

News, big and bigger

Just as we were wrapping up the production of this issue there came a bit of breaking news out of West Texas. Important news items always seem to know to arrive just when deadline is coming to a close. The news, of course, was Waste Control Specialists' (WCS) announcement that it intends to apply for a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to build an interim storage facility for used nuclear fuel at its Andrews County site (see Headlines, p. 6). It shouldn't come as too great a surprise that WCS is applying to host such a facility. For some time, residents of the small Texas community have been discussing the possibility, and two weeks before WCS made its announcement the five members of the Andrews County Commission approved a resolution in support of the proposal. And prior to the events at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, similar discussions had been taking place in nearby Carlsbad, N.M.

Yet, just the sheer "big news" nature of the WCS proposal and its implications make the announcement a bit of a shocker. It is ripe for speculation—certainly one wonders whether the NRC's completion of the Yucca Mountain safety review or the shifting political landscape in Washington, D.C., had anything to do with the timing of WCS's application. Regardless, there certainly will be a lot of questions raised and intricacies to be sorted out, so we will leave the speculation to others and instead focus our energies on following the WCS story as it unfolds.

Which brings us to our other "big news," at least as far as *Radwaste Solutions* goes. Through the years, we have experimented with the number of issues we publish each year, most recently returning to the magazine's original

four-issue-per-year format for 2014. This year, however, after much debate and deliberation amongst our readers, the American Nuclear Society's Publications Steering Committee, advertisers, and staff, we have decided, with the blessing of the ANS Board of Directors, to move *Radwaste Solutions* to a two-issue-per-year schedule. This Spring issue is the first, and is available just in time for the Waste Management Conference in Phoenix, Ariz. The transition is a work in progress, but it is our hope that the new schedule will better serve everyone while still retaining insightful, informative features and important updates on the world of radioactive waste management, environmental remediation, and decontamination and decommissioning. This, of course, includes the WCS story, which we will be able to investigate more fully and in greater depth with the two-issue format. Meanwhile, you'll continue to find breaking radwaste news in the pages of our sister publication, *Nuclear News*.

For this Spring issue, we are focusing on the themes of waste management (from low-level to high-level) and environmental remediation. You'll find an update on the DOE's efforts to move Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Program (CEUSP) LLW to Nevada, along with a report on disposal options for DOE-managed HLW and used nuclear fuel. There's also an interesting article out of Vanderbilt University that looks at the use of collective worker dose to evaluate federal waste management systems, and a photo essay on Zion's completed campaign to move all of its used fuel to dry storage. On the environmental remediation side, we have a piece on the influence perched water zones have on groundwater



*Good news
comes in twos.*

contamination at the Hanford Site by Michael Truex and Mart Oostrom of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. This article is based on the ANS Best Oral Presentation at last year's Waste Management Conference. We also look at some of the progress the DOE is making in remediating portions of the Los Alamos National Laboratory property, proving that there is some good news coming out of New Mexico.

In our Fall issue, scheduled for publication at the end of August, you will find our annual Buyers Guide, which has become an indispensable directory of industry vendors, products, and services. The Fall issue also will focus on the topic of D&D, so if you are involved in any innovative or noteworthy D&D projects, please give us a holler—we'd like to hear about them.—*Tim Gregoire, Editor*