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*40 Years and Counting Relicensing the First Generation  
of Nuclear Power Plants*

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## Letter to Our Readers

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**Letter to Our Readers:**

On October 24, 2008, Pace Environmental Law Review held a Colloquium entitled “40 Years and Counting: Relicensing the First Generation of Nuclear Power Plants.” With their original 40-year operating licenses nearing expiration, and relicensing applications pending with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, this event set out to explore many of the significant legal and environmental issues facing America’s oldest nuclear power plants.

As part of this initial foray, the Colloquium attempted to bring professionals from all sides of the debate together to discuss and consider such topics as: the regulatory framework for relicensing; plant aging management; plant design and site criteria; safety and evacuation planning; accident liability and insurance; spent fuel issues; decommissioning; and community participation in, and judicial challenges to, the relicensing process. The Colloquium was heralded as a huge success and all sessions, including the keynote address and roundtable discussion are now available for review on our website.

This themed journal, carrying the name of the Colloquium represents the second phase in our ongoing discussion of nuclear relicensing. The four articles that follow represent four distinct and eloquent voices that further explore some of the more pressing issues in the field including: the role of the public in the nuclear relicensing review process; site safety in the face of aging plants; nuclear relicensing as a “green” energy opportunity; and the role and viability of industry subsidies to offset potential damages.

Moreover, in light of the Supreme Court’s recent decision, the issues surrounding nuclear relicensing have been recast yet again in the case of *Entergy Corp. v. Riverkeeper, Inc.*<sup>1</sup> As the issues surrounding nuclear relicensing continue to evolve, Pace Environmental Law Review invites our readers to join us in our ongoing exploration of these issues on our website at <http://www.law.pace.edu/pelr>. Please check back frequently as new information will be posted on a regular basis and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

**Sincerely,**

**PELR Editorial Board**

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<sup>1</sup> *Entergy Corp. v. Riverkeeper, Inc.*, 556 U. S. \_\_\_\_ (2009).