



AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY OPERATIONS & POWER DIVISION

SPRING 2001

OPERATIONS & POWER DIVISION NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Power in the News - II

Kyle Turner, Chair

Thanks to the combined factors that produced rolling blackouts in California, energy, as an issue, has landed squarely in both the political limelight and the public consciousness. As always when an item gets massive media attention, there is more heat than light in the press reports and FAR more opinions on what (and who) went wrong than sober proposals for solutions. A quote reported in one of the business magazines went something to the effect of "What do they expect us to do? Build nukes?" Well - yes.

Clearly the ANS' efforts to communicate with political leaders will be enhanced by these recent events. In conjunction with its March meeting, the ANS Board routinely walks the Hill to contact legislators; this year promises more than a glassy-eyed response. But, as everyone in this Division knows, providing power reliability is a long-term affair, requiring decisions and capital far in advance of the actual need. Fuel diversity is also important, both for reliability and in cost terms. Only time will tell if the response to this "crisis" will reflect a mature, effective policy for energy stability. But it IS clear than only a few more nuclear plants on the California grid right now would have prevented the whole situation.

I've felt for some time that energy would have to become a "household word" again before nuclear power would have a chance at revival. Now that it is, a pointed question looms -- Are we ready as an industry to respond? If the barriers that have long been in our way are removed as a result of recent events, can we field the designs, the construction capacity, the person-power, the infrastructure, the financial wherewithal to play a meaningful role in responding to this sudden quest for power reliability? And, in making the country more energy independent? Now that power is in the spotlight, we, as an industry, must find ways to spring into action.

Speaking of action - Sophie Gutner is developing a member survey. When completed, it will be posted for your use on the OPD Web site; I'd encourage you to complete it and even to get your non-ANS-member colleagues to do the same. It's your best chance ever to express your opinion, get involved, and help make ANS the society it needs to be for you and for the future of nuclear power.

For additional information about the OPD member survey, refer to the 11/12/00 Executive Committee Meeting section of this newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following are reports from OPD's Standing Committees. For additional information on this topic, visit the committee page on the OPD website at <http://opd.ans.org/comm.html>.

- **Program Committee**

Bruce Guilbeault

This is the first meeting in which ANS used the electronic review process for paper reviews. I would say at this point the results are mixed. Submission of formal papers for the June 2001 ANS Annual Meeting in Milwaukee was low. Due dates were extended to allow for inclusion of more papers. However, the electronic paper review tool worked well. I was personally able to find and review the papers submitted for the OPD sessions.

On the down side, the division had only two papers submitted for the Milwaukee meeting. Even with strong efforts by committee members, in particular Steve Shepherd, the results were disheartening to say the least.

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NOTE: OPD Officers seeking election as ANS Officers or Board of Directors members include Kyle Turner for ANS Treasurer and Sophie Gutner for the ANS BOD... please give them your support.

On a higher note, members of the Program Committee organized a great set of panel discussions for the Milwaukee meeting, as follows:

➤ **OPD Sponsored Sessions**

Track 2: Business Outlook and the Significance of Safety

- License Renewal, Ted Quinn (equinn@mdmcorp.com)

Track 3: Growth of Nuclear Technology and Research

- Non-power Reactors: General, Leo Bobek (leo_bobek@uml.edu) with IRD-Sean O’Kelly (sokelly@mail.utexas.edu)
- DOE’s Nuclear Energy Research Initiative (NERI): Advanced Generation IV Reactor Concepts, Buzz Savage (buzz_savage@jupitercorp.com)

Track 6: Safety and Risk Management

- Modeling Shutdown Operation Risk, Dennis Henneke with HFD
- Integrated Risk-Informed Technical Specifications, Nanette Gilles (nvg@nrc.com) with HFD
- Significance Determination Program: Progressive Development, Peter Wilson (prw1@nrc.com)
- Analyzing Barrier Impairments by PRA, Howard McShane
- Performance-Based Regulation, N. Prasad Kadambi (npk@nrc.gov) with HFD

Track 7: Policy and Public Interest

- Innovative Public Information Programs, Barb Newsom (barbnewsom@aol.com) with HFD
- General Priorities in Nuclear Education, Nicholas Scalzo (Solarnuclearcorp@aol.com)

