STPNOC	Bay City, TX	ABWE (2)	FY 2008
PPL Corp.	Susquehanna, PA	Not yet determined	Not yet determined
Progress Energy	Harris, NC; Levy County, FL	AP1000 (2); AP1000(2)	FY 2008; FY 2008
South Carolina Electric & Gas	Summer, SC	AP1000 (2)	FY 2008
Southern Company	Vogtle, GA	AP1000 (2)	FY 2008
Texas Utilities	Comanche Peak, TX	APWR (2)	FY 2008
TVA (NuStart)	Bellefonte, AL	AP1000 (2)	FY 2008

To improve the process of preparing applications and NRC review, the industry is using templates based on specific plant designs, Heymer explained. Here's how it will work: Five companies and consortia have chosen Westinghouse's AP1000 as the preferred design for 12 reactors. The Tennessee Valley Authority expects to submit a COL to the NRC, most likely in October, for its Bellefonte plant in Alabama. This would serve as the reference application for other companies preparing AP1000 COL submittals.

"After the NRC's review of the first application, subsequent reviews will look for inconsistencies and focus on unique site-specific issues," Heymer said. "At least 70 percent of the applications should be the same, and that figure may be as high as 80 percent."

As a result, COL preparation and review time could be reduced substantially, he said. Heymer predicted that companies using this approach could reduce license preparation time from 24 to 12 months. The NRC review and approval process could decrease from 42 to 24 months, if the NRC already has granted an early site permit. Construction of safety systems and structures would likely take four years.

Another shortcoming of the previous process was that the public did not have access to the details of the design until construction was almost finished. The new process offers more opportunity for public involvement earlier in the process. "Before, there were two public comment periods, and now there are four," Heymer noted. "Also, the public has more information earlier in the process."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEOLLISUUDEN VOIMA OY/AREVA

Construction work at Finland's Olkiluoto 3 reactor continues with a work force that has reached 2,000.

What's Needed to Build a Reactor

When it comes to building new nuclear power plants, ordering materials at the neighborhood hardware store is out of the question. These concrete-and-steel behemoths require an extensive and substantial inventory of materials that must meet exacting safety standards.

The chart below describes the bulk materials needed for construction of an average nuclear power plant based on four designs: AREVA's U.S. EPR, Westinghouse Electric Co.'s AP1000, and General Electric's ESBWR and ABWR. To put these figures into perspective, the Empire State Building contains 60,000 tons of steel and 62,000 cubic yards of concrete.

These figures may seem large, but they represent a significant reduction in materials when compared to today's nuclear power plants, said Carol Berrigan, director of industry infrastructure at the Nuclear Energy Institute.

There are more than 2,000 miles of cabling in the average nuclear power plant built in the 1960s and 1970s. Today's new designs require

80 percent less cabling.

"As license applications go to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, utilities will start ordering equipment that in turn will provide opportunities for other U.S. companies," Berrigan added. Such companies would provide high-quality products like pumps, cables, turbines and other equipment.

Companies will need about 1,500 to 2,000 construction workers to build each new plant, according to industry estimates. Those workers will need products and services that will attract additional economic activity to an area. Moreover, if two reactors are being built at one plant, those workers could be on site for five years or longer.

Once construction is complete, the plant would require 400 to 500 new permanent workers.

"The industry is working with Congress, educational institutions, suppliers, and local and state policymakers to build a work force for the future and retool and upgrade facilities to provide the materials and equipment we will need to build new plants," Berrigan said.

New Plants from page 1

After touring the Browns Ferry nuclear plant in Alabama this June, President Bush said, "If you are interested in cleaning up the air, then you ought to be an advocate for nuclear power. There is no single solution to climate change, but there can be no solution without nuclear power."

The pace toward new-reactor development is quickening. In August, the Tennessee Valley Authority's board of directors unanimously approved completion of a second reactor at the Watts Bar nuclear power plant in Tennessee.

TVA estimates it will take five years and \$2.5 billion to complete construction on the reactor, which will provide 1,180 megawatts of electricity. The project will require about 2,300 workers during construction. Design and engineering work will begin by October, TVA said.

The plant was 60 percent complete when work stopped in 1985.

"Completing Watts Bar Unit 2 puts an existing asset to work for TVA customers and provides a clean, safe and reliable source of affordable power," said TVA Chairman Bill Sansom.



BILL SANSON

In May, TVA completed a five-year restart project at the Browns Ferry 1 reactor in Alabama, staying within its five-year schedule and projected \$1.8 billion cost. TVA said it would apply lessons learned at Browns Ferry to the Watts Bar project.

