

## STAYING current

**NRC** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved the final rule on Spent Fuel Storage and has ended suspension of final licensing actions for nuclear plants and renewals.

**FERC** President Obama has nominated Collette Honorable to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. If confirmed, she would serve the remainder of John Norris's term, which expires in June 2017.

**EPA** The comment period on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed rule to reduce CO2 emissions from existing power plants has been extended 45 days until December 1, 2014. Many in the industry, as well as 53 senators, felt more time was needed to effectively study the impact of the regulation. Additionally, the EPA has published its final rule on cooling water intake structures at existing facilities. All of MEAG Power's electric generating facilities already use closed-cycle cooling technology, and therefore, the facilities will not be significantly impacted by the rule.

**Radioactive Repository** Officials in sparsely populated Loving County, Texas, want the government to consider building an interim repository for radioactive waste in their area. Meanwhile, the U.S. House of Representatives defeated two proposals to prevent development of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in Nevada.

**Georgia Wind Power** The state continues to study the viability of offshore wind power. Analysis showed that Georgia winds fell in the Class 4 category, which is slightly higher than average, but offshore winds need to be higher to justify the high initial cost of construction and maintenance. Georgia will continue to monitor technology advancements that might help mitigate costs.

**Camera Ready Designation** Every one of Georgia's 159 counties are now officially "Camera Ready," a designation given to communities with liaisons to offer community-based assistance to film and television production companies.

## MORE ON THE MOVE



Plant Vogtle Unit 3 CA-01 module inside the module assembly building.

Steve Jackson, MEAG Power Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, shares news concerning the Plant Vogtle expansion.

### **current: What's the latest?**

**Jackson:** In early September, the expansion site workforce peaked to 5,000 as crews continued to make solid progress on the project. This is the largest number of workers since the 1980s when Vogtle 1&2 were under construction.

### **current: Where does construction stand?**

**Jackson:** The project continues to focus on the critical nuclear island activities such as the start of the shield building construction and assembly of the CA-01 module that will be placed inside the containment vessel. The contractor expects to achieve multiple, key Unit 3 milestones in October.

### **current: Can you please explain ITAAC?**

**Jackson:** ITAAC is the abbreviation for Inspections, Tests, Analyses and Acceptance Criteria. In order to confirm that the plant is built in accordance with our license, information will be submitted to demonstrate that specific license requirements have been met and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will review and approve each of these filings. Prior to the fuel load for each unit, 875 ITAACs need to be completed.

## Our Next GENERATION

Many in the energy industry are nearing retirement, so throughout the country, and right here in Georgia, efforts are being made to train the next generation. West Georgia Technical College is doing its part, offering their new Energy Industry Fundamentals technical certificate program at the Newnan campus. The program is available for qualifying high school and traditional college students.

In the same vein, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) reports that by 2018, 38 percent of the 120,000 commercial nuclear workers will reach retirement age. To make sure there are qualified employees to meet the need – and enjoy the benefits of these high-paying jobs – the NEI designed a standardized nuclear education curriculum that is now taught at 35 colleges including Augusta Technical College in Georgia. NEI says it is exciting to see this new crop of bright young professionals who are eager for clean energy generated by safe, advanced nuclear technology.

**Covington** Plans are underway for a high-tech industrial park adjacent to the city's airport. The desirable sites could attract research and development companies, which have need of ready access to planes but no need for heavy truck traffic.

**Hogansville** Phase 3 of the city's Tower Trail should begin in October and will extend the Trail to a creek where a 20 x 20 "classroom" deck area will overlook the area's ecosystem. The area will primarily enhance science education for Hogansville Elementary students.

**Mansfield** Current projects on the city's agenda include a new logo, dedication of City Hall to former mayor Bill Cocchi and his wife, Lyra, and updating downtown with new sidewalks and green space.

**Newnan** The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded Newnan its distinguished budget presentation award for the 25th consecutive year. Newnan received this national award for its 2014 budget documentation.

**Norcross** ADMA BioCenters is opening a plasma collection center to help in advancing its biopharmaceutical research.

**Thomasville** Finnish energy and environment technology company Oilon will open its first U.S.-based office and warehouse in the city and create 50 new jobs over the next five years.

## LESSONS FROM *Across the Pond*

The Manhattan Institute has published a report on the recent history of Western Europe's renewable energy mandates. According to the research, in the last seven years with various renewable energy programs in place, residential electricity prices in the European Union (EU) have risen 55 percent and industrial prices 26 percent. That means energy bills for EU consumers are on average three times higher than those of U.S. consumers. In Germany, bills can reflect as much as 40 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Furthermore, these policies have not reduced emissions. Data released by the Manhattan Institute show that during the seven-year period studied, carbon emissions in the U.S. have fallen more than those in the EU.

## 2014 MAKE A NOTE

### MEAG Power Board Meetings

November 14

December TBD

### Mayors Summit

November 14-16

## WEST POINT *Off and Running!*

The revitalization of West Point has been one of the fastest transformations of any city. The community's new vibrancy is the result of many people's hard work and an unwavering belief that this once prosperous community could be so, and more, again.

To date, the city has accomplished much in the downtown area including new streetscape projects, financing assistance for improvements and protective regulations that will help preserve historic structures while encouraging development. Next year the riverfront park project will get underway, a pet project of city residents who want to connect downtown to the attractive waters of the Chattahoochee River.

Many think West Point's renaissance is tied to the arrival of Kia Motors and Point University, but in truth, Smith and Betty Lanier were at work before these organizations came on the scene. Then in 2010, West Point 2100 was launched, which channeled the philanthropic resources of InterCall, a locally owned teleconferencing company, to various restoration projects, thus providing the spark to get things going. The West Point Downtown Development Authority took it from there and has never looked back. Today there are construction workers just about everywhere as more and more improvements come to town. "We have gotten so much off the dime already," says Mayor Drew Ferguson, "but we are running toward an even more exciting future."

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