➤ **OPD Co-Sponsored Sessions**

Track 2: Business Outlook and the Significance of Safety

- Safety of Nuclear Power Installations in a Deregulated Environment, NISD

Track 3: Growth of Nuclear Technology and Research

- Developments in Research Reactors: Uses, Upgrades, and Applications, IRD

Track 5: Safety in Engineering, Construction, Operations, and Maintenance

- Reactor Safety: General, NISD
- Nuclear Installations Safety: General, NISD

- New Developments for Control Room Habitability Evaluation and Analysis, NISD with HFD

Track 9: Fuel Cycle, Spent Fuel, Decommissioning, and Waste Management

- Dry Cask Storage Update, DDRD with ESD, FCWMD, NCSD
- Safety Yields Decommissioning Successes, DDRD
- Consolidation and Changes in the Commercial Fuel Cycle, FCWMD
- Dry Storage of Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel, FCWMD with DDRD, NCSD

My compliments and great appreciation go to Mark Reinhart (fmr@nrc.gov). As Program Committee Vice Chair, he did a lot of work for the 2001 ANS National Meetings in Milwaukee and Reno. Thanks Mark!

The Program Committee is looking for additional resources to participate in meeting development. Because all members are under a decision pressure of how to participate without using the limited travel dollars I would like to propose a new form of committee membership. Electronic!! I propose that we use the power of the Internet to enhance idea generation. An online discussion group could be the way that new sessions are developed and a way to stimulate the authors to provide papers. I would like to hear from any of you with thoughts on this concept.

We also welcome all OPD members to participate at the formal meetings of the Program Committee. Those meetings are held in conjunction with the ANS Annual and Winter meetings. The time is normally 1 PM on Sunday, the first day of the meeting. Our time at these meetings is spent going over sessions that are in development for the following meeting and identifying topics that could be of interest to members at the meeting in the following year.

As chair of the program committee, I welcome all comments and suggestions on how we can improve the content of the meetings as well as increase the members’ involvement. For more information, visit the Program Committee website at <http://opd.ans.org/cprog.html> or contact me directly at bruce.d.Guilbeault@us.cgeyc.com or bguilbeault@aol.com.

• **Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee needs your help. We seek an energetic leader and at least two other members to bring the advantages of Society and Division membership to the attention of qualified candidates. To offer your services, or just get more

information, please contact Kyle Turner, who provided the following update on OPD membership:

- Fall 2000 – 4,418 Change: -5.7%
- Fall 1999 – 4,684 Change: Not meaningful since the divisions were separate in the previous year and a number of individuals were members of both.
- Fall 1998 - Power: 3,406; NOD:2,606; Total 6,012.
- Any ideas to increase OPD membership are welcome.

• **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee also needs your help. This committee, chaired by the OPD Treasurer, seeks at least two other members to help administer the financial activities of the Division, in cooperation with the Society Treasurer and Executive Director. To offer your services, or just get more information, please contact either Kyle Turner or Pedro Pérez.

Be a winner... get involved.

• **Honors & Awards Committee**

Visit the H&A page on the OPD web site at <http://www.opd.ans.org/chonors.html> or contact the OPD Honors and Awards Chairman, Richard J. St. Onge, for more information. Nominations for OPD honors and awards should e-mailed to stongerj@songs.sce.com or snail-mailed to:
 Mr. Richard J. St. Onge
 OPD Honor and Awards Chairman
 P.O. Box 128
 San Clemente, CA 92675

➤ **Meritorious Performance In Operations Award**

This ANS award was established in 1984 on the recommendation of the Reactor Operations Division (now OPD) Honors and Awards Committee. It is to recognize outstanding performance by both licensed and unlicensed personnel in the operation of nuclear facilities (reactor or non-reactor including waste storage, processing and disposal).

The award consists of an engraved plaque given to a single individual or a group that works as a team, and the awardees need not be members of ANS. A major objective is to encourage exemplary performance in nuclear operations and recognize truly meritorious contributions irrespective of organizational affiliation.

