

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

Renaissance Charleston Historic District Hotel
Charleston, South Carolina
December 10-11, 2013

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 December 10-11, 2013. The event was held at the Renaissance Charleston Historic District Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina.

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. Upon completion of these introductions, Mr. Wells recognized SSEB's Vice Chair of the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (Alan Jacobson-MD).

The first speaker of the meeting was Mr. Kenneth Nemeth, Executive Director of the Southern States Energy Board. Mr. Nemeth gave the committee an overview of the Board activities that had taken place over the previous year and then highlighted some of the projects and major initiatives that were scheduled for 2014. Furthermore, he thanked the committee for their efforts in working with the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop policies for the safe transport of radioactive materials across the southern region. He concluded by telling them that their actions were of monumental importance and that the expansion of nuclear energy in the South would not take place without their involvement in emergency response, transportation planning and other elements important to the back end of the fuel cycle.

Mr. Christopher Wells resumed control of the meeting to provide a "New Members' Orientation". The purpose of this action was to introduce the new membership to the administrative operations of the committee. Mr. Wells did this by giving an overview of the various radioactive materials transportation committees formed by SSEB. Furthermore, he described how often the groups convene and the general ways in which they conduct business. Finally, Mr. Wells

talked about the development of the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) and how the organization is a joint venture of DOE, regional groups and other federal agencies that addresses transportation planning from a national perspective. He also noted that because of the scope of the NTSF that he would be requesting participation from members in terms of volunteering for the individual working groups.

The project update aspect of the meeting began with Mr. Mike Brown, Transportation Packaging Manager of the National TRU Program. Mr. Brown began by displaying an organizational chart of the Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) and describing the functions of the various entities as well as identifying key personnel. Next, he reviewed the planned shipping activities for the current fiscal year and discussed what was expected for the upcoming year. Mr. Brown informed the committee about the progress of using shielded containers in the WIPP Transportation system. The first shipment involving this configuration took place on September 9, 2013 and the overall objective of this strategy is to reduce the number of RH 72-B shipments. As of December 2, 2013, WIPP had received 11,034 contact-handled shipments and 724 remote-handled shipments of transuranic waste. Mr. Brown provided an overview of the carrier audits conducted by the CFO and the states during calendar year 2013. It was noted that the SSEB auditor (Tennessee Highway Patrol) did not find any issues associated with Visionary Solutions. Next, he highlighted the training that had been completed thru November 2013 and talked about the postponement of the Texas WIPPTREX. Finally, Mr. Brown gave a thorough description of the new regulations concerning drivers "hours-of-service". This discussion included sleeper berth provision, exemptions for rest breaks, DOT guidance for off-duty time and clarification for "constant surveillance" of a shipment.

Mr. Brown also provided a brief update of the significant measures associated with TRANSCOM. Some of the new features of the latest version of the program includes enhanced mapping, new system alerts, compatibility with mobile web devices and greater account management for Group Administrators. There are 430 users (81 organizations in 29 states) of TRANSCOM and they are identified as Administrator Operators, Shippers, Carriers, Group Administrators and Read Only Users. The overwhelming majority of movements that are tracked by the system are WIPP shipments. He closed by noting that the number of traditional classroom training classes would be diminished in favor of on-line/computer based training. The last element of his presentation was a review of TRU incident/accidents that had taken place from September 2102-September 2103.

Mr. Mike Wangler of the U.S. Department of Energy/Environmental Management/Office of Packaging and Transportation was the next presenter. Mr. Wangler informed the committee that Ella McNeil would be retiring (January 2014) from DOE-EM after 42 years of service and that her expertise would be sorely missed. He began the formal portion of his update by providing a summary of activities at EM sites as well as specific programs within the Office of Packaging and Transportation. He began by noting the progress of EM

