June 2023
36th Edition

CFPP Update
Dr. Shawn Hughes

The next forecasted milestone for the project is the submittal of the LWA application, which remains on schedule for the end of July. This will be the first formal submittal to the NRC and will set up the site for non-nuclear construction activities.

At the 2023 midyear mark, the Carbon Free Power Project remained on schedule and achieved a first of a kind milestone for small modular reactors as NuScale commenced the forging production process for the first module to be deployed on VOYGR-6 for the CFPP. Additional highlights for the month include NuScale’s ongoing progress with its Standard Design Approval (SDA), the Nuclear Regulatory Committee (NRC) site visit at Idaho National Lab, the Department of Energy (DOE) independent project review, further development of the Combined Construction and Operations License Application (COLA), and the Limited Work Authorization (LWA).

At June’s CFPP Project Management Committee update, CFPP Project Director Shawn Hughes emphasized the opportunities CFPP has taken to establish relationships with the NRC. Dr. Hughes indicated that NRC site visit in May enabled face-to-face engagement on key topics, including an efficient LWA strategy, environmental report topics, and a successful completion of the Region II inspection of core borings. Hughes noted that attendees provided great feedback on CFPP performance, plan, and progress, which further demonstrated commitment from the NRC and DOE to CFPP’s success.

CFPP IN THE NEWS

Small Modular Reactors are Indeed Coming
(Fortnightly Magazine)

NuScale and Doosan Enerbility Commenced the First Production Forgings for the First NuScale Power Modules™
(Twitter)

NUCLEAR AROUND THE WORLD

Projections for power needs in North America by 2050 are around two hundred gigawatts of additional nuclear. That’s just in the United States. Global needs are higher, because this is turning into — not just a carbon issue — an energy security issue...

- Fortnightly Magazine
Blanding City Earns National Award

Blanding City, Utah, received an American Public Power Association Sue Kelly Community Service Award during the American Public Power Association’s National Conference in Seattle, Washington. The award recognizes “good neighbor” activities that demonstrate the commitment of the utility and its employees to the community.

Blanding City’s utility department serves roughly 2,000 customers. When the opportunity arose to help several more, the utility jumped at the chance. The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority sought assistance in connecting a small community in southeastern Utah – the Village of Westwater – to the grid for the first time. Blanding City, along with other partners, stepped in, with Blanding City extending its electric distribution system to NTUA’s interconnection point and NTUA extending its distribution line to the 29 homes in the community. Blanding City now provides ongoing operations and maintenance of the line extension as part of its existing distribution system.

Mayor Logan Monson accepted the award on behalf of Blanding City.

“Access to reliable energy propels our communities forward, powering innovation, and transforming lives,” said Terry Ekker, Blanding City’s U AMPS representative. “We are proud to be able to assist the Navajo Tribal Utility in powering our neighbors’ lives. I am confident that with continued collaboration, dedication, and innovation, we can create a sustainable and prosperous future for all.”

CFPP UPDATE CONTINUED

At the request of Congress, DOE began the Independent Project Review (IPR) of CFPP – a process that includes 165 success criteria and questions across ten topical review areas. The independent team, which is coordinated by Argonne National Lab and includes experienced nuclear industry professionals, initiated the review with a two-day meeting with follow-up questions to which the CFPP team responded extensively. A draft report is expected for CFPP review by the end of June. Hughes stated that he expects the report to align with CFPP’s self-assessment with an emphasis on noteworthy execution performance.