Following are several activities that may qualify the candidate for outstanding performance in the operation of nuclear facilities:

- Long term, superior performance in the discharge of normal operations
- New or novel effective solutions to problems pertaining to nuclear operations
- Outstanding and/or innovative applications of nuclear facilities to contribute to enhanced education, research, development, or training programs
- Long-term, safe operation with a high availability factor
- Development and implementation of novel operating, maintenance, or surveillance techniques and procedures
- Development of a new or novel application of the nuclear facility or its by products
- Any significant action worthy of national attention

Applications for the 2001 award were due on March 1, 2001, but it's not too soon to start thinking about 2002. Refer to the OPD website for a list of past winners and additional information.

➤ **Walter H. Zinn Award**

The Walter H. Zinn Award, established in 1976, is granted to an individual for notable and sustained contribution to the nuclear power industry that has not been widely recognized. It honors Walter H. Zinn, the Society's first president, and may be a technical contribution, one of leadership, or other notable service to the industry.

This year's Zinn Award recipient is **Mr. William R. Stratton, PhD**. Mr. Stratton's education includes the following degrees: PhD, Major in Physics, Minor in Mathematics, University of Minnesota, 1952; M.A. Physics, University of Minnesota, 1948; B.S., University of Minnesota, 1947; University of Wisconsin, River Falls, 1940-1943. He was a staff member of the Los Alamos National Laboratory from 1952-1982. From 1982 to the present, he has been a private consultant in the field of reactor safety, criticality safety, source terms, storage of spent reactor fuel, energy policy and applications.

Mr. Stratton had many significant accomplishments during his five decades of work in the nuclear field. Among the ones related to commercial nuclear power are the following:

- Co-authored a letter to NRC Chairman John Ahearne that questioned the customary method of estimating the escape of iodine

- from a light water reactor experiencing a severe, core damage accident (8/14/80).
- One of three individuals who, in November 1980, advised the NRC that the technical bases for many of its rules, regulations, and safety guides for light water reactors were based on incorrect chemistry and physics. He insisted that the extremely low release of iodine be explained before claiming that the accident was understood and before the expiration of the Commission's charter.
- Chaired the committee and produced the report of the ANS Special Committee on Source Terms; ANS published that report in the autumn of 1984, and presented it to the Society and to the NRC in November 1984.
- In addition to the report listed above, he authored many important nuclear safety-related publications.
- Member, Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, 1967-1975; Chairman, 1974.

Mr. Stratton's notable contributions in this field were the genesis for the significant severe accident source term study of the past several years. Although it took the industry two decades to adequately resolve the nuclear power reactor source term regulatory issues, Mr. Stratton's initiatives in this matter were ultimately successful. Examples of that success are Regulatory Guide 1.183, *Alternative Radiological Source Terms For Evaluating Design Basis Accidents At Nuclear Power Reactors*, July 2000, and Standard Review Plan SRP-15.0.1, Rev. 0, *Radiological Consequence Analyses Using Alternative Source Terms*, July 2000. Licensees are now able to use a more technically sound basis for evaluation of postulated accident consequences.

The OPD Honors and Awards Committee selects Zinn Award recipients. OPD members may submit nominations (candidate names and supporting information) for the Zinn Award throughout the year to the OPD Honors and Awards Committee Chair. Nominees need not be ANS members. An appropriately inscribed plaque will be presented at the OPD Awards luncheon during the ANS Annual Meeting in June. Recent past recipients included Oliver Kingsley (2000), Corbin McNeill, Jr. (1999), and Admiral Eugene Wilkinson (1998). See the OPD website for more details.

This is a tremendous chance to get a leader in your organization well-deserved industry recognition. So, get your pen out and start writing a nomination for the 2002 Walter H. Zinn award.

- **Best Session – Grimsley Award**
Dr. David Poston, Los Alamos National Laboratory, won the Grimsley Award for best session at the November 2000 ANS Winter Meeting. This award plaque will be presented at the June 2001 ANS Annual Meeting. The Grimsley Award was named in honor of Mona I. Grimsley.

Dr. Poston organized an outstanding session titled, *Space Nuclear Power - II: The Future*. This session built the historical information in the *Space Nuclear Power - I* session, and focused on the future implementation of space nuclear power. Included were presentations on the capabilities, specifications, mission requirements, and other factors related to getting a nuclear power or propulsion unit into space. Technology descriptions were concentrated on near-term space fission systems, and how to reduce the cost and development time of such systems.

