

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

Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
June 7, 2022

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 7, 2022. The event was held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in conjunction with the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF).

Mr. Christopher Wells, Director of Nuclear Programs for the Southern States Energy Board, addressed the group, spoke concerning a few administrative matters and provided general logistical announcements. Additionally, Mr. Wells relayed to the members the meeting would be short because some program updates had been delivered to the entire audience during the State Regional Group Luncheon and others would be offered at the NTSF 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. 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.

Mr. James Mason, Institutional Affairs Manager at the U.S. Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (DOE-CBFO) was the first speaker to address the Committees. He brought along a contingent of colleagues from DOE-CBFO including the following: Reinhard Knerr – Manager; Mark Bollinger – Deputy Manager; Ken Princen – Assistant Manager; Mindy Toothman – Transportation Logistics Manager; Dan Standiford – TRANSCOM Manager; and Mr. Bobby St. John - Deputy Manager of Nuclear Waste Partnership Communications. Mr. Mason made brief informational remarks regarding the TRU-waste transportation in the region including ongoing efforts at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the completion of the TRUPACT-III legacy waste campaign out of Savannah River Site (SRS). However, he noted the main intent of his agenda

time was to introduce Committee members to the management team of DOE-CBFO. After the presentation, Mr. Mason fielded questions and updated the group on the Department's procured land and facilities near the Carlsbad Field Office which the group coined WIPP University. He noted the property continues to be developed into a training site for the WIPP program to include classroom courses and hands-on field exercises such as modified or full versions of a WIPPTREX. The site will also be a great resource for first responder training, TRANSCOM Training, and workshops for WIPP state program managers and financial personnel regarding grants and cooperative agreements. Groups who visit WIPP University could also tour the WIPP site as a part of their regimen. He guesstimated it would open before the end of the calendar year.

The second speaker of the meeting was Mr. Carlisle Smith, Director of the Level VI Program of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). He started 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 various technical committees as well as the Board of Directors. He highlighted CVSA's special programs which are conducted at specific times of the year to combat issues such as human trafficking. Additionally, he showed images of CVSA's web portal Learning Management System for conducting Level VI classes online. Mr. Smith gave a summary of the year in review of the Level VI Program. CVSA is currently in the first year of a five-year cooperative agreement (Fiscal Years 2022-2026) with the Carlsbad Field Office to provide the enhanced inspection training. 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 FY22. He informed the Committees the schedule for FY23 is still under development. Lastly, he provided contact information including a new physical address for the CVSA office now located in Washington, DC.

The Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Review was delivered by Dan Mills of TRG Incorporated. Mr. Mills informed the Committees he would be replacing Mr. Ken Keaton, who was retiring, as the contractor for Regions 2 and 3. He told the Committees he would provide an overview of the TEPP mission, 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 2022 training courses in the southern region (36 classes - 1 of which was delivered by state instructors) as well as the number of students (549) who have received credit. Mr. Mills noted (30) Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training sessions (MERRTT) or Compressed MERRTT (CMERRTT) classes were scheduled throughout the southern region for FY2023 as well as (12) Technician Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training sessions, (4) hospital sessions, (2) radiation specialist and (3) exercises in various states. Next, he talked about the MERRTT revision process which included online refresher training and adding new decontamination practicals involving bunker gear and

dressdown procedures. 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 components 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. Mills gave the attendees a website address for TEPP resources.

