

To: Jim Mehl, ERU Supervisor  
From: Zack Clayton, Rad Coordinator  
Subject: February Monthly Report  
Date: March 4, 2013

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## Beans

Training: 0  
Drills: 0  
Meetings: 3  
Technical Assistance: 3  
Public Assistance: 1

Web Page Views: There were 43 page views in February.

## Coming Attractions

2/7 SRIP Planning Group  
2/7 Rad Emergency Webinar  
2/12 Working Group  
2/14 NEPAC  
3/5 SRIP Planning Group  
4/4 SRIP  
4/15 URSB  
6/5-7 RAT Training

## Facility updates

### **Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station**

Davis-Besse operated at full power for February.

### **Perry Nuclear Power Plant**

Perry operated for the entire month but was at reduced power for portions of it for maintenance and testing.

On February 19 at 1:55 pm an employee at Perry Nuclear Power Plant had a worker fall from scaffolding in a contaminated area of the plant. The worker is in and out of consciousness, and has gone into full arrest, so CPR is being administered. The

potentially contaminated worker will be transported to the Tri-Point Medical Center, which has been alerted to the potential contamination issue. PNPP is providing Radiation Protection support to travel with the patient as well as dispatching the FENOC trainer to the hospital to assist. The NRC is required to be notified due to the potential contamination. See Event No. 48769.

## **Beaver Valley Power Station**

### **Beaver Valley Unit I**

Unit I operated at full power until February 9 when it reduced power and stabilized at 82% power. It resumed full power operations on February 24. The reason for the power reduction is not posted on the NRC website at this time. It should be available March 11.

### **Beaver Valley Unit II**

Unit II operated at full power for February.

### **Fermi II**

Fermi II operated at 68 per cent power for most of February due to a recirculating reactor pump issue.

### **Fermi III**

Fermi III continues as a documentation evaluation.

## **Portsmouth Enrichment Plant (All Entities)**

There were no reports for Portsmouth for February.

### **Activity**

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2/7  | SRIP Teleconference. The Radiation Response Plan for non-licensed facilities will be separated from the planning for an Improvised Nuclear Device. The scope of the two types of events are so different that there is little practical overlap. The group will focus on preparing the IND plan for an exercise scenario set for this summer. |
| 2/12 | Working Group meeting at OEMA. Agency updates, format finalization of the new initiative presentation and discussion of ongoing projects.   |

2/14 NEPAC meeting in West Akron. FEMA attended and gave a keynote presentation on the new rules for evaluating HAB exercises. The balance of the meeting was then State Agency, County, and FENOC updates.

## Office Issues

Organizing RAT SOP and documentation for placement on intranet and sharepoint. Preparing material for RAT training in June including IND presentation.

## News, NRC Reports, and Statistics

### Operating Power Levels

February

Date	BV1	BV2	DB	Perry	Fermi2	
1	100	100	100	99	68	Fermi 2 South Reactor Feed Pump repairs in progress
4	100	100	100	100	68	
9	74	100	100	99	68	
11	82	100	100	100	68	
14	82	100	100	98	67	Perry in RFO coast down
18	82	100	100	96	67	
19	82	100	100	97	67	
24	100	100	100	95	67	
25	100	100	100	94	67	
28	100	100	100	94	67	

### Information Notices

Unless otherwise noted, these are ADAMS Accession documents, are publicly available, and will be accessible via the public web site Electronic Reading Room in the Agency Document Access and Management System (ADAMS),

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>

or to access generic communications files on the NRC Homepage:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/reg-issues/2012/>.

To access these documents use the ADAMS Accession number listed with the title.

This is in the format of : ML #####

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Beaver Valley Power Station Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation – Physical Protection and Access Authorization Security Information