- **Excellent Presentation Awards**
The following individuals won Excellent Presentation Awards in recognition of their top-rated presentations at the ANS Winter Meeting last November. They will receive their award certificates at the ANS Annual Meeting in June.
 - **George Schmidt**, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, *Benefits and Applications of Space Nuclear Power in the Future*
 - **John Lyver**, NASA Headquarters, *Getting a SFPP System Through the Launch Approval (INSRP) Process*
 - **Jim Hill**, NSP, *Insights from RROP: Experience at Prairie Island Nuclear Plant*
 - **Ward Sproat**, Exelon, *The Status of New Construction - Safer, Faster, Cheaper*

Who determined these awards you ask? You did, that's who. OPD tallied the submitted evaluation forms... there were no hanging chads, so we counted all the votes. Be sure your opinion is considered at the next ANS National Meeting. Use the evaluation forms (available in each meeting room or on the OPD website) to rate the sessions and presentations that you attend.

- **Other Awards**
Refer to the Utility Working Conference section of this newsletter for a discussion of the Utility Leadership Award, the Utility Achievement Award, and the new UWC Implementation Award.

NEWSLETTER COMMENTS & CONTRIBUTIONS
Feedback is welcome... please send input to:
Peter L. Reagan, President, EXXEL, Inc., Box 891, Natick,
MA 01760 T: 508/651-3377 F: 508/655-0740

- **Nominating Committee**

William G. Vernetson

If you are involved in nuclear operations or nuclear power, involvement in OPD governance is an excellent opportunity for you to directly interact with industry leaders, establish yourself as a recognized contributor, and get your career in high gear.

Visit the OPD web site or contact the OPD Nominating Committee Chair, Bill Vernetson, for more information concerning OPD Officer and committee positions. Nominations, including a brief resume, should be e-mailed to vernet@server1.nuceng.ufl.edu or snail-mailed to:

Dr. William G. Vernetson
 OPD Nominating Committee Chair
 University of Florida
 PO Box 118300
 Gainesville, FL 32611-8300
 T: 352-392-1408
 F: 352-392-3380

The Nominating Committee for the March 2001 Ballot consisted of the immediate past OPD Chair, Bill Vernetson, plus Bob Hess and Harold Stiles. The slate of candidates was as follows:

- Chair - Richard J. St. Onge, Southern California Edison (elected 1st Vice Chair/Chair Elect in 2000 and assumes the position of Chair in June 2001)
- 1st Vice Chair/Chair Elect (Vote for 1) - Peter L. Reagan, *EXXEL*, Inc.; Write-in candidate
- 2nd Vice Chair (Vote for 1) - Sophie I. Gutner, Dominion Generation; Write-in candidate
- Secretary (Vote for 1) - Pedro B. Perez, Vermont Yankee; Write-in candidate
- Treasurer (Vote for 1) - Loyd A. Wright, Southern California Edison; Write-in candidate
- Executive Committee / 3-year term (Vote for 4) - Eric A. Blocher, Parsons Power; Donald R. Eggett, Automated Engineering Services Corp.; Gregory T. Gibson, Southern California Edison; Bruce D. Guilbeault, Cap Gemini Ernst & Young; Edward (Ted) L. Quinn, MDM Engineering; C. Thomas Snow, Dominion Generation; Richard N. Swanson, Performance Management Initiatives, Inc.; Write-in candidate

GETTING INVOLVED

Peter L. Reagan

Involvement in professional societies is a winning practice. You benefit by getting positive career- enhancing exposure, and the society achieves its goals with your help. Here are a few ideas for your consideration:

- Check the list of committees on the OPD website. Those committees reflect our organization and the important issues for ANS. Each and every one of those committees could occasionally use some assistance. Just pick up the phone or send an e-mail message to the committee chair to offer your services.
- Want to see more operations and power-related information of interest to you? Put pen to paper (or better still, put fingers to the keyboard) and write an article for this website and/or this newsletter. Your topic can be almost anything of interest to the Division membership, such as opinions on contemporary matters, assessment of new regulations, promotional changes in your company, or other newsworthy items.
- Attend society functions. There are few better values than participating an ANS National or Topical Meeting (e.g., the Utility Working Conference). Such meetings offer a great venue to network with your colleagues, learn from the many excellent technical sessions, and identify opportunities for improvement of your business.
- Prepare and present a paper at an ANS meeting.

