

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

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Omaha Downtown
Omaha, Nebraska
June 5, 2018

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 June 5, 2018. The event was held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Omaha Downtown in Omaha, Nebraska in conjunction with the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF).

Mr. Christopher Wells, Assistant Director of Nuclear Programs for the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB), welcomed the group, discussed a few administrative items and provided general logistical announcements. Additionally, Mr. Wells reminded the group the meeting would be very brief since the majority of program updates would be delivered to the entire audience during the NTSF group luncheons and plenary sessions. More specifically, he noted the gathering would consist of only a few formal PowerPoint presentations in addition to possible quick visits from federal agency partners to address programmatic questions and/or concerning issues. Following these remarks, Mr. Wells introduced Mr. Roger Thompson of Tennessee who was serving as the Chairman of the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee. Mr. Thompson formally commenced the meeting by initiating the introduction of all meeting participants. After introductions were complete, he began calling forth the presenters as listed on the meeting agenda.

The first speaker of the meeting was Mr. Jeff Galan of the U.S. Nuclear Material Removal Program within the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Mr. Galan informed the group he could not discuss specific details regarding the ongoing NNSA campaigns he was managing because it would violate safeguards protocols. Therefore Mr. Galan spoke in generalities about the Canadian Campaign initiated in the summer of 2015 to return highly-enriched uranium (HEU) from the Chalk River facility in Ontario to the Savannah River Site (SRS).

He noted both movements (fuel assemblies from the National Research Experimental Reactor and liquid target residue material) are steadily progressing and should be completed by 2020. Furthermore, he noted the shipments

traverse many southern states en route to SRS and thus he thanked SSEB for coordinating with its members along the corridor for transportation and emergency response planning efforts. Mr. Galan yielded the remainder of his presentation time to Mr. Brian Colby and Mark Chapman of the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories. Mr. Colby and Mr. Chapman spoke briefly about logistical arrangements for transporting the shipments and the procedures utilized during the campaigns. They also noted how the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) and Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) training regimens instituted along the route had efficiently and effectively impacted the shipments.

The next speaker was Mr. Carlisle Smith, Director of the Hazardous Materials Program of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance. He began with an overview explaining how CVSA's origin was linked to safety and uniformity within the regulatory arena. He also described the organizational structure including the Board of Directors. CVSA is currently in the second year of a five-year cooperative agreement with the Carlsbad Field Office to provide the enhanced inspection training. Mr. Smith gave a summary of the year in review of the Level VI Program. He identified the certification classes that had taken place in the southern region, reminded those states who were in need of training to retain their certification standard and provided a list of the CVSA National Instructors. He also spoke about the Level VI Program Peer Review best practices and lessons learned. Lastly, Mr. Smith displayed tables for calendar years 2017 and 2018 with data (violations, no violations, out-of-service violations, etc.) concerning Level VI roadside inspections.

Mr. Anthony Walters, Mississippi WIPP Program Manager, addressed the Committees with a discussion of the March 2018 WIPPTREX which had taken place in his home state. The exercise involved a multi-car accident during which a personal vehicle strikes a deer and subsequent rear endings occur with the inclusion of a cargo van (carrying radiopharmaceuticals) and the WIPP Transport. Mr. Walters described the months of preparation for the event that featured Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT), Technician MERRTT (TMERRTT), Public Information Officer and Radiation Specialist training courses. He talked about the numerous Mississippi agencies who partook in the rodeo style / multi-day exercise including two hospitals who were fully active participants. Finally, Mr. Walters showed drone video footage of the WIPPTREX and discussed some of the positive attributes of the exercise as well as areas where gaps were identified for resolution.

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 taken place to date, activities scheduled for the near future, training program revisions, improvement projects and available website resources. He displayed a chart with the FY 2018 training courses in the southern region (59 classes - 14 of which were delivered by state instructors) as well as the number of students (834) who have received credit.

Mr. Keaton noted (22) MERRTT or Compressed MERRTT (CMERRTT) classes were scheduled throughout the southern region for the remainder of the year as well as (5) Technician Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training sessions in various states (GA and WV). Next, he talked about completing the MERRTT revision process (January 2017) and how flash drives were produced and distributed containing the new MERRTT modules. He provided an update of the TEPP Improvement Projects including continued agency cooperation with the National Fire Protection Association regarding hazardous materials/weapons of mass destruction applicable standards and practices in addition to working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Center for Domestic Preparedness to explore the possibility of offering a Radiation Specialist course on FEMA's campus and participating with the agency in the formation of a National Radiological Training Coordinating Group. Other factors of the Improvement Projects included the use of RadResponder in advanced TEPP classes and partnering with the Office of Secure Transport (OST) to have their agents assist with training on the OST classified shipment module. Lastly, Mr. Keaton gave the attendees a website address for TEPP resources.

Following in the same vein of Mr. Keaton, Mr. Jack Tolbert (Virginia Department of Emergency Management) provided a broad overview of multiple incidents which occurred in the Commonwealth but were resolved due to the prerequisite of MERRTT. He began by identifying what equipment was in the Virginia DEM inventory and how responders had become proficient in their usage. He also identified the training regimen and exercises which had taken place in the Commonwealth over the past decade. In conclusion, he highlighted radioactive materials occurrences in several counties and explained how each situation was remediated via experience received from training and participation in exercises.

The final speakers for the SSEB Radioactive Materials Transportation Committees Meeting were Mr. Bradley Loftin and Mr. Glen Jackson of the Savannah River National Laboratory. Mr. Loftin talked about the history of the Savannah River Site and how its mission has evolved to include national security, environmental stewardship and research and development in the energy manufacturing arena. Next, he transitioned to the packaging development and testing activities being conducted by the Savannah River National Laboratory. He showed videos of the drop, crush, puncture and thermal testing of the Type B and Type AF packages. He also described an onsite transfer involving fuel targets which were previously used to produce isotopes. After explaining the process, he showed the Committees a computer-generated animation of the specially designed cask and transfer operations used to move the material to a shielded cell facility.

After Mr. Loftin finished, Mr. Jackson spoke about the M3 (Material Management and Minimization) U.S. Origin Nuclear Material Removal Program. The program, which mainly pertains to HEU and LEU, involves the removal and/or disposal of U.S. Origin, Russian-Origin and Gap Materials from research

reactors or other sites in accordance with the United States' non-proliferation policy. To date, the U.S. Origin campaign has yielded 66 shipments from 33 countries comprising 9,616 spent fuel assemblies. The majority of these shipments (54) have entered the U.S. via the Joint Base Charleston in South Carolina before transit to SRS for storage in the L-Basin. In conclusion, Mr. Jackson spoke about some of the processing activities at the site such as nuclear chemical separation at H-Canyon, glassified waste created at the Defense Waste Processing Facility or by the Melter 2 and low-level liquid waste disposal via the Saltstone Production Facility.

Next, SSEB welcomed their federal partners to address the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committees in an informal question and answer session pertaining to radioactive materials transportation issues. The participating federal agency included the DOE's Carlsbad Field Office.

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 December timeframe. Potential locations included Austin (TX) or Tampa (FL).

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