

Operations and Power Division

Spring 2005



You are invited to the...

**Town & Country Hotel and Convention Center
In San Diego, CA. to be part of**

"The Next 50 Years: Creating Opportunities"

**First-time Attendees Orientation
Sunday, June 5, 2005
1:00 – 1:30 PM, Brittany Room**

**OPD Program Committee
Sunday, June 5, 2005
1:00 – 3:30 PM, Royal Palm Salon 4**

**OPD Executive Committee
Sunday, June 5, 2005
3:30 – 6:00 PM, Royal Palm Salon 4**

**OPD Awards Luncheon
Monday, June 6, 2005
11:30 – 1:00 PM, Sunset Room**

**New Construction Working Group
Monday, June 6, 2005
4:00 – 7:00 PM, Dover**

**See Our Website at ...
OPD.ANS.ORG**

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Edited by Harold Stiles

From Your Chair

Loyd Wright



As spring time blooms around us, we know that summer is just around the corner. ANS has an exceptional set of meetings planned for you this summer.

The ANS Summer meeting will be in San Diego in June, and the Technical Program is looking great under the leadership of **Atam Rao**. Led by **Larry Papay**, the local committee selected the meeting's theme of "The Next 50 Years: Creating Opportunities." They have also planned some wonderful special events to allow you to enjoy San Diego. See the ANS website for the complete preliminary program and meeting registration <http://www.ans.org/meetings/annual/>. The meeting will include the Space Nuclear Conference 2005 as an embedded topical. Where better to hold this important meeting than in San Diego with its rich aerospace history?

For the San Diego Meeting, the OPD Program Committee, led by **Don Eggett**, has organized 8 terrific sessions which are highlighted in a later article. The topics range from improving the current fleet to building the next generation. I am really interested in the session titled, "4S Liquid-Metal Reactor for Galena, Alaska." How is that for a timely topic?

Also, please plan to attend the OPD functions listed in the invitation to the left. The OPD Program and Executive Committees are working to benefit all members. With all the interest in an upcoming reactor order, the New Construction Working Group is a timely source of relevant information.

One of the most important things we can do as professionals is to recognize our peers for their accomplishments. Please join us on Monday when we will be honoring our own at the OPD Honors & Awards Luncheon with the prestigious Zinn Award and the much-sought Meritorious Performance in Operations Award. This is also our opportunity to recognize, with our best paper and session awards, those who helped make our programs successful last June and November.

In August OPD will again be hosting the Utility Working Conference in Amelia Island, Florida. Led by **Gary Taylor**, as the General Chair, and **Sophie Gutner**, as Technical Program Chair, the UWC program committee is working hard to make UWC 2005 even better than previous years. If you have never attended the UWC, I encourage you to come and find out how UWC has earned its reputation as the best nuclear utility meeting in the industry.

And as my final thought, I urge you to get involved in ANS and OPD activities. The future of nuclear is blooming around the corner, and we need your help to get there.

Loyd Wright, 949-368-9516, wrightla@songs.sce.com

Program Committee

By Don Eggett

One of the most difficult and most essential jobs for OPD is putting together quality technical programs of interest to our members. With planning starting about a year in advance of each national meeting, good timing is paramount in the selection of a topic. The perfect topic must balance fresh ideas with meaningful experience.



2005 Annual Meeting, June 5-9, San Diego, CA

Topics (and organizer(s)) for OPD sessions include:

- "4S" Liquid-Metal Reactor for Galena, Alaska (**Alan Levin**)
- Risk Information Transmission and Security (**Mark Reinhart**)
- Nuclear Power 2010 Status (**Tom Miller** and **Kyle Turner**)
- Hot Topics in Reactor Licensing: New Engineering Inspection Process: (**Greg Gibson**)
- Building the Next Nuclear Plants (**Atam Rao**, **Karen Vierow**, and **Travis Knight**)
- Instrumentation and Control: Lessons Learned (**Joe Naser**)
- Progress on Movement Toward Risk-Informed, Performance-Based Standards (**Don Eggett** and **Prasad Kadambi**)
- Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems Research and Development (**Buzz Savage**)