Letter: ADAMS Accession No.: ML12362A465

Enclosure 2: ADAMS Accession No.: ML12362A468

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RIS 2012-12:Licensing Submittal Information and Design Development Activities for Small Modular Reactor Designs, dated December 28, 2012  
ADAMS Accession No.: ML12319A181  
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Fermi 2 - Evaluation of Relief Request PRR-002, Revision 1, for the Third 10-Year Interval Inservice Testing Program for Fermi 2  
ADAMS Accession Number: ML13022A456  
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Forthcoming Meeting with FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company  
Adams Accession No. ML13023A175  
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Subject: Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit No. 1 - Request for Additional Information Regarding Containment Liner Random and Non-Random Reports (TAC No. ME9626)  
ADAMS Accession No.: ML13023A377  
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Information Notice 2012-25, Performance Issues with Seismic Instrumentation and Associated Systems for Operating Reactors, dated February 1, 2013  
ML121590444  
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Beaver Valley Power Station - NRC Integrated Inspection Report 05000334/2012005 and 05000412/2012005  
ADAMS Accession No.: ML13036A302  
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Perry Nuclear Power Plant, Unit No. 1 - Request for Additional Information Related to Licensing Amendment Request to Revise Technical Specification 3.10.1 "Inservice Leak and Hydrostatic Testing Operation"  
ADAMS Accession No: ML13037A251  
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PERRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT – NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 05000440/2012005 AND 07200069/2012002  
ADAMS Accession No. ML13038a702  
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ASSESSMENT FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR FERMI POWER PLANT, UNIT 2  
ADAMS Accession No. ML13039A427  
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Endorsement of Electric Power Research Institute Final Draft Report 1025287, "Seismic Evaluation Guidance"  
ADAMS Accession No ML12319A074  
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Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2 - Confirmatory Order  
ADAMS Accession No ML12335A267  
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DAVIS-BESSE STEAM GENERATOR REPLACEMENT PUBLIC MEETING CONFIRMATION LETTER  
ADAMS Accession No ML13053A347  
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PERRY OPERATOR LICENSING EXAM APPROVAL LETTER

ADAMS Accession No ML13056A579

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Information Notice 2013-01, Emergency Action Level Thresholds Outside The Range Of Radiation Monitors, dated February 13, 2013

ADAMS Accession No ML12325A326

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Fermi 3, DTE Electric Company Supplemental Response to NRC Request for Additional Information Letter No. 81.

ADAMS Accession No ML13057A016

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Fermi 3, Motion for Resubmission of Contentions 3 and 13, for Resubmission of Contention 23 or its Admission as a New Contention, and for Admission of New Contentions 26 and 27.

ADAMS Accession No ML13050A935

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Fermi 3, DTE Electric Company Supplemental Response to NRC Request for Additional Information Letter No. 78.

ADAMS Accession No ML13051A657

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Fermi, Unit 3, Response to NRC Request for Additional Information Letter No. 81.

ADAMS Accession No ML13043A011

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Fermi 2, License Amendment Request for Measurement Uncertainty Recapture (MUR) Power Uprate.

ADAMS Accession No ML13043A659

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Fermi 2, Enclosure 9 to NRC-13-0004, NEDO-33578, Rev. 0, "Safety Analysis Report for Fermi Generating Station Unit 2 Thermal Power Optimization."

ADAMS Accession No ML13043A655

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IR 05000341-12-005; 10/01/2012 - 12/31/2012; Fermi Power Plant, Unit 2; Maintenance Effectiveness and Follow-Up of Events.

ADAMS Accession No ML13028A454

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Fermi, Unit 3, Updated Response to NRC Request for Additional Information Letter No. 77.

ADAMS Accession No ML13032A378

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IR 05000334-12-005, 05000412-12-005; 10/01/2012 – 12/31/2012; Beaver Valley Power Station, Units 1 and 2; Refueling and Other Outage Activities.

ML13036A302

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Beaver Valley Power Station, Unit 2, Sixteenth Refueling Outage Inservice Inspection Summary Report.

ML13037A199

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Beaver Valley Power Station, Submittal of Discharge Monitoring Report for December 2012.

ML13037A592

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SG-SGMP-13-2, Rev. 1, "Beaver Valley Unit 2, End-of-Cycle 16 Voltage-Based Repair Criteria 90-Day Report."

ML13028A471

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Davis-Besse, Unit 1, Reply to Requests for Additional Information for Review License Renewal Application (TAC No. ME4640) and License Renewal Application Amendment No. 38.

