

Operations and Power Division

SPRING 2006



You are invited to the...

**June 4-8, 2006 • Reno, Nevada • Reno Hilton Hotel
to be part of:**

***“A Brilliant Future: Nexus of Public
Support in Nuclear Technology”***

**OPD Program Committee
Sunday, June 4, 2006
1:00 – 3:30 PM, Carson 1**

**OPD Executive Committee
Sunday, June 4, 2006
3:30 – 6:00 PM, Carson 1**

**OPD Luncheon
Monday, June 5, 2006
11:30 – 1:00 PM, Teton**

**Honors and Awards Luncheon
Tuesday, June 6, 2006
11:30 – 1:00 PM, Reno Ballroom**

**New Construction Working Group
Tuesday, June 6, 2006
4:00 – 6:00 PM, Ruby 2**

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

Winter Meeting and Nuclear Technology Expo
"Ensuring the Future in Times of Change: Nonproliferation
and Security"
November 12 - 16, 2006
Albuquerque, NM

Utility Working Conference
August 6 – 9, 2006, Amelia Island, FL

**From Your Chair
Mark Reinhart**



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

What a change we have seen . . . in the last year, in the last few years, in the last decade, since each of us personally became involved with nuclear energy technology. For me, I have seen a nearly 360o course change. Certainly I remember the satisfaction of bringing my first power reactor critical, of heating up, and of starting up the remainder of the plant; i.e., becoming self sustaining and getting a ship underway or paralleling a commercial generator to the electrical grid. I have experienced aspects on the other side of the coin as well.

What have we learned? Possibly the lesson equates to “Do it right the first time!” For some, for many, this time will be the “first time.” Currently, in the United States, we see a dozen or more candidates for Combined Operating Licenses; we see the NRC and DOE reorganizing to accommodate the future expectations; we see an increase in students entering the nuclear field. We see similar activities internationally. So . . . we all have a job to do. What is our job?

Certainly we have jobs to obtain professional satisfaction as well as to pay the bills, but more importantly we each have individual talents, insights, perceptions, and perspectives, gained over the years (many or not yet so many). Part of our job is to focus our capabilities on making the “resurgence” in nuclear energy technology a success.

Some are excited about the political, economic, and public opinion circumstances. Let’s keep in mind that to achieve a sustaining nuclear community and technology is not a short term proposition. Politics, economics, and public opinion change. The supporting basis for using nuclear energy technology needs to be resilient, to ride out “storms,” to take advantage of good “weather.” An older and wiser man once counselled: “Life is full of ‘ups’ and ‘downs.’ The ‘ups’ take care of themselves; it’s how we handle the ‘downs’ that counts.”

The past ten or more years in OPD governance—Utility Working Conference organization, Executive Committee,

Officer, and Chair—have been among the best for me. A large part of that period's being among the best is that I have met and worked with you. I hope to continue with OPD, with ANS, with the international nuclear community, and with you.

Let's all continue to work together, to bring our talents to bear, to do it right this "first time," to build a resilient infrastructure, to be efficient, and to be SAFE.

My very best regards,

Mark Reinhart

Program Committee By Don Eggett, Chairman Tom Remick, Vice-Chair

Quality technical programs of interest to our members are of utmost importance. With planning starting nearly a year in advance of each national meeting, timing is paramount in the selection of a topic. These topics must reflect current changes in the nuclear industry and provide a balance between research, planning, and day-to-day operations. The perfect topic must balance fresh ideas with meaningful experience.



2005 Winter Meeting, November, Washington, D.C.

The Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C. provided some excellent sessions that were both timely as a result of current industry initiatives and of high quality substance. Summarizing, the sessions included:

- Nuclear Energy: Quantifying and Communicating the Benefits
- Equipment Reliability, A Driving Force in Nuclear Asset Performance
- Management Perspectives on the Use of Risk Information In Operational Plant Management
- Bringing Value to the American Nuclear Society: The Employer's and Young Professional's Perspective
- Small Liquid-Metal-Cooled Fast Reactors
- Planning a Country's 1st Power Reactor - Trials and Tribulations

- Digital Upgrade Issues in an Evolving Technical and Regulatory Environment
- Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems Including Nuclear Power 2010: Research and Development

These sessions indeed captured the words I shared with all of you in the introduction "provide a balance between research, planning, and day-to-day operations."

