

Award-winning paper in 2015

Papers published in *Energy* are eligible for awards from the Institution of Civil Engineers. Papers from any of the ICE journals can be nominated for several awards. In addition, each journal has awards dedicated to their specific subject area.

On Friday 7 October 2016, ICE president John Armitt presented an award to the following paper published in *Energy* in 2015. The editorial panel nominated their best papers and an awards committee chaired by Nigel Wright allocated the awards.



ICE president John Armitt (second right) with the winners of the James Watt Medal Alun Ellis, Cherry Tweed and Rob Whittleston

James Watt Medal

The James Watt Medal, for papers with substantial mechanical engineering content, was awarded to Tweed *et al.* (2015).

Abstract

This paper discusses Radioactive Waste Management Limited's plans for implementing UK government policy for the safe geological disposal of UK's higher-activity radioactive waste. As a pioneer of nuclear technology, the UK has accumulated a diverse legacy of higher-activity radioactive waste. The paper provides a brief history of the project to date and key developments to be expected in the coming years. The paper gives an overview of the safety of geological disposal, and provides examples of the approach to ensure confidence in safety during the transport, operational and post-closure phases. It discusses the challenges in the design, construction and operation of a project with a lifetime of more than 100 years. Finally, the paper considers commonalities between the UK project and international experiences in this topic.

REFERENCE

Tweed C, Ellis A and Whittleston R (2015) Delivering safe geological disposal of nuclear waste in the UK. *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Energy* **168(4)**: 206–217, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1680/jener.14.00004>.