cleanup activities from 110 sites in 35 states in 1989 to reducing those numbers to 17 sites in 11 states as of 2012. In addition, he identified some of the most successful campaigns under the jurisdiction of EM including the West Valley to Idaho shipments and the TRU Waste program. He mentioned that low-level waste (LLW) and mixed low-level waste legacy inventories remain in small volumes, but that the waste stream continues because of active decontamination and decommissioning projects. He talked briefly about two new shipping campaigns: Consolidated Edison Uranium Solidification Project Shipment and the Canadian Highly Enriched Uranium. Both of these projects are still in the early development phase and details will have to be worked out with the impacted stakeholders in regard to shipment categorization and other planning issues. Mr. Wangler discussed the EIS for Greater-than-Class C LLW Disposal noting that the Final EIS would be released in 2014, followed by Congressional action and that the issuance of the Record of Decision would occur before the end of 2015. Next, he specifically addressed the following key program areas: Packaging Certification, Emergency Preparedness & Outreach, Regulations & Standards, Transportation Risk Reduction and Program & Site Support. Mr. Wangler talked about a DOE-wide program for the certification of fissile and Type B packaging and reviewed the development of a new Order, 460.3: Physical Protection of Unclassified Irradiated Fuel in Transit. He informed the group that DOE Manuals are being eliminated and that the requirements identified in the manuals would be incorporated into DOE Orders. A NTSF working group will be established to assist with this process. In the Transportation Risk Reduction arena, Mr. Wangler gave an overview of the Motor Carrier Evaluation Program and the Transportation Safety and Operations Compliance Assurance Program. He also mentioned that he co leads the Transport Security Subgroup of the NRC's Radiation Source Protection and Security Task Force. In conclusion, Mr. Wangler expressed his commitment to working with SSEB on future packaging and transportation issues.

Mr. Carlisle Smith, Director of the Hazardous Materials Program of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance was next to address the committee. He began by giving a year in review of the Level VI Program. He noted that 8 certification classes had taken place, four (NC, KY, TN and TX) of which were held in the southern region. During the year, 120 officers were trained (92 certified), which brings the grand total of certified Level VI inspectors to 794. He identified the dates for the Train the Trainer class and the schedule for the Level VI certification classes. Next, Mr. Smith provided some of the Level VI Inspection data and results for the year and showed the committee where they could retrieve this information. In conclusion, he spoke about the Level VI Program Peer Review which is intended as a form of outreach to learn about the differences amongst the state programs and to develop a list of best practices and lessons learned.

The Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Review was delivered by Ken Keaton of TRG Incorporated. Mr. Keaton indicated that he would provide the audience with 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 training courses in the southern region (117 classes) as well as the number of students (2,167) who have received credit. He spoke briefly about the Radiation Specialist version of the Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) classes which had taken place in 2013. These courses featured the use of live sources during instruction. This offerings for SSEB members took place in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Keaton also provided a MERRTT schedule in the region for 2014 which featured approximately 30 sessions. 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. He provided an overview of TEPP exercises completed in 2013, and talked about their involvement in a tabletop exercise that was conducted in Raleigh, North Carolina by the State Highway Patrol. Another venture that he mentioned was improving the TEPP video products by reviewing the scripts and reshooting footage where necessary to reflect current practices. Lastly, Mr. Keaton gave the attendees a website address for TEPP resources.

Mr. Bert Crapse, Solid Waste Senior Program Manager, gave the Savannah River Site TRU Waste Program Update. He began by stating that he would provide an overview in regard to SRS's TRU waste inventory, shipment numbers for FY13-14 and the overall status of the legacy program at SRS. He noted how American Recovery Act Funding has been used to accelerate TRU shipments and thereby tremendously cutting the SRS inventory. The site is aggressively trying to disposition the remaining inventory, however there are programs at SRS that still generate small amounts of waste. He displayed a chart with the major accomplishments for FY 2012 which included: 179 shipments to WIPP, disposition of 1,168 cubic meters of legacy TRU waste, remediation of 5,200 cubic meters of legacy TRU waste and 4 shipment per week using the TRUPACT-III container. Mr. Crapse indicated that only 150 shipments remain to complete the legacy TRU shipments at SRS, but that the site could still make shipments in the future depending on the WIPP overall mission.