ML13044A499

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NUREG-0750, Vol. 70, Book II, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Issuances: Opinions and Decisions of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with Selected Orders (August 21, 2009 - December 31, 2009). – Added 2/22/2013

ML12331A255

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2013/01/22 Davis-Besse LR - Davis-Besse Updated Commitment List

ML13024A275

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2013/01/21 Davis-Besse LR - FENOC License Renewal Letter L-12-455 (High Strength Bolting) Sent Today

ML13024A267

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2012/12/14 Davis-Besse LR - RE: Commitment list

ML13016A376

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## News

### **Wyden preparing bipartisan solution to waste debacle**

Hannah Northey, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, February 5, 2013

The chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee yesterday confirmed that he's preparing a bipartisan package to untangle a political knot blocking the permanent disposal of nuclear waste and that he's working on a bipartisan agreement with the GOP-led House over Yucca Mountain.

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) said during an interview that he met with Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, top Republican on the Energy panel, and Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) -- who lead the Energy and Water

Development Appropriations Subcommittee -- and that his staff is now preparing legislative text.

"We're drafting legislation. The four of us are working together to draft legislation that we are planning to have available in a matter of weeks," Wyden said. "It's clear to me the country needs a more permanent solution for the disposal of nuclear waste from both nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons installations like Hanford."

Wyden said he also recently met with House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.), Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.) and House Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) to discuss the issue and is having some success. House Republicans have said they won't consider legislation that doesn't specify the use of Yucca Mountain, a site in the Nevada desert that the Obama administration has deemed unworkable.

"I think there's a lot of interest now in some bicameral solutions on these issues. I know there are strongly held views," Wyden said. "Regardless of how you feel about Yucca, I think there's concern that you're going to need more than one."

Wyden also said last year that he visited the site of the crippled Japanese reactors -- which were damaged by a massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011 -- and that he supports "finding a safer way to store spent fuel and go about picking a repository site than what happened with Yucca."

Murkowski also touched on the issue yesterday and said there was "general consensus" among herself, Wyden, Feinstein and Alexander about moving forward with interim storage sites while advancing the more difficult process of finding a permanent repository.

"It is fair to say there is a real commitment on the Senate side," she said.

Murkowski has embraced recommendations from an expert panel President Obama assembled to move forward with consent-based siting of a repository, which could include Yucca Mountain. "I'm a believer that Yucca is part of our answer in terms of long-term storage out there," she said. "But I also don't want to be in the situation where 10 years from now, we are no further ahead with any kind of a solution."

Murkowski said she's hopeful the four senators can craft legislation that's accepted in the House from both parties and from lawmakers hailing from different regions. "We will not shut the House out," she said. "We will keep them engaged in the conversation, but we cannot ... afford to have no answers."

Murkowski said Wyden's bill could mirror text that she, Feinstein and Alexander agreed on last year. The three senators were keen on moving ahead with temporary storage sites, which are seen as a way of saving the government millions in lawsuits for not upholding its legal agreement to take the waste.

The trio's efforts were at odds with former Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), who was concerned those sites -- like one in his home state -- could become de facto permanent sites ([E&ENews PM](#), Aug. 1, 2012). Wyden confirmed the new bill could move forward with temporary storage sites while launching the process of finding a permanent solution, but he quickly noted that any temporary site would not be a substitute for a repository.

"We would be open to having an interim facility before a permanent repository is built, and I think what's important is to demonstrate that the interim storage facility directly reduces the risk to public health and safety," he said.

The legislation will also lay out a process for creating an entity to oversee the siting of new waste disposal facilities. Wyden said the new organization will need to be transparent and accessible to the public, and the head of the entity may need to report to the Energy secretary.

"Burying the program in a DOE bureaucracy without a Senate-confirmed director who lacks some standing to run a high-profile program, which is arguably the situation today, is a mistake," he said.

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/2013/02/05/1>

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CININNAT!com

## Ohio nuclear centrifuge project uncertain

Feb. 4, 2013 9:04 AM,

Written by

**Deirdre Shesgreen**



**WASHINGTON** — As the 113th Congress gets under way and President Barack Obama begins a second term, some possible shifts in federal energy policy could ripple down to affect the American Centrifuge Plant in Piketon, Ohio.

For starters, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced Friday that he was stepping down. And there have been rumors that some of his deputies, who have championed the project, might also be leaving the Department of Energy. At the same time, the president has emphasized in his new term a desire to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions, which boosters of nuclear power say could be a boon to uranium-enrichment initiatives like the one in Piketon.