Your professional involvement can help assure the vitality and success of our Division... and your chosen profession.
Be a winner - get involved!

UTILITY WORKING CONFERENCE

Robert W. Hess, Technical Program Chair

The 8th annual Utility Working Conference (UWC) will be held August 5-9, 2001. OPD has sponsored this special technical conference every year since 1994. It is held at the Amelia Island Plantation in Amelia Island, Florida. Attendees typically represent a broad spectrum of executives, managers, and subject matter experts from a wide range of companies in the commercial nuclear power industry. Approximately 280 representatives from over 30 US and overseas utilities, NRC, INPO, NEI, EPRI and major industry suppliers attended the 2000 Utility Working Conference (UWC).

Planning for UWC 2001 is well underway with the expectation it will continue to grow in attendance and provide valuable information to all attendees. The theme for this year's UWC is "The Leadership Challenge - Shaping Our Future". Mr. Vic Parrish, CEO, Energy Northwest, is the General Chairman of the meeting and is arranging for an impressive list of speakers on this subject for the Monday morning Plenary Session that will include the NRC, Wall Street, NEI, and utility leadership.

This ANS Class I Topical Meeting has a unique format. Sessions are organized in tracks that focus on current working-level issues and successful solution techniques. This format provides for maximum interaction and

dialogue between presenters and audience members. This year, session topics for the tracks will be as follows:

- **Regulatory Relations**
 - License Renewal & Severe Accident Mitigation Activities
 - Risk Informing Part 50
 - Risk Informed Regulation
 - Reactor Oversight Program
- **Engineering**
 - Recruit, Retain and Develop Engineers and Leaders
 - Engineering Regulation Activities & Initiatives
 - Equipment Reliability and Life Cycle Management
 - Engineering Workflow Development
- **Business**
 - Attaining High Performance after Mergers and Acquisitions
 - Emerging Energy Markets & the Implications for Creating Value from Nuclear
 - Business Meets Regulation
 - E-Commerce
- **Maintenance**
 - Actual Application of Lessons to be Learned from Maintenance Benchmarking
 - Adjusting Maintenance to Accommodate License Renewal
 - The Crucial Role of Engineering Talent in Maintenance Support
 - Maintenance Focus on Reliability over Capacity Factor
- **Supply Chain**
 - Nuclear Procurement Industry Initiatives
 - Deregulation: Its Effect on Supply Chain and Opportunities it Creates
 - E-Commerce: What's the Value Proposition for Nuclear Procurement
 - Supply Chain Customer Service
- **Operations**
 - Impact of the New Maintenance Rule on the Control Room
 - Career Development Beyond the Control Room
 - Operator Initial License Exams
 - The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Operators

In addition to the technical sessions above, several OPD awards will be presented at the meeting. These consist of the Utility Leadership Award, the Utility Achievement Award, and the new UWC Implementation Award. If you know of personnel or plants deserving of these awards, please contact the meeting Awards Chairman, Larry Curfman (larry_curfman@dom.com). Criteria for these awards can be found on the OPD website.

Please plan on attending this very valuable and informative conference in Amelia Island, Florida August 5-9, 2001. Also, tell your peers about how you or others benefited by resolving critical issues at the conference,

and suggest they attend. If you have any suggestions for this meeting or would like to participate in one of the sessions, please contact one of the following members of the Technical Program Committee or ANS HQ.

