

The 10th Nuclear Plants Current Issues Symposium: *Assuring Safety against Natural Hazards through Innovation & Cost Control* (NPCIS 10) will be held, December 11-14, in Charlotte, North Carolina. **ANS is a cosponsor of the Symposium. Former President and presently a Co-Chair of a Special Committee Don Hoffman, EXCEL President & CEO, will be a keynote speaker and present the “case for nuclear energy in the U.S.”**

NPCIS 10 will present the latest advances and actions taken toward assuring safety against natural hazards including floods, high winds and seismic events, and the lessons learned in the process. The hazards also include floods and fires at the plants that may be caused by seismic events, which will also be discussed. The impetus for these actions came from the recommendations made by the NRC’s Near-Term Task Force (NTTF) in the aftermath of the Fukushima event in consultation with the industry.

Topics include modern methods for probabilistic hazard analysis, fragility evaluation and risk assessment using experimental and real-life experience data, and traditional and high-performance computing. Probabilistic methods can result in cost savings by streamlining plant operations and by taking credit for the safety enhancements from FLEX, which will be discussed. Future scientific advancements may give us new insight into the hazards. Speakers will discuss present thinking on the processes those changes will be addressed by the operators of existing plants.

As in the past, all NPCIS 10 speakers, presenters and panel members are invited experts from the industry and government. The event consists of three days of single-track, non-breakout sessions. It offers valuable opportunity to the attendees for networking and free discourse with each other and invited experts.

The Symposium features industry leaders as Distinguished Speakers: Duke Energy’s Sr VP & CNO **Bill Pitesa**, NEI President & CEO **Marv Fertel**, and NRC Commissioner **Kristine Svinicki** (invited). New at NPCIS 10 are keynote speakers, who will discuss some of the burning issues of the day. Department of Energy’s Acting Assistant Secretary **John Kotek** is invited to speak on “nuclear energy” as “a key component to” administration’s “clean energy strategy.” Curtiss-Wright’s Asia-Pacific Director for Safety & Risk, **Woody Epstein**—located in Japan—will present his unique impressions on the state of nuclear energy in the country “5 years after” the “Fukushima Daiichi” event.

The Symposium is organized by NC State University in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Nuclear Energy Institute and Electric Power Research Institute, and several leading nuclear energy companies. For registration, sponsorship opportunities and other details, please visit the Symposium website go.ncsu.edu/NPCIS. Direct further inquiries to Symposium Chairman Ajaya Kumar Gupta (Ajaya.Gupta@NCSSU.edu).