But those big-picture changes will not be make-or-break for USEC, the company that owns the plant. Supporters and foes alike say that right now, the ACP's short-term prospects are good, but its long-term fate remains uncertain. And USEC's future will probably hinge more on its internal financial troubles and the commercial market for its technology than on any new political reality.

Let's start with the short term: USEC has said it will run out of money to keep the project afloat at the end of February. But Congress is likely to approve one last batch of federal funds for USEC in the coming months – at least \$50 million, and possibly more, will be needed to complete a current research, development and demonstration program aimed at proving that USEC's uranium-enrichment technology is viable.

—I think the commitment is deep from the White House and is deep in Congress and is ongoing,|| said Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, who along with Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, has championed the project in Southern Ohio's Pike County.

Portman questioned the president's support for the project, saying it might have had more to do with its location, in the critical battleground state of Ohio, than with Obama's dedication to the technology.

Still, Portman said, fears he had that the White House might kill the project have faded.

—I'm feeling relieved that we still have a lifeline,|| he said.

On the House side, the Piketon site has a new booster in freshman Rep. Brad Wenstrup, R-Columbia Tusculum.

—I would really like to see this project move forward, Wenstrup said in an interview last week. —It's something that needs to be done as a matter of national defense.

If successful, USEC officials say the plant will eventually produce enough fuel to power dozens of nuclear power plants around the country. In addition, supporters say it will bolster national security by ensuring the U.S. has a domestic source of enriched uranium.

The strong support in Congress for additional federal dollars doesn't mean opponents have given up. The real fight, say critics of the centrifuge project, will come at the end of the year.

That's when the research program – part of a cooperative agreement between USEC and the Department of Energy – will end. And USEC will renew its bid for a \$2 billion federal loan guarantee, an application DOE officials put on hold in 2011 after glitches at the Piketon site raised concerns inside the energy agency about the viability of USEC's uranium-enrichment technology.

Autumn Hanna, senior program director at Taxpayers for Common Sense, a fiscal watchdog group, said USEC's renewed bid for a loan guarantee will ignite a fresh skepticism about the project, particularly since it's such a large amount of money. Hanna and other critics note USEC's common stock is currently trading below \$1, and the energy company could be delisted from the New York Stock Exchange if it doesn't rectify that.

—Taxpayers shouldn't be putting more money into USEC, she said. —DOE just can't be the lifeline.

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., who has led efforts to nix funding for USEC, echoed that argument and signaled he would press hard against the loan guarantee.

—The value of the entire company is just over \$70 million, it is still rated at below junk bond status, and it is in danger of being delisted from the stock exchange and becoming a penny stock, Markey said. —To continue to subsidize this failing company would be irresponsible.

A DOE spokeswoman, Niketa Kumar, said in a statement that the Obama administration would advocate for more money to finish the research program, but hinted the loan guarantee was no sure thing. She said the research phase was critical to addressing the —technical and financial risks associated with the ACP project. The energy department's agreement requires USEC to meet —a series of detailed technical milestones and performance metrics that provide significant taxpayer protections, Kumar noted.

USEC officials said they would address such concerns in a strengthened loan application come December.

The research and development program —will be successful ... (and) will address any remaining technical issues about the technology, said Paul Jacobson, a spokesman for USEC. —We've been indicating as well ... that we're working to strengthen our balance sheet.

—We would want to put in a strong application, both from a technical and financial perspective, he added.

USEC's most vocal supporters in Congress said they were hopeful the political and fiscal obstacles to the loan guarantee could be overcome. But they conceded they could not predict how the next phase would play out.

—I think this is going to work for the public and ... for taxpayers, said Brown. But —there are hurdles they have to jump over ... (and) I can't evaluate eight months from now and know where we're going to end up.

Portman expressed concern that the Obama administration might be reluctant to —pull the trigger on the loan guarantee.

—It requires leadership from the administration that has been lacking, he said. —The arguments are compelling, and I'm optimistic that they will, in the end, make the right decision. But as folks in Piketon will remind you, time's a wasting.

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### **Storage bill won't pass the House without Yucca Mountain -- Shimkus**

Hannah Northey, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, February 7, 2013

Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.) yesterday warned that any legislation to revamp the country's stalled nuclear waste program must specify Nevada's Yucca Mountain as a national repository, or it won't clear the House.

