



the OUTRIGGER

R. Baker & Son Magazine

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)

March 2012

R. BAKER & SON Decommissioning Aging Power Plants

The average age of the 5,800 power plants now operating in the United States is 40 years, according to the DOE. Among them are sixty-five nuclear facilities with an average age of 31 years. This means that a great many of our nation's plants are antiquated, environmentally unfriendly, and expensive to operate and maintain. Many are only marginally profitable, or not profitable at all. Further complicating matters are tougher regulations being proposed by the EPA and state regulatory agencies. Many of these older plants would require expensive retrofits to come into compliance.

About 20% the power generated in the US comes from nuclear power plants. Though nuclear power is inexpensive to produce and emits no greenhouse gases, there is far more pressure to make relicensing requirements more stringent and to shut down aging nuclear reactors following the crisis in Japan that resulted from the 2011 earthquake. (Last month, the NRC approved a license to construct the nation's first nuclear reactors since 1978, possibly signaling a rebirth of the industry.)

More and more operators are coming to the conclusion that extending the life of aging power plants that are nearing obsolescence no longer makes good business sense, and increasingly they are being decommissioned. While decommissioning is usually a pricey undertaking, the cost is often relatively small when compared to retrofit or rebuild, and valuable scrap and salvage can offset some of these costs.



inside this issue...

r. baker & son decommissioning aging power plants
brownfields go green with renewable energy
health & safety: for the mature worker - congratulations - isn rating

Decommissioning Aging Power Plants

continued from page 1

Because states are establishing objectives shifting toward green alternatives such as wind, solar, geothermal and biofuel, some facilities are looking into ways to convert existing sites to renewable sources following decommissioning.

R. Baker & Son offers total power plant decommissioning services including consulting and decommissioning plan development. We perform complete plant demolition, selective dismantling, and rigging and removal of power plant equipment, as well as asset recovery and used equipment sales. Power plant decommissioning is strictly regulated, particularly so in nuclear facilities, and R. Baker & Son operates in strict compliance with all safety rules and regulations. We have numerous safe, successful power plant decommissioning projects under our belts.

If you would like to find out more about power plant decommissioning, please contact R. Baker & Son at 732-222-3553.



Brownfields Go Green with Renewable Energy

A brownfield site is land that was previously used for industrial purposes that may have been contaminated by hazardous waste or pollutants. Once cleaned up, brownfields have the potential for reuse, with some restrictions. One innovative way to reuse this land is development of renewable energy sources.

So far, the EPA has identified more than 4,000 brownfield sites with potential for redevelopment with renewable energy in the form of **wind farms, solar arrays, and geothermal power plants.** Instead of utilizing undeveloped natural areas, brownfields offer many economic and environmental benefits, effectively revitalizing neglected reusable land while contributing to a cleaner future. Most brownfields already have existing electrical and transmission capacity and are zoned for industrial use, making them ideal for energy generation, and many state and federal incentives are available.

Health & Safety: For The Mature Worker

The construction workforce is aging. Employers must make accommodations and safeguards to ensure that older workers remain healthy and productive, but the buck doesn't just stop there. **Workers must educate themselves on the effects and risks of age, and take concrete steps to protect their health, safety, and future...**

In 2008, the average age of a construction worker was 40.4 years old and rising. Physical demands of construction work require better conditioning than the general population, but these same demands also result in more injury and illness, especially among older workers. Ten percent of construction injuries are career-ending, more than any other industry. Construction workers retire at an earlier age than other workers, and musculoskeletal disorders, lung disease and injury result in more workers retiring on disability than workers in other industries with the same conditions.



Lifting, awkward posture, and other physical demands unique to construction work are the cause of frequent problems like chronic

low back pain or joint problems, and risks increase with age. Construction workers over 55 receive more severe injuries than younger workers, and their fatality rate is 80% higher than workers under age 35. These risks are often compounded by unhealthy lifestyles. More than 37% of construction industry workers smoke (the national average is 22%) and 43% are overweight compared to 35% of all workers, putting them at higher risk for heart disease and diabetes.

Workers in our industry should use common sense and take a proactive approach to protect their health and livelihood. Don't wait until aches and pains set in or you are injured, and don't take risks. Stay in shape, exercise, eat healthy, and don't smoke. Stretch for a few minutes before work, and always lift properly. As we age, our physical abilities are not the same as when we were younger, our reaction times are a beat slower, and repetitive movements related to our jobs take a toll on our bodies. Be smart. Take care of yourself, and protect your future.



Congratulations...

Congratulations to R. Baker & Son-sponsored snowboarder **Patty-Joe Goodwin** for an outstanding season. Sixteen-year-old Patty-Joe was undefeated in her division and will be competing in the USASA National Championships in Colorado in April. Best of luck, Patty-Joe!



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