DATELINE EPRI
News and events update

NRC Briefed on Risk Assessments

ROCKVILLE, Md. – Senior Program Manager Ken Canavan participated in a Feb. 4 briefing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the use of risk-informed, performance-based regulation in the nuclear power industry. Canavan provided EPRI’s perspective on the role of probabilistic risk assessments in nuclear plant operations and maintenance and the need to “socialize” risk technology in a manner similar to safety analysis. He also introduced EPRI’s risk technology learning pyramid, which could be used as part of the socialization process to convey key concepts and benefits of risk technology to entire organizations, including non-risk professionals.

Conference Looks at Commercially Viable CCS

PITTSBURGH, Pa. – EPRI and a variety of agencies and industries joined the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Energy Technology Laboratory to sponsor a conference in Pittsburgh to focus on carbon capture and storage technologies that could be developed and deployed in North America. Participants shared experiences from around the world, as well as information on progress in developing CCS technologies.

International Conference on Coal Ash Returns to Lexington

LEXINGTON, Ky. – EPRI is sponsoring the poster session for the 3rd biennial World of Coal Ash conference, May 4–7, in Lexington. This international conference is organized by the American Coal Ash Association and the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research. It focuses on science, applications, and sustainability of coal ash worldwide, encompassing all aspects of coal combustion and gasification products. For more information, contact Ken Ladwig, keladwig@epri.com.

Workshop Looks at Seismic Designs, Issues

PALO ALTO, Calif. – EPRI hosted a workshop in February to examine issues concerning seismic design standards for new nuclear power plants in the central and eastern United States. More than 60 scientists and engineers from utilities, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Geological Survey, universities, and research organizations around the world discussed seismic modeling alternatives and identified analytical uncertainties. Results will guide the development of a new seismic source model that will support a stable licensing basis for new plants. The project is part of EPRI’s Advanced Nuclear Technology Program and is co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

EPRI Receives Grant to Develop Smart Grid Roadmap

GAITHERSBURG, Md. – EPRI was selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, to develop an “interim roadmap” to move the U.S. toward harmonizing interoperability standards for the smart grid. It is intended to ensure that different vendors’ products will work together effectively, and that consensus standards can drive down the cost of components and systems, reduce the risk of early obsolescence, and spur innovation. Scheduled to be completed by early summer, it will inventory existing standards, identify gaps, and list priorities for reconciling differences among current standards or developing entirely new ones. EPRI will develop the roadmap to have consensus support of the utility industry, independent system operators, manufacturers, standards development organizations, state regulators, and consumer representatives.
EPRI Directs Weeklong Test of European Data Exchange

PARIS – The Union for the Co-ordination of Transmission of Electricity (UCTE) and EPRI, along with 10 European and American companies, conducted one of the largest tests to date of systems to move and exchange utility operations data for Western Europe’s complex transmission system. The weeklong tests were conducted in March at the facilities of RTE France in Paris and focused on data exchanges using the International Electrotechnical Commission’s Common Information Model standard. For more information, contact David Becker, dbecker@epri.com.

China Hosts International EMF Seminar

BEIJING – Rob Kavet, EPRI senior program manager for electric and magnetic field research, accepted an invitation from the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC) to participate in a seminar on EMF issues in China. SGCC’s China Electric Power Research Institute hosted the seminar in Beijing in April, where international experts examined a draft national standard for EMF exposure limits and new developments in a variety of research areas. An additional goal was to promote collaboration between China and countries where EMF research is conducted.

China Hosts Global Mercury Conference

GUIYANG, China – EPRI’s Leonard Levin and Sharan Campleman will present two papers at the 9th International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant, June 7–12, in Guiyang, China. One paper examines the toxicological interaction between lead and methylmercury. The second paper updates the U.S. mercury inventory. For more information, contact Leonard Levin, lllevin@epri.com.

European Workshop to Focus on Grid Efficiency, Losses

WARSAW – EPRI and PSE-Operator will host the International Workshop on Improving Transmission Efficiency, June 2, in Warsaw. This is one of a series of workshops to explore opportunities for reducing transmission losses and develop regional projects to showcase tools and technologies. EPRI’s Power Delivery and Utilization sector will host its International Council Meeting in Cracow on June 4 to exchange information and best practices from North America and Europe regarding the smart grid and integrating renewable resources.

EPRI, UNESA Host Workshop on Material Degradation, Mitigation, Inspection

MADRID – EPRI and the Spanish utility consortium UNESA coordinated a multi-utility workshop in Madrid to discuss material degradation and inspection issues in light water reactor nuclear plants. The workshop identified areas where U.S. and European experience overlaps and where collaborative research could lead to better understanding and a broader array of mitigation and inspection options. The workshop also focused on component aging management and how inspection and mitigation strategies can support long-term operation of the nuclear fleet.