2006 Annual Meeting, June 4-8, Reno, NV

The meeting in Reno this June will be no different. OPD is the primary division sponsor for the ICAPP Meeting (International Congress on Advances in Nuclear Power Plants) held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in Reno. Since OPD holds a major responsibility in assuring the ICAPP meeting is a success, most of the division's efforts are put forth toward this meeting. One of the key focuses of this years ICAPP meeting will be New Plant Construction. However, additional technical sessions are also scheduled in parallel to the ICAPP meeting that focus on research for new reactor designs and operational and obsolescence issues with the current LWR plants. These topics are:

- The Licensing Process and Status of Small Power Reactors
- Addressing Aging and Obsolescence Issues with Printed Circuit Boards
- Low Power and Shutdown Operations: Observations, Trends, and Future Action

2006 Winter Meeting, November 12-16, Albuquerque, NM

OPD believes that topics identified for discussion at the 2006 Winter Meeting continue to align with the Division's goals of current industry issues and high quality content. In fact, OPD is an active Division in seven of the nine Tracks earmarked for the Winter Meeting. Consider the following sessions:

- Track 1: What Part Does Nuclear Energy Play?
- Track 2: Advances in Nuclear Energy Systems Including Nuclear Power 2010: Research and Development
 - Engineering Program Stewardship at Nuclear Power Plants
 - License Renewal Status and Progress

Combined Operating License Application Status in the United States

An International Probabilistic Safety Assessment Library

- Track 4: Generic Safety Issue 191: Pressurized Water Reactor Containment Sump Performance and Analysis
- Track 6: Reactor Research Technology (Nonpower, Medical, and Radiation Applications)
- Track 7: Current Topics for Reactor Engineers
- Track 8: Continuing Update on the Status of Small Power Reactors
- Track 9: Is Our Message Being Heard? Technically and Publicly (Communications and Public Involvement)

For each and every session topic listed above within the Track, OPD has the lead or is a key stakeholder in assuring the session topic is a success. We as a Division do hope that each and every reader of the newsletter considers speaking in one of the sessions or at the very least attending the sessions that are closely aligned to their daily responsibilities. For additional information and interest, please email Don Eggett, dreggett@aesengineering.com or Tom Remick, remickta@songs.sce.com.

International Meetings

We also are co-sponsoring two international meetings, one on plant water chemistry and the other on plant human factors. EPRI is actively involved in the planning of the International Conference on Water Chemistry. For more information on the water chemistry meeting, please email Keith Fruzzetti at kfruzzet@epri.com. For the human factors meeting, please email Ted Quinn at tedquinn@cox.net, Don Miller at miller.68@osu.edu or David Holcomb, the Program Chair at holcombde@ornl.gov.

- 2006 International Conference on Water Chemistry of Nuclear Reactor System - Jeju Island, Korea (Oct 23-26, 2006)
- 5th International Topical Meeting on Nuclear Plant Instrumentation, Control and Human Machine, Scottsdale, AZ, Spring, 2007 (OPD Co-sponsorship and co-located with IEEE Human Factors Meeting)

2006 Utility Working Conference Meeting, August 6-9, Amelia Island, FL

Finally, the Utility Working Conference is the meeting that OPD takes great pride in planning and sponsoring every year. It is focused on activities both current issues and strategic matters of the nuclear power plants. This August, we have added two sessions to the conference on planning for New Plant Construction, a highly visible industry initiative. On Tuesday morning, discussions will focus on Configuration Management and New Plants – Learning From Our Past and the entire Tuesday afternoon will be completely devoted to discussions on “Expanding the Fleet.” Speakers from both utilities and major NSSL/engineering stakeholders will make presentations on the current status and what to expect in the near future.

I cannot emphasize enough the opportunities that this meeting presents to the attendees especially utility representatives. For more information on this utility conference, please read the separate news article with this newsletter.

In summary, without your active participation as a member of the Division, it is difficult for those who represent you in the Division to know exactly what your focus is and interests might be. Please take an active role in expressing your interests either through direct OPD meeting participation or through Division network communication. We look forward to your active participation in the division matters.

Donald R. Eggett

2006 Utility Working Conference

By Jeff Robertson

The annual Utility Working Conference (UWC) will be held this year from Sunday, August 6th through Wednesday, August 9th at the Amelia Island Plantation, Amelia Island, Florida. The conference is the only one in the industry that brings together an array of leaders from all disciplines and organizations in the commercial nuclear power industry at one time and in one place.

In order to maximize the benefit realized by such a large gathering of diverse leaders, this year's conference will include two general sessions- the plenary, entitled “Sustaining Excellence” and a special session entitled “Expanding the Fleet”.

