

STAYING current

FERC The U.S. Senate & Natural Resources Committee voted to approve the nomination of Cheryl LaFleur (second term) and Norman Bay to be commissioners of the Federal Regulatory Commission (FERC). Ms. LaFleur was nominated by President Obama to be the chair of FERC until April 15, 2015, when Mr. Bay will take over.

Nuclear Response Centers The second of two nuclear national response centers has opened in Memphis, Tennessee. The facility houses shared mobile equipment that supplements site safety equipment and is part of the nuclear energy industry's investment in emergency-response preparedness.

Yucca Mountain The U.S. House of Representatives rejected bids to abandon the nuclear waste site at Yucca Mountain. Additionally, funding for licensing of the Yucca repository was included in the fiscal 2015 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. The bill indicating this funding was approved by the House but awaits final approval by the Senate.

Nuclear Fuel Storage The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has released a final rule that confirms storing spent nuclear fuel on site in dry casks during and beyond the unit licensed life is safe.

EPA The Supreme Court has ruled to place limits on the Obama administration's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from new plant factories and power plants. The Court allowed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to require greenhouse gas controls on such new facilities and other sources of pollution, but ruled it was too aggressive in its approach. Also, 12 states have brought suit against the EPA challenging its regulation of greenhouse gases from existing power plants.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Three of MEAG Power's municipalities are proud to have one of their natives in the limelight. **Newnan** Mayor Keith Brady has been elected President of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), the first official from Newnan to hold this office. "City officials around the state value Mayor Brady's leadership," said GMA Executive Director Lamar Norton. "He understands the issues cities face and has played an important role in legislative efforts on behalf of cities for many years."

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MORE ON THE MOVE



Pete Degnan, MEAG Power Senior Vice President and General Counsel and Steve Jackson, MEAG Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer give us an update.

current: What is the status of the Amended and Restated Power Sales Contracts for Vogtle Projects J, M and P that were sent to Participants?

Degnan: The Participants in the Vogtle expansion project have approved resolutions to execute final contracts, and we congratulate them on their efficiency and cooperation through this process. We are still finalizing the contracts for their execution.

current: How are the industry and MEAG Power reacting to the EPA rule released in June concerning the regulation of CO2 emissions from existing power plants?

Jackson: Everyone in the industry, and many outside such as businesses and chambers of commerce, are working to make sure that our objections and opinions are heard. Plus, many of our Participant officials are adding their voices as we all try to put the facts on the table and persuade the EPA to withdraw their proposal.

MEAG Power's Chief Executive Officer, Bob Johnston, added his signature to those of the CEOs of Georgia Power and Oglethorpe Power on a letter sent to *The Atlanta Journal Constitution* (AJC). The letter stated that there are clearly three things these CEO executives find greatly troubling: (1) the proposed rule is an illegal approach that usurps the authority of each state; (2) the rule's goals, as written, are unachievable and take away the ability of Georgia's electric generators to continue to run their fleets as optimally as possible to deliver reliable, competitive electricity; and (3) electricity rates will go up when these new rules are put in place impacting, every user's power bill. The letter went on to state that the proposed rule doesn't acknowledge the significant steps that have already been taken — investments in clean energy such as nuclear, the fact that Georgia's carbon emissions were reduced by 30 percent between 2005-2012, and that there has been no credit given for these previous efforts. Rather, the proposal requires the state to reduce emissions by another 44 percent between 2012 and 2030.

MEAG Power also spoke at the EPA Public Hearing in Atlanta on this issue, one of four such meetings held across the country. I was honored to be our spokesperson and used my time before the EPA representatives to underscore and expand on the key points made in the AJC letter. Above all, I wanted to make certain that those in attendance knew we already supply over 50 percent of our energy without emissions, are investing in the future — by building new emission-free nuclear plants and spending millions in state-of-the-art emission control improvements — and that the costs the EPA proposal creates would flow directly to the citizens in our communities, many who can least afford increased electricity rates.

Lawrenceville Hussmann Corporation will add 50 jobs through the Georgia Quick Start program. The company manufactures, sells, installs and services display equipment and refrigeration systems in the retail food industry.

Newnan Gander Mountain will open its fifth Georgia store in Newnan. Also, transmission repair chain AAMCO plans to open a training facility in the city, where it will train technicians, customer service managers and new and existing franchisees.

Oxford The city celebrated its 175th anniversary with a gala July 4th celebration.

Thomaston The Thomaston City Council unanimously approved a \$2.7 million loan from the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) at their meeting on June 16. The loan will be used to finance the Uptown/Downtown project the council approved in March.



Top: Sandersville City Hall roof 'before' and 'after'
Bottom: new lobby design and furnishings

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS **'BETTER'**

That's how folks in **Sandersville** feel about their new City Hall. In recent years the city had expended a great deal of taxpayer money trying to patch, cover or repair the leaky roof at City Hall, which is located in a former bank building that was built in the 1960s with a flat roof. In an effort to fix the problem permanently, the City Council approved a project in the city's FY 2014 budget to replace the roof with a pitched roof. "When the project began in April," says City Administrator Judy McCorkle, "it would have served us well to heed John F. Kennedy's advice that 'the time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining'; however, the roof work began and the rains came, resulting in a flooded building with extensive damage."

"When we prepared to replace the leaky roof," she continues "we did not prepare to replace our City Hall, but during the renovation it was determined that asbestos was in the old carpet and floor tiles, so they had to be replaced. In addition to new carpet, tile, paint and countertops, all ceiling tiles were replaced and lights updated with LED lights. We also took this opportunity to fund the replacement of very old, worn and outdated furniture. While we had a 10-week relocation of City Hall to the public works facility, we now have a very beautiful, updated City Hall that we and our citizens can be proud of."

On July 1, Sandersville held an Open House at the new City Hall. "People just couldn't believe the transformation. It wasn't how we would have wanted this to happen," laughs McCorkle.

IN THE **SPOTLIGHT** *continued from the front*

Brinson has someone to brag about, too. Native Maggie Bridges recently earned the title of 2014 Miss Georgia. Bridges, 21, is currently a junior at Georgia Tech, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, but she will take the next few months off to devote time to her duties as Miss Georgia — a full-time job in and of itself. Brinson celebrated its hometown girl's success with a town party. Mayor James Earp said, "We declared July 17, 2014, Maggie Bridges Day."

Additionally, **LaGrange** congratulates its former mayor Jeff Lukken who was inducted into the Georgia Municipal Association's Hall of Fame.

2014 MAKE A NOTE

MEAG Power Board Meetings

- September 18
- October 16 – To be held in Marietta
- November 14

Mayors Summit

- November 14-16



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