

Power Projections



Atomic Energy
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COM develops new software for decommissioning costing

CANDU Ops Montreal has developed a new commercial computer software package for estimating decommissioning costs which is attracting strong interest in the United States.

Termed DECOM-II, the software is a user-friendly, menu-driven program which can be run on a micro-computer. It has evolved from an earlier package called DECOM-I. DECOM-II is a product of collaboration among Costas Pappas, Gopal Pratapagiri and Ken McDonald.

During the initial decommissioning studies for Gentilly-1, it became apparent that a computerized cost model was essential to permit analysis of the numerous cost items and decommissioning scenarios inherent in the evaluation of the project.

In 1983 Costas developed DECOM-I which was applied to the G-1 decommissioning project. DECOM-I was versatile and easily adaptable to any type of nuclear power plant and it was successfully used in the decommissioning studies of CANDU and light water reactor stations. But additional features were needed to make the software more flexible, powerful and comprehensive.

Costas, whose name has been shortened from Constantin Papanastopoulos, is a physicist with extensive computer experience. Gopal is a cost engineer. They developed DECOM-II as a new commercial software package. They were joined by Ken McDonald who contributed his computer programming knowledge and skills to consulting, giving advice and performing audit checks and tests.

The fact that it can be run on a micro-computer makes it particularly attractive. The expanded program now is capable of handling all aspects of decommissioning



Architects of DECOM II discuss software. From left: Ken McDonald, Gopal Pratapagiri and Costas Pappas.

costs to provide a comprehensive estimate and allow periodic updates, when needed, with maximum efficiency.

Since a number of nuclear installations in North America and around the world are approaching the end of their expected lives, the subject of decommissioning and cost estimating has created considerable interest. A leading U.S. accounting firm specializing

in depreciation calculations for electrical utilities is interested in DECOM-II.

COM personnel are optimistic that an arrangement with the U.S. accounting firm will result in sales of services in cost estimating, as well as in other areas of decommissioning in which COM staff has acquired considerable experience over the past few years. ☼



Blood donor clinic

The Canadian Red Cross has scheduled a blood donor clinic in the Sheridan Park Conference Centre on Wednesday, April 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Giving blood is painless
and it helps
so much!

