Industry

agreement aimed at greater cooperation and engagement. A focal point of the agreement was the proposed location of a near-surface low-level radioactive waste disposal facility near CNL's Chalk River Laboratories, on unceded traditional Algonquin territory near the Ottawa River.

■ The operating lives of Doel-4 and Tihange-3 in Belgium will be extended by 10 years, according to the terms of an agreement signed by the **Belgium government** and French utility **Engie**. The reactors had been scheduled for shutdown by 2025, following the shutdown of Doel-3 in September 2022 and Tihange-2 in January 2023. In March 2022, however, Belgium began negotiations with Engie's Belgian subsidiary **Electrabel** to arrange operating extensions so that 2 GWe of capacity generated by those reactors could be retained.

■ France-based Assystem, Spainbased IDOM, and Slovakia-based VUJE have established NUCEAL, a joint venture that will support the development of EDF reactor projects in the European Union. NUCEAL's projects are to involve EDF's 1,650-MWe EPR2 reactor, 1,200-MWe EPR1200 reactor, and 340-MWe Nuward SMR, with each partner contributing its particular expertise and geographic experience.

**EDF** and **Framatome** have reached a collaboration agreement

on the testing of Framatome's enhanced accident tolerant fuel (EATF) technology inside an operating EDF nuclear reactor in France. EATF, which is receiving support from the French government's French Recovery Plan and the DOE, involves the application of advanced chromium coating to zirconium alloy cladding, as well as chromia-enhanced fuel pellets.

■ Orano NPS, the nuclear logistics subsidiary of France-based Orano, has signed a contract with the Japanese fuel maker Mitsubishi Nuclear Fuel to create a package-sharing service for better managing the transport of enriched uranium hexafluoride. The package-sharing service was set up based on use



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