Residents within 10 miles of Watts Bar strongly support the expansion, according to a telephone survey of 300 randomly selected adults conducted by Bisconti Research Inc. with Quest Global Research Group. Eighty-eight percent support TVA's decision, and an overwhelming majority—90 percent—rated the plant's safety high.

Also this summer, Entergy Nuclear signed a new nuclear project development agreement with GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy to ensure timely delivery of critical parts for a reactor proposed at its Grand Gulf nuclear plant in Mississippi.

NRG Energy Inc. and STP Nuclear Operating Co. have signed a project services agreement with Toshiba Corp. regarding two reactors planned for the South Texas Project location.

Nuclear Plants Require Extensive Construction Materials

Item	Amount
Concrete	460,000 cubic yards
Reinforcing steel and embedded parts	46,000 tons
Structural steel, misc. steel, decking	25,000 tons
Large-bore pipe	26,000 feet
Small-bore pipe	43,000 feet
Cable tray	220,000 feet
Conduit	1.2 million feet

State Lawmakers Support Building New Nuclear Plants

Legislators around the country are voicing support for new nuclear plant construction to help ease climate change concerns and meet increasing demand for energy.

In some instances, that support has translated into resolutions that embrace nuclear power as a crucial part of the nation's energy mix. Meanwhile, individual states are approving legislation and regulations encouraging new-plant construction within their borders.

State-level support among policymakers is nationwide, as evidenced by a resolution from the American Legislative Exchange Council that embraces building new nuclear plants. The resolution urges Congress and the president to "encourage development of safe new nuclear plants as a key component of American fuel portfolio diversity and energy security."

The resolution acknowledged that the nuclear industry would need to bring on line an additional 50 gigawatts by 2030 just to maintain nuclear energy's present 19.4 percent share of electricity generation. "Many communities and regions have expressed strong support for hosting a new nuclear reactor for the clean, safe and affordable electricity; energy security; employment opportunities; and other economic benefits it could provide," it stated.

In the South, a regional group of 16 legislatures passed two resolutions supporting nuclear energy. The 16 member states of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) noted that a large majority of expected applications for new-reactor licenses would be for sites in the southern United States. Nearly half of the nation's existing nuclear plants—



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTHERN NUCLEAR

State regulators have given Georgia Power permission to explore building new nuclear plants, including two reactors at its Vogtle site.

45 reactors at 26 sites—produce electricity in SLC member states.

To increase that number, the SLC encouraged policymakers to fund nuclear energy research and development, including engineering and design work for advanced reactors. Policymakers also must help reduce the regulatory risks associated with construction of advanced reactors, and implement investment stimulus to support nuclear plant construction, the resolutions said.

In one SLC member state, Georgia, the Public Service Commission has given a company permission to explore building new nuclear plants. In July, the commission approved Georgia Power's integrated resource plan for providing economical, reliable electricity to its customers.

The plan included two potential new reactors at Georgia Power's Vogtle site. In its approval, the

commission found "that it is reasonable for the company to investigate the opportunity to build nuclear resources."

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is reviewing an early site permit application for Vogtle. Georgia Power is a subsidiary of Southern Nuclear, which filed the application in 2006 and plans to submit a combined license application next year. Construction could begin in 2011, with the plant going on line in 2016.

Lawmakers in Utah have taken notice of other states' actions regarding nuclear power. As a result, the state legislature's Public Utilities and Technology Interim Committee has instructed its staff to draft nuclear energy-related legislation.

The lawmakers were responding to eight other states' 2006 laws and resolutions that encouraged consideration of new nuclear plants, particularly the Florida Energy Diversity and Efficiency Act, which provided guidance on nuclear power plant permitting and cost recovery.

The Utah legislature also decided to draft legislation about new plants because of the state's membership in the recently signed Western Climate Initiative. Utah—along with five other western states and two Canadian provinces—will identify, evaluate and implement methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The new legislation could help determine if nuclear energy will be one such method.

Now Hear This ...

Minnesota currently generates 15 percent of its energy from the Monticello and Prairie Island nuclear facilities, and I believe nuclear energy can and should play a much stronger role in meeting our energy demand."

— State Rep. Joyce Peppin (R)
Minneapolis Star Tribune, Aug. 7

Belarusian Children Learn ABCs of Nuclear Energy During Visit

Warmth from the summer sun, the smell of hotdogs on the grill and faint cheers from a fishing boat created the perfect backdrop for an American barbeque.

