

## STAYING current

**Plant Vogtle Unit 2** Unit 2 safely resumed generating electricity on March 28 following the refueling and maintenance outage, which set a new shortest duration record for the Southern Nuclear fleet. The outage was completed in 22 days, 1 hour and 19 minutes. Southern Nuclear's previous best was 24 days, 8 hours.

**Lineman Appreciation Day** This annual event, organized by Oglethorpe Power/EMCs, Georgia Power and MEAG Power/Electric Cities of Georgia, to recognize and praise the dedication of lineworkers, took place in Atlanta on April 19th. Approximately 100 lineworkers travelled to the Capitol for the event. During the day, Georgia's Governor Nathan Deal did a public signing of HB 767, the "Move Over" bill that adds utility vehicles to the existing "Spencer Pass Law" that requires vehicles passing law-enforcement vehicles on the roadside to move to the adjoining left lane or slow to a certain speed.

**APPA RP3 Awards** Calhoun, Cartersville and Newnan have each won the 2015 APPA Reliable Public Power Providers (RP3) Award. The award recognizes public power systems that demonstrate basic proficiency in four important disciplines: reliability, safety, training and system improvement. Fewer than 100 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities have earned RP3 recognition for providing consumers with the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service.

**Plant Vogtle Expansion** According to Georgia Power, the project is now more than 60 percent complete, based on contractual milestones.

**Georgia Jobs** Governor Deal has signed a \$23.7 billion budget, which includes money for covering the tuition costs for students working towards jobs in high-demand fields. This year, the state added the field of "industrial maintenance" to that list.

### INTERESTING FINDINGS

Recently software firm Tendril surveyed over 500 U.S. utility executives. According to their research, the most pressing challenges for utilities in 2016 are the aging workforces, the existing utility regulatory model and the aging of their infrastructure. Above all, respondents, no matter their model, believe that the industry is in flux and that their business model needs to change. Public power entities responded that they were particularly being impacted by the integration of emerging technologies.

# EDUCATION ON THE MOVE



MEAG Power is involved with the education of Georgia students and energy industry professionals in different ways. Steve Jackson, MEAG Power Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, and Doug Lego, Vice President & Chief Administrative Officer, tell us about two of the Authority's initiatives.

### **current: MEAG Power helped sponsor the recent 2016 Georgia State Leadership and SkillsUSA Conference. What is SkillsUSA and what went on at the conference?**

**Lego:** SkillsUSA is a national, nonprofit student member organization that partners with employers and educators to develop world-class workers and leaders as well as responsible American citizens. SkillsUSA Georgia's competition was a huge event held at the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park. It is organized to give students an opportunity to compete in multiple areas, including electronics technology, metal working, welding, plus many other fields. There are hands-on tests, written tests, displays and notebooks – all so the judges can evaluate a student's competency. It was an exciting event, and MEAG Power was proud to be a sponsor and encourage excellence in important workforce skills.

### **current: The Georgia Energy and Industrial Construction Consortium (GEICC) is another initiative MEAG Power supports. What is it all about?**

**Jackson:** The idea behind GEICC is to engage the electric, nuclear, natural gas and energy construction industries in efforts to ensure a skilled workforce that can meet our future needs. Along with MEAG Power, the electric cooperatives, Georgia Power, as well as contractor associations, education and organized labor all work together, exchanging ideas and finding solutions that will help us build tomorrow's well-trained individuals. GEICC has advocated for and facilitated several key workforce development initiatives, including growth of the College and Career Academies across the State; technical college programs for nuclear technicians, instrumentation and controls technicians and linemen; and the implementation of an energy curriculum in some high schools. Patrick Bowie, a MEAG Power Board Member, is on GEICC's Board of Directors, with Suzanne Powell of Electric Cities of Georgia serving on the Executive Committee. Suzanne was instrumental in the creation of GEICC in 2007.

## ••••• Our Purple Heart Cities •••••

Adel Cartersville Fitzgerald Jackson LaGrange Moultrie  
Newnan Quitman Thomasville Sylvester Washington

Places across the United States and around the world have proclaimed themselves Purple Heart Cities to show their appreciation for the sacrifices Purple Heart recipients have made in defending freedom; to acknowledge their courage; and to show them the honor and support they have earned.

