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Progress Energy employees earn top industry award

5/20/2010

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Employees at the Harris Nuclear Plant and within the Nuclear Generation Group (NGG) have been recognized by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) as recipients of its 2009 Top Industry Practice (TIP) award. The team was awarded the Vision and Leadership award for innovative design on the plant's fire protection project. A group received the award recently at the NEI annual conference in San Francisco.



(L-R) Jim Scarola, Alan Morisi, Bob Rishel, Tony Maness, Jeff Ertman and Bill Johnson pick up the TIP award during the annual NEI conference in San Francisco

Harris is in the midst of transitioning from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's current fire safety regulations to a new standard known as National Fire Protection Association standard 805, also referred to as NFPA-805. The purpose of this new standard is to move away from a "one size fits all" approach to one that focuses on areas of the plant where fire can do the most damage to operations. Harris is one of two pilot programs in the country and will be the first to implement the changes.

"I want to congratulate the entire team who worked tirelessly on this project over the last several years," said Harris Plant Vice President Chris Burton. "This prestigious award recognizes their hard work and their efforts, which will benefit not only the company and our community, but the entire nuclear industry."

The NFPA-805 project, slated for completion this fall, has been a lengthy and complex process. A team of engineers and fire protection experts extensively studied and tested fire models, leading to significant improvements in nuclear safety. Their approach and innovative strategies have also saved Progress Energy tens of millions of dollars in implementation and long-term operating costs.

Some of the changes under way at Harris include: modifications to improve separation between equipment, installation of smoke control dampers (when smoke is detected, dampers shut to protected area), and the installation of sensitive state-of-the-art systems that can detect a potential fire hours, even days, before smoke is spotted.

The TIP awards symbolize the U.S. nuclear industry's highest recognition of excellence. Progress Energy was recognized as one of 13 winners out of 149 nominations throughout the United States. Earlier this year, the same group was awarded a Pinnacle award for their efforts.

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The gentleman in the middle with the green shirt holding the award is Bob Rishel from the PRA group.

Humphrey, Mark

5/20/2010 12:22:41 PM

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