Shimkus, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, also rejected any notion that an agreement is in the works between the House and Senate on how to move forward with nuclear waste storage. Lawmakers from the two chambers disagreed over how far bicameral talks have progressed.

"We will not move on any nuclear waste legislation without Yucca Mountain," Shimkus said at an event in Washington, D.C., hosted by the Nuclear Energy Institute and Bloomberg Government.

Discussions between the two chambers have come into focus in recent weeks as key senators work to craft a bill to untie a political knot that has hindered the current program for storing waste.

More than 65,000 metric tons of spent fuel is currently piling up at sites across the country, prompting utilities to file lawsuits -- and win millions of dollars -- against the Department of Energy for failing to uphold its promise to take the waste ([E&ENews PM](#), Feb. 6).

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has said he is working with Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, the panel's top Republican, and Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) on the bill ([E&E Daily](#), Feb. 5).

Murkowski has indicated she is open to a consent-based approach -- under which states and localities would agree to store the waste -- for finding new temporary and permanent storage sites, and that Yucca Mountain could be chosen through such a process. "I don't want to give up on Yucca because of what's been invested in it, but I also don't want to waste another decade and get nowhere," Murkowski told reporters last month ([E&E Daily](#), Jan. 24).

But House Republicans wanting more assurances have said Yucca Mountain, an abandoned repository about 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, must be clearly specified as a repository in any piece of legislation.

Shimkus reiterated his assertion yesterday that President Obama is breaking the law by not moving forward with Yucca Mountain. The administration abandoned the project in 2010 and said it was unworkable despite a 1987 federal law requiring that the site be a national repository to accept growing amounts of spent nuclear waste.

A Government Accountability Office report later found the president had shuttered the site for purely political reasons ([Greenwire](#), May 10, 2011).

"We've got a president right now who's breaking the law by not moving forward on Yucca Mountain," Shimkus said.

For now, the status of conversations between the House and Senate remains unclear. Wyden said earlier this week that he believes "there's a lot of interest now in some bicameral solutions on these issues" ([E&E Daily](#), Feb. 5).

Wyden met with House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.) and Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.) on Dec. 19, 2012. They "discussed a range of issues, including a high-level discussion about nuclear waste," said Keith Chu, a spokesman for the senator. Wyden also met with House Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) on Dec. 20, 2012, "to talk about a range of issues, including nuclear issues," Chu said.

But House Republicans said discussions touched only on general energy policy issues. Hastings' meeting with Wyden "focused on issues of shared jurisdiction before both committees, which nuclear waste is not," said Jill Strait, a spokeswoman for Hastings. Upton's office would not comment on the matter.

Shimkus, whose subcommittee has jurisdiction over nuclear waste issues in the House, said Upton told him no conversations concerning Yucca Mountain had taken place.

"I've been assured I will be part of anything that moves legislatively on Yucca," Shimkus added. "That's my subcommittee's jurisdiction."

Source: <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/2013/02/07/3>

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## Ohio seeks radioactivity testing on drilling wastes

**By Spencer Hunt**

*The Columbus Dispatch*

Wednesday February 13, 2013 5:01 AM

A proposed law would require oil and gas companies to conduct radioactivity tests on the tons of waste rock, dirt and drilling lubricants produced at drilling sites before those wastes are dumped in Ohio landfills.

Officials with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Health say the new requirement is intended to help keep radioactive wastes from leaking from landfills.

The measure is included in Gov. John Kasich's two-year budget plan, which must be approved by the legislature.

Health and Natural Resources officials said many oil and gas companies already do this type of testing.

In May, two truckloads of Pennsylvania drilling wastes were turned away from the American Landfill in Stark County after lab tests showed high levels of radium. Oil and gas drilling wastes can contain radium and other naturally occurring radioactive materials.

The company tested the wastes and showed the results to the landfill. Officials there called the state, which told them to reject the wastes.

Bethany McCorkle, a Department of Natural Resources spokeswoman, said the law is intended to ensure the tests always are done. "It's out of an abundance of caution."

Radioactivity can build up in "muds," lubricants used to help in the drilling process, as well as in other materials that might be reused during drilling.

The state bans landfills from taking drilling wastes if the amount of radioactivity exceeds a state-set safety limit, said Michael Snee, chief of the Health Department's bureau of radiation protection.