The Purple Heart Trail, established in 1992, furthers this honorary goal by creating a visual reminder to those who use the road system that others have paid a high price for their freedom to travel and live in a free society. Signs placed at various locations mark those roads and highways.

Eleven MEAG Power Participant communities have taken the necessary steps to be deemed Purple Heart Cities. MEAG Power applauds the efforts these communities have taken to honor these veterans.

**Albany** The Albany Utility Board-directed weatherization program has completed the first two city homes that are part of its initial 30 homes expected to receive energy-efficient upgrades in the inaugural year of the program. Eligible homeowners who apply for the program must be at least 62 years old, a Utility Board customer, be income-eligible and a resident of Albany.

**Blakely** The council has approved several bids and an engineering service proposal for the city's "Fiber to Home" project. The estimated cost of the project will be approximately \$3.6 million and will take nine to 12 months to complete. Connecting directly to fiber optic cable enables enormous improvements in bandwidth, which is essential to high-speed internet for both homes and businesses.

**Buford** French firm Analog Way, which specializes in computer and video signal processing and distribution, has opened its U.S. headquarters in Buford.

**Cartersville** A \$100,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will help fund the city's picnic shelter and pavilion replacement project at Dellinger Park.

**Lawrenceville** The television show "Sleepy Hollow," which filmed scenes in Lawrenceville, Ga., is nominated for an award that recognizes location use. The show is nominated for the Outstanding Location in a Period Television Series award in the 3rd annual Location Managers Guild International Awards.

**Newnan** Paramount Worldwide Productions, Inc., has chosen Newnan as the backdrop and location for its upcoming show, "When the Street Lights Go On."

**Oxford** A needed pedestrian crosswalk opened recently in Oxford at the intersection of Georgia Highway 81 (Emory Street) and Hamill Street near Oxford College. The crosswalk project was a collaborative effort of Oxford College, the City of Oxford and the Georgia Department of Transportation.

**Thomaston** Marriott hotels has become the first U.S. global hospitality company to commit to "Made in USA" towels at its American properties. Thomaston's Standard Textile facility will produce the towels and accompanying bath mats with 100 percent cotton fiber grown in the United States.

**Thomasville** Citizens' Institute on Rural Design has named Thomasville as one of their six nationwide award recipients. Chosen from among 53 other applications, the city will receive a \$10,000 stipend to support a community planning workshop and follow-up sessions regarding improvements to MacIntyre Park. They will also receive in-kind design expertise and technical assistance valued at \$35,000, as well as support through webinars, conference calls and web-based resources.



## GEORGIA QUICK START: *A Success Story*

For more than 40 years, Quick Start has provided customized workforce training free of charge to qualified businesses in Georgia. Today, the program is one of the state's key assets for supporting new and expanding industries. Quick Start delivers training in classrooms, mobile labs or directly on the plant floor, wherever it works best for a company.

A significant new undertaking by Quick Start is the 52,000-square-foot Bioscience Training Center near Covington, which will support training for Baxalta, Inc. employees and for new companies in the life sciences industry that choose to locate in Georgia. Plus, Quick Start is busy in other industry sectors as well. Blue Bird Corporation recently asked Quick Start to help them train a second shift of 200 new employees. The program responded with an initial program that includes 40 hours of manufacturing skills training with an additional 40 hours of welding, fabrication and process software applications training.

They are ready to help wherever needed, so be sure to add them to your economic development toolbox.

## LESSONS LEARNED: *Heightened Safety for Nuclear Facilities*

In the five years since the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, much has been done to make already-safe nuclear power plants even safer. Billions of dollars and thousands of man-hours have been invested in training and exercises as well as enhancements to make certain the facilities and the workforces are prepared to respond to and mitigate various potential accident scenarios. Chief among the enhancements is the FLEX strategy, which addresses the major problem encountered at Fukushima – the loss of power to maintain effective reactor cooling – by stationing yet another layer of backup safety equipment in well-protected locations. The FLEX strategy and other enhancements are well on their way to being implemented at plant sites across the country. Plant Vogtle Units 1&2, as well as Plant Hatch Units 1&2, have such enhancements. Plant Hatch's new FLEX Dome storage building, which was unveiled in mid-April, houses portable emergency equipment and adds yet another layer of protection to the robust safety systems for the plant.

## 2016 MAKE A NOTE

### MEAG Power Board Meetings

July 13  
August 18  
September 15

### MEAG Power Annual Meeting

July 11-13