

# **Joint Meeting of the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee and the Transuranic Waste Transportation Working Group**

Embassy Suites Albuquerque - Hotel & Spa  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
May 12, 2015

## **Meeting Summary**

The Southern States Energy Board's (SSEB) Joint Meeting of the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee and the Transuranic Waste Transportation Working Group occurred on May 12, 2015. The event was held at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque, New Mexico in conjunction with the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF).

Mr. Christopher Wells, Assistant Director of Nuclear Programs for the Southern States Energy Board, welcomed the group and provided logistical and administrative meeting announcements. Following these comments, Mr. Wells gave brief opening remarks and initiated the introduction of all meeting participants. Additionally, Mr. Wells reminded the group the meeting would be very short and consist of a few "meet and greet" speeches and that there would only be one formal PowerPoint presentation. More detailed program information would be delivered to the entire audience during the NTSF.

The first speaker was Mr. James Mason, Institutional Affairs Manager / Emergency Management Manager of the National TRU Program at the Carlsbad Field Office. Mr. Mason spoke briefly regarding the recovery operations at the WIPP site post the February 2014 incident. He talked about the impending panel closures of the mine to isolate the waste drums that were the source of the release. He provided an update regarding the new permanent ventilation system and supporting exhaust shaft installations. He closed stressing the importance of states to remain prepared by participating in training activities. He noted the state of Georgia would be conducting a WIPPTREX on September 9-11, 2015.

The second speaker of the meeting was Mr. Jeff Galan of the U.S. Origin Nuclear Material Removal Program. Mr. Galan gave the group an update regarding the Global Threat Reduction Initiative which will involve the retrieval of spent highly-enriched uranium fuel currently stored at Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario to be transported to the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina. He noted his organization would continue to coordinate with the corridor states along the route for planning and emergency response purposes and that a road

show involving the Nuclear Assurance Corporation's Legal Weight Truck cask would take place during the summer.

Mr. Mike Wangler with DOE/EM's Office of Packaging and Transportation was the next to present at the meeting. He provided a general overview on the progress of EM cleanup activities of former nuclear weapons sites and noted a more detailed overview would be provided during the NTSF plenary session. Mr. Wangler yielded the remainder of his time to Ms. Kristen Ellis, Director of the Office of Intergovernmental & Community Activities. She informed the group how several organizations (Energy Communities Alliance, the Environmental Council of States, the National Association of Attorneys General, the National Governors Association, and the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the State and Tribal Governments Working Group) meet annually at an Intergovernmental Meeting which allows senior EM officials to meet and discuss important issues with all the affected state, local, and Tribal government officials (both elected and appointed). Finally, Mr. Wangler and Ms. Ellis gave an "organization chart" speech detailing how the different DOE factions fit within the EM program.

Mr. Carlisle Smith, Director of the Hazardous Materials Program of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance was the next presenter to address the group. Mr. Smith gave an eclipsed version of the year in review of the Level VI Program. He identified the certification classes that had taken place in the southern region and reminded those states who were in need of training to retain their certification standard. In conclusion, he spoke about the Level VI Program Peer Review best practices and lessons learned.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), represented by Mr. Tony Hsia and Mr. David Pstrak, was the next to be heard by the committees. Mr. Hsia, Deputy Director of the Division of Spent Fuel Management gave a quick overview of the major ongoing activities at the Commission including the Yucca Mountain Safety Evaluation Report, NRC's overall budget and topics of interest to be covered in upcoming webinar series and/or during the breakout sessions of the NTSF meeting. Mr. David Pstrak indicated he wanted the SSEB committees to have the opportunity to meet informally with Mr. Hsia and to freely ask any questions they might have regarding topics of interest.

The Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Review was delivered by Ken Keaton of TRG Incorporated. Mr. Keaton told the committees he would provide an overview of the training activities that have taken place to date and the activities scheduled for the near future. He displayed a chart with the FY 2015 training courses in the southern region (24 classes) as well as the number of students (424) who have received credit. Mr. Keaton noted (7) Technician Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (TMERRTT) sessions were scheduled in various states (GA, KY and VA) for the remainder of the year as well as (4) full-scale live source exercises. Next, he

talked about the MERRTT revision process being conducted by the DOE TEPP Working Group to improve the current version of the training modules and that the details for carrying out this project would be formalized at the Working Group's meeting in the afternoon. He provided an update of the TEPP Improvement Projects including reviewing the scripts and reshooting footage of video products, revising the Needs Assessment and incorporation of the National Fire Protection Association Standards. Lastly, Mr. Keaton gave the attendees a website address for TEPP resources.

The Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation (NFST) Planning Project Update was delivered by Ms. Melissa Bates (DOE Office of Nuclear Energy). Ms. Bates gave an overview of her work background (technical and financial) within DOE and noted that she was serving as interim Project Director for the NFST Planning Project since the retirement of the previous Director, Mr. Jeff Williams. She briefly discussed pending spent fuel management legislation, budgetary matters, updates to the Stakeholder Tool to Assess Radioactive Transportation or START, Section 180(c) exercise and associated issues and the initial gathering of the Spent Nuclear Fuel Rail/Routing Ad Hoc Working Group scheduled to take place later that day.

The next segment of the meeting involved a discussion on the progress of the Section 180(c) exercise and the resulting outcomes revealed during the workshop, which occurred one day prior to the start of the NTSF. Mr. Wells, Ms. Denise Brooks (TX), Mr. Alan Jacobson (MD) and First Sergeant Robert Reynolds (NC) took part in this discussion and shared their experiences in completing the mock grant application and the feedback they received from the mock merit review panel. They also talked about the next phase of the process which involved completing the training grant.

The remaining portion of the meeting consisted of a round table discussion to highlight the activities of all states in attendance. After all states had provided an update, Mr. Wells reported on the status of activities at SSEB.

The final order of business at the meeting was the announcement of the location and date of the next meeting of the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee and the Transuranic Waste Transportation Working Group. Since the group continues to meet in conjunction with the NTSF for their Spring meeting, it was reported that they would convene for the winter gathering in the November or December timeframe. Potential locations included Memphis (TN), Nashville (TN), or New Orleans (LA).

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