The two truckloads of waste sand rejected by American Landfill had radium at levels 36 times above the limit.

Snee said that wastes exceeding the radiation standard still could be dumped in landfills if they are mixed with other wastes to reduce the overall radiation level. Snee's office and the Ohio EPA would have to approve the mixing plan before the wastes could be dumped.

It's not clear whether industry officials support the proposed law. Tom Stewart, vice president of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, said he has yet to see the proposal.

Jed Thorp, conservation program manager for the Ohio Sierra Club, said he'd like to see state laws changed to require landfills to operate their own radiation detectors. "I doubt it would be that expensive," he said.

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Columbus Dispatch

Editorial

Nuclear waste still a pricey problem

Wednesday February 13, 2013 5:31 AM

It has been 15 years since the federal government was legally obliged — but failed — to begin accepting waste from the country's nuclear power plants.

It has been four years since President Barack Obama zeroed out funds for a permanent geologic repository at Yucca Mountain, Nev., eliminating hope that the government would live up to its obligation anytime soon. And, according to the Obama administration's new strategy for dealing with nuclear waste, it will be another 35 years until the government opens a permanent repository at a different site, location as yet unknown.

Even if the government meets its new timetable, that adds up to 50 years of delay, a not-in-my-backyard nightmare that the country is only partway through.

More than 68,000 metric tons of nuclear waste have accumulated next to U.S. reactors, which weren't designed for long-term storage, and that figure is increasing by about 2,000 metric tons every year.

Even decommissioned nuclear facilities require gates and guards to protect the waste, a ridiculous misuse of land and money. Meanwhile, consumers financing a federal waste-disposal fund through their electricity bills wonder what they've been paying for, and the federal government's financial liability for failing to collect the waste, already in the billions, continues to mount. The situation is safe enough, but it could be safer, and it's inexcusably expensive.

Since the president helped to kill the Yucca project, his administration has borne a particular responsibility to devise a workable way to clean up this mess.

Last month the Energy Department finally released its proposal. It is a reasonable plan for post-Yucca policymaking that nevertheless relies on a big assumption — that someplace in the country will volunteer to host some waste.

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The administration wants to build at least two centralized, interim storage facilities where waste could sit before its eventual transfer to a permanent repository.

The first, to open by 2021, would be a pilot storage facility designed to take waste from decommissioned nuclear sites. The second would open by 2025; in combination, these facilities would draw down the amount of waste stored at current and decommissioned reactor sites.

When the anticipated permanent repository comes online — supposedly by 2048 — the waste would move there.

Every step, the administration insists, must be "consent-based," with localities accepting waste facilities in return for their economic benefits and perhaps some additional compensation. Congress tried forcing Nevada to take the country's waste, the thinking goes; this time, the government should try recruitment rather than compulsion.

We are skeptical that many localities would volunteer to host waste facilities, particularly the permanent repository, no matter the economic benefits.

But perhaps the administration's staged approach might be a way to convince communities, with each step building confidence that this material can be stored safely.

— *The Washington Post*

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**North Dakota takes slow, historic step toward radioactive waste**

February 15, 2013 2:28 pm • [By LAUREN DONOVAN | Bismarck Tribune](#)

North Dakota is moving for the first time toward disposal of radioactive waste within the state.

The need is driven by the oil and gas industry, which generates tons of potentially radioactive waste every day without state rules that track how much and where it goes, or any site in North Dakota where it can legally be landfilled.

A meeting Thursday of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, the state Health Department, the Department of Mineral Resources and consultants resulted in a task force to determine where to go from here.

David Glatt, who heads the environmental section of the state Health Department, said a broad approach is needed.

Glatt said there's a need for public education while the task force examines whether the waste should be buried in approved landfills or dissolved and injected into deep wells — after looking at science and protocols developed in other states.

New rules take many months to write and work through the public process.

For now, North Dakota's health rules do not allow disposal of radioactive materials higher than 5 picocuries per gram in any landfill in the state.

Landfill operators in the oil patch are rejecting loads that set off Geiger-style meters and levying fines to companies that try to bring it in. Those rejected loads are reported to the state Health Department.

Radioactivity is produced when saltwater from oil wells, hydraulic fracture treatment fluids and other liquids concentrate on filter socks, pipes and tank bottoms.

