operations, and coordination between security and probabilistic risk assessment may yield benefits; and regulators are open to reducing cost.

"The regulators are open as long as we have the right basis for the approaches that also reduce cost, there's no problem with that," he noted, adding that "significant opportunities exist for cost reductions through centralized operations."

Nuclear innovations

Ken Lowery of Southern Nuclear provided an overview of the Innovation track's six sessions. "It's always new and different," said Lowery, the track's lead.


Lowery

One session dealt with AI, and Lowery highlighted its emerging role in the nuclear industry, noting its applications in regulatory tasks and report processing. "I think that's just the tip of the iceberg," he said, suggesting that meeting sessions in the future will delve deeper into AI's potential.

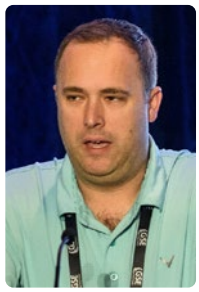
Another session covered virtual twins, computer models of plants for virtual reality simulations. Lowery described it as "really impressive high-tech stuff," reflecting on its potential to revolutionize plant operations and monitoring.

The track also explored cutting-edge automation technologies, including robot dogs, drones, and AI-enhanced security measures. In particular, Lowery pointed to advancements in fire safety with automated fire carts and other technologies enhancing operational efficiency.

Lastly, Lowery noted the focus on condition-based monitoring technology and on-site private wireless networks for improved plant monitoring. "We're expecting new innovative practices and techniques next year," he concluded.

The workforce

The Workforce track's sessions during the week covered a range of topics, including technical talent, engineering, trades, and training improvements.


Greene

Brian Greene, vice president of workforce solutions for GSE Solutions, commented that the track's focus was shaped by last year's UWC discussions aimed at addressing the most pressing workforce

Continued