The next presenter to address the group was Dr. Anjan Bhattacharyya of the Kentucky Radiation Control Branch. He provided a broad overview of his job responsibilities including the licensing and inspection of facilities, reciprocity agreements for out of state licensees and instrument calibration just to name a few. He also gave the Committees an overview of the Commonwealth's involvement in radioactive materials transportation campaigns from previous operations such as the Naval Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipments and the TRU-waste small quantity site movements to the Savannah River Site and more recently University of Missouri research reactor spent fuel shipments also destined for SRS. He noted his agency also supports major events such as the Kentucky Derby, other sporting events and air shows, etc. Next, he shifted to the mention of a Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection exercise at Northern Kentucky University involving the 41st Civil Support Team. In conclusion, he provided some highlights of the TEPP Radiation Specialist Course held on March 14-18th in Burlington, Kentucky. He displayed several pictures of students from Kentucky and other states in the region utilizing radiation detection equipment to take readings and locate hidden sources within the confines of the exercise. Part of the class included a tour of a local business, Ronan Engineering, to see how scintillation and ion chamber detectors are made for density and level gauges.

Mr. Mark Richter, Technical Advisor for the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) spoke to the Committees regarding "Industry Readiness to Transport Commercial Spent Fuel on a Large Scale". He described the efforts of NEI's Spent Fuel Transportation and Consolidated Interim Storage Task Force to create a report which provided a comprehensive overview of a non-federal transportation campaign. Other contributors to the development of the report included utilities, cask manufactures, state emergency management, industry trade associations, tribal communities and shipment logistics companies. The report covers a gambit of topics including roles and responsibilities, regulations, contingency planning, etc. In addition, it examines future shutdown reactors, inventory and the challenges associated with storage, transportation and disposal. Towards the end of his presentation, Mr. Richter discussed the state of readiness to ship by primarily taking a closer look at the technical and operational considerations. Finally, he touched briefly on parameters which

differentiate between moving waste to a private facility versus a federal facility. In conclusion, he provided contact information to request a copy of the NEI report.

The Committees learned about the Canadian Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Engagement Process from Mr. Garrett Ugray, Manager of Nuclear Security and Emergency Preparedness with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). He began with an overview of the differences of Canada's nuclear power program in comparison to the United States including the design of the reactor fuel and the interim storage containers. Next, he shifted to the long-term management approach for a repository describing the geologic factors. As he transitioned to the engagement process, he noted the same level of effort was poured into collaboration as what was contributed for the technical planning. Numerous meetings have taken place since 2015 to gather input on transportation and siting initiatives. The key takeaway was the use of a circular approach to denote how all elements must work together and are interconnected because the goal of the NWMO is to achieve a socially acceptable program. Mr. Ugray stated one of the major priorities is to demonstrate how the NWMO is dedicated to continue including public input and best practices into the planning process as it evolves over the next 20 years.

The final speakers for the SSEB Radioactive Materials Transportation Committees Meeting were Miriam Juckett and Marla Morales of the Southwest Research Institute. Ms. Juckett and Ms. Morales discussed the capabilities of the Pilot Preparedness and Planning Decision Framework for Future Spent Nuclear Fuel Transportation Campaigns. The Decision Framework Tool provides a community-focused decision framework that incorporates 31 community descriptors (indicators) that identify and characterize preparedness along spent nuclear fuel (SNF) transportation routes as a complementary tool to available performance-based frameworks. The Tool has a structured and scaled framework that incorporates the community characteristics (such as transportation infrastructure factors, environmental concerns, and demographics), scales and rates the characteristics at a granular level, and combines the factors into a total score. The Tool gives decision-makers information that can help them identify areas that might need improvement or might be of concern to citizens, and to help guide communication strategies. Ms. Juckett and Ms. Morales noted they had completed the initial pilot framework and a case study (Utah), but are looking for opportunities to further develop the Tool by adding geographic information system capabilities and additional data sets. They welcomed opportunities to work with cities, states, and Tribes to do additional case studies and ground-truthing

During the subsequent portion of the meeting, SSEB welcomed their federal partners to address the Radioactive Materials Transportation Committees in an introductory role and answer any questions, if posed, pertaining to radioactive materials transportation issues. The participating federal agency included DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy (Dr. Erica Bickford).

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 they would convene for the winter gathering in the December timeframe. Potential locations included Carlsbad (NM) or Tampa (FL).

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