Consultant Howard Trussell, of Wenck Associates, estimated 75 tons of potentially radioactive filter socks are generated every day by the 500 wells where waste fluids are injected in the oil patch.

Trussell said it costs operators \$20,000 a year at every site to put the socks in containers and transport them out of state. He said some waste is being put in landfills without testing and there is potential for illegal dumping when tank bottoms are drained out onto the land.

"There are more and more issues with only limited guidance from the state what to do about it," he said.

Lynn Helms, the state Mineral Resources director, said North Dakota should maintain its 5 pCi number because it's a national standard for detection.

It's a very low standard, so low that lifelong exposure is not linked to cancer or other radioactivity-caused illness.

"One thing we do know: Waste will be much easier to track if it is disposed of here, but I would only advocate that if the science says it's safe," Helms said.

The state should require a basic level of load manifests and reporting to ensure fairness across the oil industry, he said.

Marathon Oil spokesman Luke Franklin said his company keeps detailed records on its waste materials. He said Marathon's policy is to transport filter socks to Texas, where they're dried and the sediment is dissolved and injected.

Helms said injecting, rather than burying, some waste may make sense because of the capacity of the injection wells to absorb material and the multiple salt layers that lock in the fluids thousands of feet deep.

There was talk about how to accurately test for radioactivity and the need to know whether it's from long-lasting radium and uranium sources, or from minerals like potassium, which quickly break down.

Helms said as oil wells age, they require flushing with hundreds of gallons of maintenance water to dissolve salts in the well equipment — another reason to pursue a solution now.

There are 5,000 Bakken wells now, out of a projected 50,000 or so when development is complete.

"The maintenance water will become a larger volume over time," Helms said.

Reach reporter Lauren Donovan at 701-220-5511 or [lauren@westriv.com](mailto:lauren@westriv.com).

Source: [http://bismarcktribune.com/bakken/north-dakota-takes-slow-historic-step-toward-radioactive-waste/article\\_465b6bb6-77ae-11e2-9129-0019bb2963f4.html?goback=.gde\\_4161745\\_member\\_215170353](http://bismarcktribune.com/bakken/north-dakota-takes-slow-historic-step-toward-radioactive-waste/article_465b6bb6-77ae-11e2-9129-0019bb2963f4.html?goback=.gde_4161745_member_215170353)

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## Nation to bring nuclear plants back online -- prime minister

Published: Thursday, February 28, 2013

Nuclear power plants that have been idled since the Fukushima Daiichi disaster will begin restarting later this year, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Parliament today. They will go back online once Japan institutes new safety guidelines, which the new Nuclear Regulation Authority watchdog group is expected to take up, he said. The new standards, Abe said, would be enforced "without compromise."

Even so, it reportedly could take months or years for the plants to meet the new standards.

After the 2011 meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, all of Japan's 50 functioning nuclear reactors were shut off. Government officials restarted two amid fears of an energy shortage.

The previous governing party had promised to phase out nuclear power over the long term. But after his Liberal Democratic Party won national elections late last year, Abe put those plans on hold. He said it was important for Japan to remain competitive, which required access to the low-cost power that nuclear energy could provide.

But at the same time, Abe noted the importance of Japan pursuing renewable energy, so the country can reduce its dependence on nuclear power (Martin Fackler, [New York Times](#), Feb. 28). -- WW

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## Plant Reports

Power Reactor	Event Number: 48708
Facility: PERRY Region: 3 State: OH Unit: [1] [ ] [ ] RX Type: [1] GE-6 NRC Notified By: RICHARD O'CONNOR HQ OPS Officer: STEVE SANDIN	Notification Date: 01/31/2013 Notification Time: 09:28 [ET] Event Date: 01/31/2013 Event Time: 02:10 [EST] Last Update Date: 01/31/2013

Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(3)(xiii) - LOSS COMM/ASMT/RESPONSE	Person (Organization): ANN MARIE STONE (R3DO) ERDS GROUP (EMAI) CAT GROUP (EMAI)
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Unit	SCRAM Code	RX CRIT	Initial PWR	Initial RX Mode	Current PWR	Current RX Mode
1	N	Y	62	Power Operation	72	Power Operation

Event Text

LOSS OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE DATA SYSTEM (ERDS)

"On January 31, 2013, at approximately 0210 hours [EST], the ability to transfer plant parameter data via the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS) was lost. ERDS capability was restored at 0701 hours [EST]. The cause is under investigation.