The plenary, to be held on Monday morning, will feature several keynote speakers- Brew Barron, Group Vice President, Nuclear Generation and Chief Nuclear Officer (CNO) of Duke Energy (and also General Chair of this year's UWC); the Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko, Commissioner, USNRC; James O. Ellis, Jr., President and CEO of INPO; David A. Christian, Senior Vice President and CNO of Dominion Energy, Inc.; the Honorable Gresham Barrett, Congressman, US House of Representative and member of the House Committee for Energy and Commerce; and Bill Coley, Chief Executive of British Energy Group, LLC. Each of these speakers is sure to offer a unique perspective to the topic of sustaining excellence.

The special session, to be held on Tuesday afternoon, will involve several panelists- Luis Reyes, Executive Director for Operations, USNRC; Carol Berrigan, Director of Industry Initiatives, NEI; Michael J. Wallace, President of Constellation Generation Group; and Jeffrey T. Gasser, Executive Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer of Southern Nuclear Operating Company. The panel session will be moderated by Duke Energy's CNO and the UWC General Chair, Brew Barron.

Break out sessions will be held Monday afternoon, Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon. Several tracks that remain popular year after year will continue to be featured- Equipment Reliability and Configuration Management (consolidated as mini-tracks under the Engineering Track this year), Operations, Work Management, Regulatory Relations, Nuclear Supply Chain, Performance Improvement and Nuclear Asset Management. However, a number of new tracks, that form a common thread through all of the disciplines, have been added- Probabilistic Risk Assessment, Excellence in Business and Quality Assurance. A Modification Mini-Track (within the Engineering Track) has also been added this year to address the enormous refurbishment and upgrade efforts under way through out the industry. Session topics in the modification area include outsourcing and digital upgrades.

As in the past, the majority of the break out sessions will continue to focus on best practices and lessons learned at operating plants. However, several of the sessions will complement this year's special session, "Expanding the Fleet". Examples include a configuration management session entitled, "Configuration Management and New Plants- Learning From Our Past", a regulatory relations session entitled "New Reactor Licensing, Meeting the Challenges through Standardization" and a quality assurance session entitled, "The Road to a New Reactor: What Decisions Await Before Construction Begins". All of the break out sessions

will continue to emphasize the use of dialogue and the exchange of information between those who attend.

The conference will begin the morning of Sunday, August 6, with a golf match for interested individuals and parties. Registration will begin Sunday afternoon and a kick off dinner will be held Sunday evening.

The Amelia Island Resort offers numerous activities for attendees as well as family members. Resort activities include championship golf, renowned tennis, nature programs, recreation programs (for kids, teens and families), fishing, shopping, spas and fitness centers. See www.aipfl.com for more details.

For additional information concerning the conference and registration, please visit www.ans.org/meetings and page down to the utility working conference or contact the Technical Program Chair, Jeff Robertson at 864-886-6349.

Utility Working Conference – Root Cause Training

For the third successive year the ANS Professional Development Coordinating Committee in cooperation with OPD is offering a Root Cause Analysis Training Workshop in conjunction with the Utility Working Conference. The workshop is on Thursday, August 10, 2006 following the UWC.

The chief instructor this year is OPD Executive Committee Member Dr. Bill Corcoran, an internationally known pioneer in the development of root cause analysis tools. He is currently involved in a project to provide training to the NRC in root cause analysis report evaluation. Other recent nuclear projects have been in support of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Idaho National Laboratory, and the Yucca Mountain Project.

Utility Working Conference – Intern Program

The Operations and Power Division (OPD) is piloting an intern program for the 2006 Utility Working Conference (UWC) at Amelia Island, Florida in August 6-9, 2006. This initiative is intended to explore the potential for working with local sections to integrate student members into the national activities of the Division. It is most appropriate for OPD to pilot this program at the UWC because, for each of the last twelve years, the UWC has earned a reputation as the

premiere conference for sharing innovations and discussing timely and important issues in the nuclear utility industry.

The UWC Intern program is being piloted as a collaborative effort with the Eastern Carolinas Local Section (ECS) and the Student Branch at North Carolina State University (NCSU). The immediate goal is to provide selected students with an extended opportunity both for developing professional contacts and to receive mentoring in the process of organizing national meetings. The longer-term goal involves a larger strategy for retaining students as full members after they transition to become nuclear professionals.

Dayne Murray and Jason Schaefer were selected to be interns for UWC 2006. These two nuclear engineering students from NCSU were nominated for internship by ECS. They were chosen from a handful of very promising applicants based upon the quality of their written applications and with consideration for the selection criteria developed by Andrew Cook and Scott Lassell, faculty members of NCSU. Shown here is Dayne Murray (center) receiving his recognition from Harold Stiles (left), OPD Vice-Chair, and George Attarian (right), ECS Chair, at the March 29, 2006 local section meeting in Raleigh, NC. Jason Schaefer was not able to attend the meeting, so his certificate was delivered to him. In addition to a certificate, each intern will receive financial support (jointly provided by OPD and ECS) to attend the UWC 2006.