- **General Chairman:** Vic Parrish, CEO, Energy Northwest
- **Technical Program Chairman:** Bob Hess, PG&E Diablo Canyon Power Plant
- **Assistant Technical Program Chairman:** Harold Stiles, CP&L
- **Meeting Track Leaders:**
 - Regulatory Relations – Samuel Collins, NRC
 - Engineering – Larry Womack, PG&E Diablo Canyon Power Plant
 - Business – Joe Wambold, SCE
 - Maintenance – Barth Doroshuk, Constellation Nuclear Services
 - Supply Chain – Bert Simpson, PSE&G
 - Operations – Bob Hovey, FP&L
- **Meeting Track Organizers:**
 - Regulatory Relations – Mark Reinhart, NRC; Alan Hackerott, NPPD
 - Engineering – Amir Shahkarami, Entergy; Bill Rinkacs, Westinghouse
 - Business – Marc Goettel, SCE; Vince Gilbert, NEI
 - Maintenance – Sudesh Gambir, OPPD; Bill Corcoran, NSRC
 - Supply Chain – Joe Sullivan, Niagara Mohawk; Kerry Owens, Scientech
 - Operations – Sophie Gutner, Dominion, North Anna
- **Fund Raising:** - Chair, Don Hoffman, Excel Services; Vice-Chair, Peter Reagan, *EXXEL*, Inc.; Vice-Chair, Carl Sundstrom, CFS Utility Services
- **Awards:** - Chair, Larry Curfman, Dominion Generation; Vice-Chair, David Tateosian, Altran
- **Golf Tournament:** - Chair, Carl Sundstrom, CFS Utility Services; Vice-Chair, Rich Cecil, the Atlantic Group

Participating In The UWC Adds Value

A primary goal for the UWC is for each participant to go back home with five new good ideas that can be immediately implemented. Put the UWC to work for your business... attend the 8th annual UWC, August 5-9, 2001. For more details, visit the UWC page on the OPD website at <http://opd.ans.org/uwc.html> or the ANS meetings website at ANS.org.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MTG. – 11/12/00

Sophie Gutner, Secretary

The Minutes of this meeting can be found on the OPD website, in PDF format. The following are selected highlights of the November 12, 2000 OPD Executive

Committee Meeting held at the ANS Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., in addition to the topics discussed in other sections of this newsletter:

- **Public Policy Positions**

ANS HQ assigned three Public Policy Positions to OPD for revision/update. As of last November, no progress had been made on #14 (Plant License Renewal) - Contact: Eric Blocher. Sophie Gutner reported that more documents were received for inclusion into #29 (Nuclear Workforce) and Ted Quinn launched a new Task Group on this topic, which may yield more information to include in the policy position. Kyle Turner will submit a revision to #32 (Licensing Next Generation Plants).

- **2001 Student Conference**

Texas A&M University will host the unique joint ANS/HPS Student Conference for 2001. The conference will take place on March 29, 2001 through April 1, 2001 and is entitled "2001: A Nuclear Odyssey"; 150 students are expected (ANS counts 750 student members). As a financial sponsor, OPD will sponsor an award and student travel to the conference. Refer to <http://ans.tamu.edu/conference/> for more information.

- **Updated OPD Description**

The following OPD description was amended to read as follows: "Devoted to applied nuclear science, engineering, and technology related to the design, construction, operation, and utilization of nuclear reactors and associated facilities and equipment including power reactors, critical facilities, research and test reactors, transitioning facilities, process heat reactors, propulsion reactors and such other reactors as may be developed. The division facilitates the dissemination of information and development of solutions to particular problems in those areas (e.g., design, economics, management, safeguards, fuels, and maintenance) by holding meetings as well as coordinating activities and common interests with other professional groups working in these same areas."

- **OPD Member Survey**

In the coming weeks, OPD will conduct a survey of its members to determine how to best serve its broad membership's needs. The results of this survey will hopefully help the Executive Committee and the Program Committee in their future activities. **YOUR PROMPT PARTICIPATION IN THIS SURVEY IS DESIRED.** The results and recommendations will be presented at the June 2001 meeting in Milwaukee. For more information, contact Sophie Gutner.

The news page (<http://opd.ans.org/news.html>) on the OPD website includes prior OPD newsletters as well as Past Executive committee meeting minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Actual funds and expenses for calendar 2000 were:

Funds

- Member allocation: \$4,117
- Carryforward from 1999: \$28,576

Expenses

- Awards/Plaques: \$307
- National Meeting Costs: \$866
- Student Support: \$2,000 (\$1,000 for each national meeting)
- Scholarship/NEED funding: \$2,000 for Bisesti Scholarship

The 2001 Forecast budget, approved at the 11/12/00 Executive Committee Meeting was as follows:

Funds

- Member allocation: \$4,000
- Carryforward from 2000: \$23,000
- UWC/Other: \$6,000