"In the event of an emergency while ERDS was unavailable, contingency plans were in place to transmit plant parameter data, This event is being reported in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(3)(xiii),

"The NRC Resident Inspector has been notified."

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Part 21	Event Number: 48735
Rep Org: GE HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY Licensee: GE HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY Region: 1 City: WILMINGTON State: NC County: License #: Agreement: Y Docket: NRC Notified By: DALE PORTER HQ OPS Officer: PETE SNYDER	Notification Date: 02/08/2013 Notification Time: 16:32 [ET] Event Date: 02/08/2013 Event Time: [EST] Last Update Date: 02/08/2013
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 21.21(d)(3)(i) - DEFECTS AND NONCOMPLIANCE	Person (Organization): RAY POWELL (R1DO) GEORGE HOPPER (R2DO) MICHAEL KUNOWSKI (R3DO) DON ALLEN (R4DO) PART 21 REACTORS (EMAI)

Event Text

PART 21 - COMPLETED EVALUATION FOR POTENTIAL ERROR IN MAIN STEAM LINE HIGH FLOW CALCULATIONAL METHODOLOGY

"GEH recently discovered that some calculations of the choked flow rate in the Main Steam Lines (MSLs) of GEH BWRs were non-conservative, with potential effects on margins between choked flow conditions and existing MSL high-flow Nominal Trip Setpoints (NTSPs), Allowable Values (AVs), and Analytical Limits (ALs).

"GEH has now completed the evaluation of this condition and has determined this condition is not reportable under 10 CFR 21 for all U.S. BWR/2-6 plants. The effect of the discovered non-conservatisms in choked flow rate values was offset by unintended conservatisms in the GEH recommended formulation for calculating pressure drop across the MSL flow restrictor. As a result, GEH has determined that the flow-instrument pressure remain at conservative values (which would ensure that the associated NTSPs and AVs expressed in psid also remain at conservative values), and the MSL high-flow trip will function as designed. This update to the 60-day Interim Notification issued on December 12, 2012 (MFN 12-111 R1) will be sent to all US BWR/2-6 plants licensed using the GEH design basis and safety analysis."

See previous NRC Event Report 48350.

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Power Reactor	Event Number: 48769
Facility: PERRY Region: 3 State: OH Unit: [1] [ ] [ ] RX Type: [1] GE-6 NRC Notified By: THOMAS MORSE HQ OPS Officer: BILL HUFFMAN	Notification Date: 02/19/2013 Notification Time: 16:39 [ET] Event Date: 02/19/2013 Event Time: 13:03 [EST] Last Update Date: 02/19/2013
Emergency Class: NON EMERGENCY 10 CFR Section: 50.72(b)(2)(xi) - OFFSITE NOTIFICATION 50.72(b)(3)(xii) - OFFSITE MEDICAL OTHER UNSPEC REQMNT	Person (Organization): KENNETH RIEMER (R3DO)

Unit	SCRAM Code	RX CRIT	Initial PWR	Initial RX Mode	Current PWR	Current RX Mode
1	N	Y	96	Power Operation	96	Power Operation

Event Text

**TRANSPORT OF POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED WORKER AND SUBSEQUENT FATALITY**

"On February 19, 2013, at approximately 1303 EST, the control room was notified that a supplemental worker (i.e., a contract individual) had fallen and was injured. The worker was in a contaminated area.

"Due to the individual's condition, the individual was not surveyed by a Health Physics

technician prior to being transported in their anti-contamination clothing. The individual was transported by ambulance accompanied by Health Physics personnel to the local hospital for medical treatment (i.e., TriPoint Medical Center). Subsequently, the worker was declared deceased at the hospital.

"This notification is being made in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(3)(xii) and 50.72(b)(2)(xi). Additionally, OSHA was notified pursuant to the requirements of 29 CFR 1904.39. The Lake County Coroner was also notified.

"Subsequent surveys found no contamination on the worker, hospital, medical personnel, or ambulance.

"No press release is planned. The NRC Resident Inspector has been notified."

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