<http://www.ans.org/meetings/annual/>

2005 Winter Meeting, November 13-17, Washington, D.C.

The topics (and organizer(s)) for OPD sessions include:

- Management Perspectives on the Use of Risk Information in Operational Plant Management (**Mark Reinhart**)
- Equipment Reliability, A Driving Force in Nuclear Asset Performance (**Ken Ferguson**)
- Digital Upgrade Issues in an Evolving Technical and Regulatory Environment (**Ray Torok**)
- Planning a Country's 1st Power Reactor - Trials and Tribulations (**Steve Stamm**)
- Bringing Added Value to the American Nuclear Society: The Young Professionals Perspective (**David Pointer**)
- Bringing Added Value to the American Nuclear Society: The Employer's Perspective (**Sam Bilbao y Leon**)
- Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems Including NP 2010: Research and Development (**Buzz Savage**)
- Risk Information and Security (**Mark Reinhart**)
- Nuclear Energy, Quantifying and Communicating the Benefits (**Ted Quinn** and **Ann Bisconti**)

- Status of Non-Power Reactors in the US (**Andy Klein** and **Ted Quinn**)

<http://www.ans.org/meetings/docs/2005/wm2005-cfp.pdf>

International Meetings

In the not-too-distance horizon, OPD is supporting a couple of international meetings.

2006 ICAAP Meeting, Reno, NV

The next International Congress on Advances in Nuclear Power Plants (ICAPP 06) is embedded in the June 4th-8th ANS Annual Meeting in Reno, Nevada. **Ted Quinn** is the OPD point of contact for the 2006 ICAPP.

2006 Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference (PNBC) Meeting, Sydney Australia

The next PBNB Meeting will be held in Sydney. **Gail Marcus**, former ANS President and **Alan Levin**, NRC, will be major planners for the meeting

2005 Utility Working Conference

By Sophie Gutner

The 2005 edition of this now-famous OPD annual Utility Working Conference is scheduled for August 7-10, at the usual great location of Amelia Island Plantation Resort, in Florida. The program is currently being developed and you should be receiving the Preliminary Program in a few weeks. Don't miss the opportunity to attend; we have some very interesting sessions planned for you!

The theme of this year's conference is "**The Reactor is Critical**" - **Excellence today, sustaining growth tomorrow** and the General Chair is **Gary Taylor**, Chairman and CEO of Entergy Nuclear. Mr. Taylor has organized an exciting Plenary Session with some interesting speakers: NRC Commissioner **Jeffrey Merrifield**, **David Lochbaum** of the Union of Concerned Scientists, **Edgar Schein** of MIT, and **Caren Byrd** of Morgan Stanley.

This year's conference will also feature approximately 40 exhibitors from the most prominent corporations in our industry. Thanks to their support, a long list of social activities are planned to allow you to mingle and network with your peers and colleagues (one of the trademarks of the UWC!).

The program includes 9 tracks: Utility Executive, Performance Improvement, Operations, Nuclear Asset Management, Work Management, Materials & Services, Regulatory Relations, Configuration Management, and Equipment Reliability. The organizers are hard at work right now to line up the most expert speakers on a multitude of relevant and timely topics in a total of 26 sessions over 2-1/2 days!

Mark your calendars, register online (www.ans.org/meetings/), and plan to attend this exciting and informative conference! We look forward to seeing you in August!

UWC Logo Selected

The UWC Logo Contest concluded with a design reflecting the intent and purpose of the UWC. It is similar in shape and color to the ANS logo, with two transmission towers separating “Utility Working Conference” from the “American Nuclear Society.” Green was chosen as the color of “Utility Working Conference” to signify that nuclear power is truly a “green” source of electric power. Two silhouettes face each other in the center of the medallion, sharing a common thought. The electron orbits indicate that the thought involves something nuclear. The “i” is the common thought and represents that one “golden” idea that we want each attendee to take back and put into action.



