

Industry Relations Report

Recent events for the nuclear industry have lead from Renaissance to Recession. The 'One-Two Punch' from both the Fukushima event at its nuclear facilities that resulted from the Tsunami as well as the dramatic decrease in natural gas prices from the Marcellus Shale deposit has left the nuclear industry with several challenges that were unforeseen only a few years ago.

These events have made a personal impact on this R2 representative, having been caught in a massive layoff at Westinghouse Nuclear. Throughout the years at Westinghouse, the need was felt to do public outreach through the Westinghouse N-Vision program, making many visits to local high schools and colleges to speak about the benefits of nuclear power. Several presentations were made to the IEEE on 'Why Not Nuclear?' to further promote its benefits and long-term solution to clean and efficient electrical energy production for society as well as participation in several IEEE-USA 'fly-ins' to promote and support Nuclear Power for Energy Policy to Congressmen.

Although now fortunately situated in a new transportation systems engineering position, there was a personal need to make at least one more strategic connection to help the nuclear industry for the long-term greater good.

A former executive Vice President of Nuclear Services at Westinghouse was recently reassigned to work in Washington, DC at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). After making phone contact with him to tell him about Russ Harrison and IEEE-USA and its Energy Policy, and then following up with an email introducing each to the other, Russ copied me on his email to the former VP stating that 'IEEE-USA can play a useful role' in this important issue. Russ told me in a later email that he has made contact with the VP and both plan on meeting in the next few weeks to discuss how they could work together and discuss policy strategy for nuclear power moving forward for the US.