

EBR-I dedicated as milestone in electrical engineering and computing



More than twice as many people were present at EBR-I on Friday, June 4, at 2:30 p.m. as on Dec. 20, 1951, when electricity was first generated from nuclear power. At this year's event, they applauded, generating a sound that wasn't heard on the older date.

The recent applause was for EBR-I's accomplishments all the same, as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) dedicated EBR-I as a Milestone in Electrical Engineering and Computing.

Unveiling of the plaque at EBR-I (INEEL photos by Ron Paarmann)

Operations Office. Sellers said, "We here in Idaho are proud" of our history at the Site. She noted that just as they are here now, Argonne and Bechtel were here when EBR-I was first put into operation. She added, "We hope that you'll be back to recognize us again for the next generation."

Linda Stuffle of Pocatello, the IEEE chair of the event, started the process of recognizing EBR-I as a Milestone in February 2000. All historical details for IEEE Milestones must be verified as accurate, so Stuffle searched the library, newspapers and even Web sites to find information on EBR-I. Although researching the facility's history was not an easy task, it was a job for which she can be proud, because, as she said, "This is only the fourth Milestone in the Western United States."

Cleon Anderson, IEEE president-elect from Salt Lake City, was present at the dedication. Speaking of the legacy left by EBR-I, Anderson said, "Nuclear energy is the most efficient and safe way to provide energy in the amount we need." He added that regardless of whether everyone embraces this form of power generation, "The future is with nuclear energy."

Anderson spoke at a dinner Friday evening at the Shilo Inn along with Steven Aumeier of Argonne National Laboratory and **Paul Divjak**, president and general manager of BBWI.

The citation on the bronze plaque reads: "At this facility on 20 December 1951 electricity was first generated from the heat produced by a sustained nuclear reaction providing steam to a turbine generator. This event inaugurated the nuclear power industry in the United States. On 4 June 1953 EBR-I provided the first proof of 'breeding' capability, producing one atom of nuclear fuel for each atom burned, and later produced electricity using a plutonium core reactor."

David Koelsch, past chair of IEEE Eastern Idaho Section, unveiled the plaque, which was accepted by **Beth Sellers**, manager of DOE's Idaho



Beth Sellers, manager of DOE's Idaho Operations Office, addresses the gathering.