Each intern has been assigned a mentor and given an active function on the UWC Program Committee. George Attarian, as the Engineering Track Leader for UWC 2006, has agreed to act as mentor for Dayne Murray. Jeff Robertson, as the Technical Program Chair for UWC 2006, has agreed to act as mentor for Jason Schaefer. The duties assigned to the interns are anticipated to include support for web/database development, the conduct of marketing surveys and promotions, and the tracking of project milestones and deliverables. The mentors will consider the skills and school commitments when developing assignments.

Beyond UWC 2006, Sophie Gutner, Technical Program Chair for UWC 2005, has agreed to coordinate OPD's efforts to develop long-term relationships with the UWC Interns. With historically only about 1 in 4 student members successfully making the transition to full ANS membership, the difficulty of this assignment cannot be overstated, but neither can its importance to the continuing viability of the Society. Some of the goals here include ensuring that the benefits of the Young Member Division are fully communicated, contacting an OPD member to serve as a mentor after graduation, and finding opportunities in OPD governance. Also assisting in this effort are Tom Snow, OPD Treasurer, and Mark Reinhart, OPD Chair.

OPD already supports several student outreach activities; OPD funds scholarships, contributes to student conferences, and provides members to serve as mentors at national

meetings. But, the UWC Intern initiative is intended to develop a better rapport by providing more personal and prolonged contact between OPD and the students. The UWC Interns will likely make great future leaders of OPD. But whether something like the UWC Intern program would actually be effective in bringing new blood and fresh ideas into OPD is yet to be determined.

OPD has established an ad-hoc committee, comprising selected members of the OPD Executive Committee (Sean O'Kelly, Sandra Sloan, Andy Klein, and Jack Stanford), to monitor the pilot program. This ad-hoc committee will evaluate the extent to which the UWC Intern program benefited the students, the UWC Program Committee, OPD, and the Society. Their recommendation on whether, and under what conditions, the pilot program should be continued beyond 2006 will be presented to the OPD Executive Committee at the ANS National Meeting in November.

Honors & Awards By Harold Stiles

On Monday, June 5th, during the 2006 ANS National Meeting in Reno, NV, OPD will bestow its highest honor, the Walter H. Zinn award, to Mr. William Cavanaugh, Chairman, WANO. The Walter H. Zinn Award, named for the Society's first President, was established in 1976 to recognize a selected individual for notable and sustained contribution to the nuclear power industry.

Mr. Cavanaugh was selected for this award for his lifetime of championing the principles of safe, reliable, and economic use of nuclear power; for his sustained leadership in applying the concepts of self-evaluation and continuous improvement to the nuclear utility industry; and for his persistent and effective communication of these principles and practices to other members of the world nuclear community. Please plan to join us in recognizing a deserving member of our industry.

The OPD Honors and Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for Fellow candidates. The honored membership grade of Fellow is awarded to ANS members for outstanding accomplishment in any one of the areas of nuclear science and engineering. This honor is reserved for senior members of good reputation who are at least 35 years of age, have served as an active, voting member of the Society for a period of at least five (5) continuous years immediately prior to nomination, and have compiled a professional record of experience marked by significant contribution to the advancement of one or more of the various disciplines served by the Society. The names of potential candidates should be



forward to the OPD Honors and Award Chair as list on the OPD website <http://opd.ans.org/>.

OPD's Webpage

Comments and suggestions ? Please feel free to contact our Webmaster (**Veronica Klein**, nuclearsaurus@aol.com).

OPD Election

By Loyd Wright

The election results are in and congratulations to the our new Officers and Executive Committee members. Harold Stiles will be the Chair of OPD next year, with Greg Gibson taking over as the 1st Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. Tom Snow will move to the 2nd Vice Chair position and Sean O'Kelly to Secretary. Don Eggett was elected Treasurer for the next year. Elected to the Executive Committee for 3 year terms were Bill Burchill, Bill Corcoran, Brian Katz, Bob Penn and Preston Pratt.

We would like to thank those individuals who are ending their terms on the Executive Committee. They are Joe Naser, Ken Hughey, Steve Stamm and Robert Twilley. Thanks for your contributions over the last three years. If you are interested in getting involved with the Operations and Power Division please contact Mark Reinhart. He will be chairing the nominating committee for next year.

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