

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

The Westin Crystal City
Arlington, Virginia
June 11, 2019

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 11, 2019. The event was held at the Westin Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia 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 relayed to the members the meeting would be short because 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 comments, Mr. Wells introduced Ms. Denise Brooks of Texas who was serving as the Chairman of the Transuranic Waste Transportation Working Group. Additionally, he recognized the Honorable Eddie Joe Williams, SSEB's Federal Representative to provide a few brief opening remarks. Mr. Williams focused on the role and duties of his position as well as his private sector background in the rail industry and willingness to assist with the efforts of the Spent Nuclear Fuel Rail/Routing Ad Hoc Working Group. Afterwards, Ms. Brooks formally commenced the meeting by initiating the introduction of all meeting participants. Following introductions, she began calling forth the presenters as listed on the meeting agenda.

The first speaker of the meeting was Mr. Carlisle Smith, Director of the Level VI 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 third year of a five-year cooperative agreement (Fiscal Years 2017-2021) with the Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO) 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 which

had taken place in the southern region, reminded those states who needed training to retain their certification standard and provided a list of the CVSA National Instructors. Mr. Smith also shared the dates and locations of the remaining certification classes for fiscal years 2019 and 2020. Next, he showed the number of officers who received the certification over the past three years and some of the reports CVSA will complete as deliverables under the cooperative agreement. Lastly, Mr. Smith displayed tables for fiscal year 2019 with data (violations, no violations, out-of-service violations, etc.) concerning Level VI roadside inspections.

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 2019 training courses in the southern region (42 classes - 6 of which were delivered by state instructors) as well as the number of students (716) who have received credit. Mr. Keaton noted (12) MERRTT or Compressed MERRTT (CMERRTT) classes were scheduled throughout the southern region for the remainder of the year as well as (11) Technician Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training sessions, (4) hospital sessions and (2) exercises in various states. Next, he talked about embarking upon the MERRTT revision process for 2019 which included merging some MERRTT modules and adding specific hands-on practicals. 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 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. Alan Jacobson (University of Maryland, Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk) provided a broad overview of the Radiation Safety Program at the University of Maryland. He began by identifying the (3) licenses the University has under the regulation of the Maryland Department of the Environment. Furthermore, he displayed a map of the licensed facilities, the uses of radioactive material and the equipment (x-ray units, test reactors, irradiator, accelerator, etc.) associated with the University. In conclusion, he provided some highlights of the TEPP Radiation Specialist Course held on April 29 thru May 3rd at the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. He displayed several pictures of students from Maryland and other

states in the region utilizing radiation detection equipment to take readings and locate hidden sources within the confines of the exercise.

The next presenter was Mr. Jeff Galan of the U.S. Nuclear Material Removal Program within the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Mr. Galan spoke regarding the cooperative relationship formed between the states and DOE which have allowed for over 25 years of safe and uneventful shipments of foreign research reactor fuel from abroad to the Savannah River Site (SRS). He personally thanked the SSEB for their involvement in fostering the partnership and assisting with transportation protocols being utilized in the present. Mr. Galan yielded the remainder of his presentation time to Mr. Mark Chapman of the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories. Mr. Chapman spoke regarding the Canadian Campaign initiated in the summer of 2015 to return highly-enriched uranium (HEU) from the Chalk River facility in Ontario to the SRS. He provided a fuel operations chart and revealed pictures which gave an overview of all the steps from removing the fuel to its eventual transport to the U.S. in the NAC-LWT Cask. The HEU shipments are due to be completed in the Summer of 2019. Mr. Chapman also spoke regarding the Target Residue Material (TRM) and how a new loading facility was being constructed to support an estimated 116 shipments. The dedicated retrieval and transfer system for the TRM is scheduled for completion for Fall 2020.

During the subsequent portion of the meeting, 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 agencies included the DOE's Carlsbad Field Office-Nuclear Waste Partnership (Bobby St. John), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (David Pstrak) and DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy (Erica Bickford and Nancy Buschman).

After the federal partner briefs, Matt Feldman from DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory addressed the group. Mr. Feldman provided the attendees with an extensive overview of the package testing undertaken at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The testing program's purpose is to verify design compliance by subjecting packages to regulatory specifications. His presentation included photos, diagrams and charts illustrating the preparation for all components of the package (insert, containment vessel and drum) for testing. Mr. Feldman played videos of a variety of test regimens including: vibration, water spray, free drop, compression and penetration. He explained the procedures applied for structural and thermal test (including the use of a furnace) and the instrumentation on the packaging used to measure damage assessment. Finally, he concluded by detailing how the outer drum is disassembled allowing for a helium leak test and water immersion test of the containment vessel.

The final speaker for the SSEB Radioactive Materials Transportation Committees Meeting was Mr. Bradley Loftin of the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) who talked about the Mk-18A Target Recovery Program. Mr. Loftin

began by identifying 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 describe the onsite transfer involving fuel targets which were previously used to produce isotopes. 65 Mk-18A target assemblies stored in L-Basin will be transferred onsite to SRNL. After explaining the process, he showed the committees diagrams of a few SRNL shipping packages, photos of the robotic loading arm and specially designed cask and a computer-generated animation of the transfer operations used to move the material to a shielded cell facility.

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 Carlsbad (NM) or Fort Lauderdale (FL).

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