Expenses

- Newsletters: \$0
- Awards/Plaques: \$500
- National Meeting Costs: \$1,000
- Division Officer Expense: \$0
- Student Support: \$4,000 (\$2,000 for TAMU Student Conference, \$1,000 for each national meeting)
- Scholarship/NEED funding: \$2,000 for NEED
- Other expenses: \$0

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ANS Summer Meeting, June 17-21, 2001 at Milwaukee, WI
- ANS OPD Utility Working Conference, August 5-9, 2001 at Amelia Island, FL
- ANS Winter Meeting, November 11-15, 2001 at Reno, NV (Paper Review 7/22-25/01)

<http://opd.ans.org>

Sophie Gutner, OPD Webmaster/Secretary

The OPD website is continuously evolving and it needs your bright ideas for improved content and format. Our dedicated and busy webmaster - yours truly - strives to provide the most up to date information about OPD's activities, as summarized in this newsletter. Tell me how we can make it even better. I'll be glad to answer your questions and receive your suggestions regarding the OPD website.

NEW on the OPD website!!!

As of December, each of the Officers publishes an editorial on the OPD website; click on <http://opd.ans.org> and read the interesting articles that your OPD Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer will write for you. The topic, each month, is up to the officer writing the editorial. The previous editorials will be kept in the link "Archived Editorials." Happy reading!

In order to take the OPD website to the next level, I need YOUR help now: if you have some knowledge of webpage design/development, a little free time, and/or a desire to help OPD and its members, let me know immediately (s_gutner@yahoo.com). Be assured that I'll put your talents to good use.

NUCLEAR WORKS!!
A CALIFORNIA ENERGY UPDATE

Richard J. St Onge

Well, unless you have been vacationing in some remote, primitive area of the world, you are probably aware that there is a "miniature energy crisis" in the great state of California today. It's a "miniature energy crisis" today because it only directly affects the three major public utility companies in the state. Two of these utilities are poised on the brink of bankruptcy, and the third is carrying a very large, likely uncollectable I.O.U. debt from consumers, most of whom are unaware they are amassing this debt at 2 to 10 thousand dollars per year. It may soon be a major crisis when the juice that powers the 6th largest economy in the world fizzles out.

With a series of events that will be analyzed and criticized by armchair quarterbacks for a long time, California boldly leapt forward in 1996 to deregulate the electric power business in the state. The basic belief was that the "market" better served the supply side of power generation than the traditional utility/regulator load planning, with its resultant ugly rate making battles. In particular, the pro deregulation constituency, along with its media lap dogs, argued that nuclear power plants bore the Goliath share of blame for why electricity energy prices, then about 4 cents a kwhr, were astronomical. Those same rocket scientists argued that the utilities ought to sell off all their generation capacity to third parties except for those albatross nukes, which should be tied permanently around the utilities necks. In the then current thinking, free market energy would be almost too cheap to... I won't go there. Well thank goodness for small minds. Turns out with deregulated energy prices at 15 to 50 cents/kwhr, those Nuclear plants are cheaper and more reliable than those third party facilities. These hard working nuclear plants are helping to keep the utilities from meeting the financial maker.

One of the clear messages out of California's experiment is that there is a bright, well-lit future for the Nuclear power

industry. In fact, California's four operating nuclear workhorses are holding the line on base load in the state with operating costs at bargain basement rates, without greenhouse gas emissions, without unstable natural gas/oil prices, and with tremendous reliability. It is also becoming crystal clear that the nuclear contribution to our national energy mix is a tremendously valuable asset.

Each and every one of you that support the nuclear industry in your endeavors is on a winning team. That team will keep the nation's lights on, the state economies working, and the environment in top condition. Now is the time to champion your industry, sell your friends & neighbors, silence the nonsensical vocal minority, and stand proud to be a contributor to a great national asset.

Now you will have to excuse me while I am off to conceptually site 4500 new megawatts of nuclear electric power in the great state of California. We need it quickly.

2000-2001 OFFICERS

Current Officers and Executive Committee members are listed on the OPD web page at <http://opd.ans.org/offmemb.html>.

- **Chair** - Kyle H. Turner (kyleturn@envisonet.net)
- **1st Vice-Chair** - Richard J. St. Onge (stongerj@songs.sce.com)
- **2nd Vice-Chair** - Peter L. Reagan (plreagan@exxelinc.com)
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