

Transformations

Everyone who is more than a dozen or so years old knows that change is inevitable, and that there are good changes and bad (or at least not-so-good) changes. With this issue of *Radwaste Solutions*, the long-standing editorial team consisting of Nancy Zacha, editor, and Rhonda Carpenter, copy editor, both of whom have retired, is gone (one of those “not-so-good” changes—not for them, but for us) and a new team is not yet in place. Yours truly, along with the (fortunately for me) knowledgeable Chris Salvato, desktop editor, and *Nuclear News* staffers Tim Gregoire, Patricia Matas, and Michael McQueen, who assembled the material for the regular departments of the issue, as well as my copy editing “consultant,” Phyllis Ruzicka, and proofreader Susan Gallier, bring you this September-October issue.

Pulling this issue together made me realize what a terrific job Nancy and Rhonda and Chris did with each issue. It seemed that a magazine would appear on my desk, the three of them having worked their magic, without much involvement from me. In all truth, however, I *know*—based on the many years I’ve worked on *Nuclear News*—how much work goes into the production of a magazine, and I know that magic is not really what makes it all happen. It’s hard work—from the gathering of articles, to writing meeting reports, to finding material on the appropriate topics and following up with authors, to making sure the details in the articles are correct and the sentences flow smoothly, to keeping the process moving to get materials to the printer. I want to take

this opportunity to thank Nancy and Rhonda for all the fine work they have done on the magazine over the past 15 years. I very much appreciate how easy they made my job, as this magazine was one thing I did not have to worry about.

According to Benjamin Franklin, “. . . in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” Let’s add “change” to that short list.

In the realm of good changes are the transformations covered in some of the articles in this issue, whose theme is Environmental Remediation.

The Fernald Preserve, featured on the cover, is a stunning example of returning a site that once housed a uranium processing facility to a beautiful landscape. Based on the monitoring that has been done (and continues to be performed) at the site, which is now managed and maintained by the Department of Energy’s Office of Legacy Management, the wetlands that have been created to replace those that were destroyed when the Fernald facility was built are of a higher quality than the original. The lush greenery and thriving wildlife are a testa-

ment to the work that has gone into the remediation of the site. You can read more about this transformation starting on page 14.

For assistance with groundwater protection, some utilities, including Duke Energy, are using Electric Power Research Institute guidelines and technical support to help with the performance of self-assessments of their groundwater protection programs at nuclear power plants. According to EPRI, the effective implementation of these programs, as well as applying EPRI’s suggested changes to well-monitoring regimens, may help nuclear plants comply with decommissioning requirements. For details on how such programs are helping maintain environmental and public safety, turn to page 17.

At the Hanford Site, the cleanup of contaminated groundwater below the center of the site is continuing at a rate of more than a billion gallons per year. The photo essay in this issue focuses on the removal of carbon tetrachloride from the groundwater, and notes that the goal for the current fiscal year has already been exceeded. To see what’s going on with the groundwater remediation work being performed at Hanford, turn to page 20.

Articles like these, along with the others that are included in this issue of *Radwaste Solutions*, are what help reinforce the positive and productive work that is being done in the area of environmental remediation, as well as in decontamination and decommissioning and waste management, and the often amazing transformations that are the result of that work.—Betsy Tompkins, Publisher ■

Your photo here?

Are you knowledgeable about the waste management, decontamination and decommissioning, and environmental remediation segments of the nuclear industry? Are you available to travel to several meetings a year to attend sessions for the purposes of gathering information, articles, and article ideas, and writing up meeting reports? Do you have excellent writing, editing, and proofreading skills? If you’ve answered yes to all of these questions, you may be the person we’re looking for to fill the *Radwaste Solutions* editor position (on a contract basis). If you have an interest in maintaining the high quality of this specialty magazine and would like more information, please respond to editor@radwastesolutions.org by October 21.