Committee on New Construction

By Ted Quinn and Kyle Turner

Since 1990, the OPD Committee on New Construction (CNC) has focused on the major challenges and opportunities for construction of new nuclear plants in the U.S. Co-chaired by **Ted Quinn** (tedquinn@cox.net) and **Kyle Turner** (kyleturn@att.net), CNC members represent utilities, regulators, NSSS suppliers, A/Es, vendors, and universities.

The outlook for near-term deployment of new nuclear generation is the best it has been since the 1970's. Public support and acceptance is strong. Nuclear power economics are looking very encouraging. The recent Energy legislation that is favorable for the new nuclear option is supported by both the Administration and Congress. And, DOE has two programs for new nuclear construction, NP2010 and GEN IV.

The NP2010 program for evolutionary light water plants is moving forward with the three Early Site Permits nearing completion of NRC reviews and the start of two Combined Operating Licensing applications for multiple designs. Two additional utilities have filed grant applications for ESPs. The licensing process is in the final stage of validation, so that a stable and reliable set of review methods will be available for utility decisions in the near term. The utility and NEI leadership has been exceptional in resolving key issues.

The GEN IV program for advanced plants is progressing with high focus on the Next Generation Nuclear Plant (NGNP), a high-temperature gas reactor design, to be built in Idaho. Under the leadership of Admiral **John Grossenbacher** and the Idaho National Lab (INL), this track is moving forward but requires more emphasis on utility requirements and commercialization options to provide a stronger tie to the industrial base for electricity and hydrogen.

CNC seeks feedback, suggestions, and volunteers to help. See the OPD website for announcement of the location and times for the CNC meeting at the June national meeting.

Nominating Committee

By Sophie Gutner

You must have received by now your OPD ballot for the upcoming election. The Nominating Committee had the difficult assignment of identifying and selecting the best candidates to fill the open positions on the OPD Executive Committee in June. Since these candidates, when elected, are going to work for all members of OPD, we take this process very seriously and urge you to send in your ballot in time. Our thanks go to the members that have agreed to be candidates.

Candidates for positions on the Executive Committee, if elected, will serve three-year terms, from June 2005 through June 2008. Members of the Executive Committee are asked to attend the two annual meetings (in June and November). Missing two meetings in a row may cause that member to be removed from the Executive Committee.

Officer-position candidates that are elected must go through a different process, which is somewhat specific to OPD. Once someone is elected as Treasurer, he/she will automatically move up, each year, through the positions of Secretary, Second Vice-Chair, First Vice-Chair, and Chair, in an unopposed election unless someone else is elected as a write-in candidate. This is a very long commitment. It is difficult for anyone to predict his/her circumstances (personal and professional) for the next 5-6 years. This is one of the reasons why it has become quite hard to find members who will agree to commit for such a long time, hence the fact that we only have one candidate for the position of Treasurer on this year's ballot. We appreciate our officers – past, present, and future – so much for their dedication!

Do YOU want to get involved? Simply contact **Loyd Wright**, who will be chairing the next Nominating Committee, in the fall, and preparing the 2006 elections.

OPD Focuses On Student Members

At the 2004 Winter meeting, the OPD Executive Committee identified the need for a Student Outreach Plan and budgeted \$3000 to support implementation of the plan in 2005.

The Student Member segment is an important and fast growing portion of total ANS membership. The 1230 Student Members constituted about 11.4% of the 10,777 ANS members in 2004. From 1999 through 2004, ANS News recorded the enrollment of 2520 Student Members from 140 different schools. Since 1999, Student Membership has increased (about 67%) while total membership has decreased slightly (about 3.5%). In 2004 as in other years, nearly 20% of Student Members chose OPD to make OPD the second most popular Division behind the Reactor Physics Division.

But the focus of the OPD Student Outreach Plan is the conversion of Student Members to Full Members. In a typical year, only 75 of the 225 graduating Student Members (who do not continue as graduate students) convert to Full Membership, and remaining 150 drop their ANS membership.