Mr. Elgan Usrey, SSEB Consultant, educated the group on the progress of Section 180(c) developments. He told the members about DOE's charge to the regional groups to form a smaller Interregional team to work thru the complex issues of the policy. As SSEB's consultant he stated that he will serve as the 180(c) Interregional Team Leader and will work with members of the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee to provide input to DOE on draft plans and procedures for implementing Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, including an approach to allocating funding among states that may be affected by shipments of spent fuel and high-level waste. More directly, he mentioned that the overall Interregional Team would be responsible for concept development, formula design, and testing. The Team will convene conference calls and hold face-to-face meetings, as necessary to resolve the issues.

Dr. Daniel Koch was unavailable to attend the meeting. Please see his PowerPoint file for more information concerning the Incident Management

Preparedness and Coordination Toolkit or IMPACT, this ORNL application can complement existing GIS infrastructure and extend its power and capabilities to responders first on the scene of a natural or man-made disaster.

Dr. Steven Peterson, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, gave the SSEB group an update regarding the latest edition of TRAGIS. He indicated that the last version of TRAGIS was released in 2006. The current version, which is called WebTRAGIS, uses a web based interface and has updated security features and enhanced geographical information system applications. He walked the committee thru the registration process and described the requirements for access to the program. For the remainder of his presentation, Dr. Peterson displayed several screen shots to demonstrate the user interface and various functions of the technology. For instance, he showed how the user could identify critical infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, fire and police departments. In closing, he talked about the flexibility to generate an output file containing data specific to the needs of the user. Such a file could include the route, infrastructure, population density, etc. Dr. Peterson also provided the website address where members could find more information about WebTRAGIS and submit an application to become a user.

Mr. David Snyder, Hazardous Materials Inspector with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) was the next speaker. He began by talking about FRA's Safety Compliance Oversight Plan or SCOP. Most elements of the SCOP are the primary directives of the FRA's Office of Safety. The major components are Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety and Security, but it also addresses miscellaneous areas such as encouraging membership in the FRA State Participation Program. The SCOP was developed because of the nature of the potential hazards associated with radioactive materials and a high degree of public awareness and concern with safety and integrity of SNF and HLRW shipments by rail. A revision of the SCOP is scheduled for 2014. He also talked about how FRA examined the issue of rail routing from an infrastructure perspective. FRA officials visited shutdown reactor sites to examine rail service, infrastructure condition, car capacities and car loading capabilities. He discussed the Reciprocal Rail Inspection Project which is a pilot to see if CVSA Level VI like standards can be applied to rail shipments. He concluded noting that the dedicated train rulemaking is on hold due to the limited number of SNF and HLRW shipments by rail

Mr. David Pstrak, Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was the final speaker of the conference. Since this was the first occasion that Mr. Pstrak had addressed the committee, he gave a preliminary overview of the NRC and its mission. Next, he moved to the topic of Physical Protection and talked about two federal register notices addressing advance notification to Native American Tribes of certain types of nuclear waste and the physical protection of irradiated reactor fuel in transit. He discussed several areas of examination by the Commission regarding Extended Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation. Some areas of investigation included

enhancing technical knowledge for regulating extended storage, identifying technical issues associated with long-term storage and subsequent transportation, performing focused research on technical areas of regulatory significance, and identifying needed revisions to the regulatory framework. He informed the committee of the Generic Environmental Impact Statement pertaining to Waste Confidence and that the comment period ends on December 20, 2013. He discussed the merits of a spent fuel pool study entitled "*Consequence Study of a Beyond-Design Basis Earthquake Affecting the Spent Fuel Pool for a U.S. Mark I Boiling Water Reactor*". Lastly, he mentioned the Yucca Mountain decision that orders the NRC to continue its safety review using existing funds or until Congress directs them otherwise. In preparation for this activity, all related documentation to licensing will be archived in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System.

The latter 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 again on May 13-15, 2104 in Bloomington, Minnesota

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