But this time, the picnickers, who enjoyed such a setting at a U.S. nuclear power plant, live thousands of miles away. This summer more than a dozen children from Belarus visited the World of Energy, Oconee Nuclear Station's visitor center. Besides a picnic and boat tour of Lake Keowee, they learned about the operation of the nuclear plant at the Duke Energy site. This marked the second year that many of these children visited the United States.



The children lived with host families for six weeks. The families sponsored the cost of bringing the children from Belarus and coordinated their visit through the American Belarusian Relief Organization (ABRO). While in America, the children received free medical, dental and vision care.

For some Belarusian youngsters, a visit to a nuclear power plant causes a mixture of emotions, from fascination to anxiety. In 1986, a safety experiment at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, conducted in violation of the plant's technical specifications, went wrong. A resulting fire released a large amount of radiation into the atmosphere, affecting the people of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

Michael Cousar, an insurance agent from Anderson, S.C., and host parent, shared his Belarusian child's reaction upon arriving at the plant. "As we pulled up to the main security entrance of the station, with the three reactor



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DUKE ENERGY

A picnic at Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station drew smiles from the Belarusian children who participated in this summer's visit to South Carolina.

buildings towering off in the distance, Vlad, the Belarusian child living with my family, motioned with his hands an explosion and yelled, 'no go, no don't go.' "

Belarusian children learn about the Chernobyl accident, and photographs of what happened are displayed around their country. "Once Vlad arrived at the World of Energy, he relaxed and quickly realized he was safe and had a wonderful day," Cousar added.

Jason Walls of Duke Energy community affairs hosted the children at the World of Energy. "This event provides a first-hand opportunity for these children to see the safe operation of a nuclear plant and enjoy the natural beauty of Lake Keowee in the mountains of South Carolina," Walls said.

Bert Spear, an engineer at Oconee, and his family have served as hosts for their Belarusian child, Anastasiya Liavonenka, for the past two years. "ABRO is a great program and provides the Belarusian children with an opportunity to improve their health and to enjoy some of the South Carolina summer activities with host families," Spear said.

"Anastasiya is a part of our family while she's

here and became close friends with my youngest daughter, Katie. Katie is learning Russian, and the two girls plan to keep in touch by telephone after Anastasiya returns to Belarus. Our family benefits from this experience by learning about the country, people and culture of Belarus," Spear added.



Anastasiya Liavonenka from Mogilev, Belarus, toured the Duke Energy plant's visitor center during the exchange program.

Women in Nuclear Focuses on Building Future Work Force

The nuclear energy industry has a lot of building to do. However, before it can build any of the dozens of new plants under consideration, the industry must build up a diverse work force to staff those plants. That effort is at the heart of U.S. Women in Nuclear's (U.S. WIN) mission.

More than 300 attendees at the organization's annual conference in Anaheim, Calif., discussed this industrywide imperative with an array of speakers that included U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Dale Klein. He spoke about the agency's need to attract more women to its staff.

"For us to succeed as a regulator, we need to attract more women, because there is a changing face in the nuclear industry," Klein said. "Many regulators around the world are and will be women."

Industry executives also discussed the imperative of a growing, diverse work force.

"We need to let people know our industry is expanding and we have the jobs and the careers waiting for them," said Joe Sheppard, president and

chief executive officer of STP Nuclear Operating Co. He said his company likely would hire 1,400 new employees by 2015. STP is considering building two new reactors in Texas.

"Nuclear companies are addressing the technological, regulatory and market challenges that lie ahead. However, the industry needs to increase its focus on assuring that there are sufficient nuclear-trained professionals to staff the rebuilding of America's nuclear industrial base," said John Welch, president and chief executive officer of USEC Inc., which supplies uranium fuel for nuclear reactors.

Each year, U.S. WIN recognizes a member's significant contributions and leadership in the nuclear industry with the Patricia Bryant Leadership Award. This year's recipient, Michele DeWitt, said the award is especially meaningful.

"I think that the objectives and the mission of WIN are ones that are so important to our industry right now," said DeWitt, vice president at Westinghouse Electric Co.



U.S. WIN attendees listen attentively as speakers urge the industry to build a work force of nuclear professionals for the future.

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Editor
JoAnn Sperber
Editorial Assistant
Christy Robinson

Graphic Designer
Rafy Levy
Illustrator
Calvin Haden

Contributing Editors
Jarret Adams
Richard Bickers
Janice Cane
Lynne Neal

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1776 I Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006-3708

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