

Volume 29 Number 6 November/December 2014

Northwest Compact/State of Utah

Utah Extends Review Schedule re Depleted Uranium Licensing Action

On November 14, 2014, Energy*Solutions* requested an extension from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to the overall review schedule involving the Depleted Uranium Licensing Action. The Utah DEQ provided approval of the extension by letter dated November 21, 2014.

As requested, the public comment period will start on April 6, 2015. Public meetings will be scheduled in Tooele and Salt Lake City during the week of May 4, 2015. However, the public comment period will end on May 29, 2015 (one week longer than requested) in order to maximize the opportunity for public input.

EnergySolutions Extension Request

By letter dated November 14, 2014, Energy*Solutions* requested an extension of the overall review schedule for the Depleted Uranium Licensing Action. Energy*Solutions'* letter states, in part, as follows:

On September 8, 2014, the Department approved an extension requested by Energy*Solutions* for preparation of an expanded response to the SC&A [S. Cohen and Associates] and Utah Division of Radiation Control's White Paper entitled, "*Review of Deep Time Supplemental Analysis – White Paper*" (CD14-0195). While significant progress has been accomplished in preparation of the detailed response, Energy*Solutions* considers an expanded evaluation of the soil layer differentiation of Clive-area and regional dunes a critical component to better defining the longterm alteration of the proposed Federal Cell evapotranspirative cover system.

As such, Energy*Solutions* requests a revised extension in the overall review (Continued on page 6)

In This Issue

Registration Open for Spring 2015 LLW Forum Meeting-page 4

Governor Perry Makes New Appointments re Texas Compact Commission —page13

News Briefs for Nuclear Power Plants Across The Country-page 16

Interagency Cybersecurity Forum Launched-page 24

NRC Publishes Information Request re Emergency Access—page 25

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Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, Inc.

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As part of that mission, the LLW Forum publishes a newsletter, news flashes, and other publications on topics of interest and pertinent developments and activities in the states and compacts, federal agencies, the courts and waste management companies. These publications are available to members and to those who pay a subscription fee.

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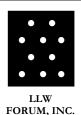
Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, Inc.

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Table of Contents

Key to Abbreviations	
U.S. Department of Energy	DOE
U.S. Department of Transportation	DOT
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	EPA
U.S. Government Accountability Office	GAO
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission	NRC
Naturally-occurring and accelerator-produced	
radioactive material	NARM
Naturally-occurring radioactive material	NORM
Code of Federal Regulations	CFR

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, Inc.

Registration Open for Spring 2015 LLW Forum Meeting

Hilton Alexandria Old Town on April 20-21, 2015

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, Inc. is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the spring 2015 meeting, which will be held at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town located in Alexandria, Virginia on April 20-21, 2015.

The meeting is being co-sponsored by the Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management and the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission.

The meeting documents—including bulletin and registration form—have been posted to the LLW Forum's web site at www.llwforum.org.

Attendance

Officials from states, compacts, federal agencies, nuclear utilities, disposal operators, brokers/ processors, industry, and other interested parties are invited and encouraged to attend.

The meeting is an excellent opportunity to stay up-to-date on the most recent and significant developments in the area of low-level radioactive waste management and disposal. It also offers an important opportunity to network with other government and industry officials and to participate in decision-making on future actions and endeavors affecting low-level radioactive waste management and disposal.

Location and Dates

The spring 2015 LLW Forum meeting will be

4 LLW Notes November/December 2014

held in Alexandria on Monday, April 20, 2015, from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Tuesday, April 21, 2015, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

The meeting will be held at:

Hilton Alexandria Old Town 1767 King Street Alexandria, VA 80202 (800) 445-8667

Located in the historic, vibrant King Street neighborhood, the Hilton Alexandria Old Town hotel, renovated in April 2014, is one of the most convenient hotels in Alexandria, Virginia for business and leisure travelers visiting Washington, DC. The hotel is just steps away from the King Street Metro station and close to Reagan National Airport. Downtown DC attractions and government buildings are minutes away by metro.

Registration

All persons must pre-register for the meeting and pay any associated registration fees in order to be allowed entry. Registration forms are needed in order to ensure that you receive a meeting packet and name badge. Accordingly, interested attendees are asked to please take a moment to complete the registration form at your earliest convenience and return it Linda Walters of the Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management at the address, email or fax number listed at the bottom of the form.

The meeting is free for up to two individuals representing members of the LLW Forum. Additional and non-member registration is \$500, payable by check only to the "LLW Forum, Inc." (Credit card payments are not accepted.)

Reservations

Persons who plan to attend the meeting are strongly encouraged to make their hotel

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, Inc. continued

reservations and send in their registration forms as soon as possible, as we have exceeded our block at the last few meetings.

A limited block of hotel rooms has been reserved for Sunday (April 19) and Monday (April 20) for meeting attendees at the special, discounted rate of \$199 plus tax per night for the single/double rate (\$219 plus tax per night for the triple rate and \$239 plus tax per night for the quad rate). The same rates have been extended for three days prior and three days post the meeting dates.

To make a reservation, please call (800) 445-8667. The deadline for reserving a room at the discounted rate is March 20, 2015. *Please ask for the LLW Forum block to get the discount rate.*

For additional information, please contact Todd D. Lovinger, the LLW Forum's Executive Director, at (754) 779-7551 or go to www.llwforum.org.

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum Meetings Spring 2015 and Beyond

The following information on future meetings of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum is provided for planning purposes only. Please note that the information is subject to change.

For the most up-to-date information, please see the LLW Forum's web site at www.llwforum.org.

Spring 2015 Meeting

The Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management and the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission have agreed to co-host the spring 2015 meeting. The meeting will be held at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town in Alexandria, Virginia on April 20-21, 2015. (See related story, this issue.)

Fall 2015 Meeting

The LLW Forum is currently seeking volunteers to host the fall 2015 meeting and those thereafter. Although it may seem far off, substantial leadtime is needed to locate appropriate facilities.

If your state or compact has not hosted a meeting in the past two years, we ask that you consider doing so. If necessary, we may be able to assist you in finding a co-host.

Non-state and non-compact entities are eligible to co-host LLW Forum meetings, so please let us know if your company or organization is interested in doing so.

Anyone interested in potentially hosting or sponsoring a meeting should contact one of the officers or Todd D. Lovinger, the organization's Executive Director, at (754) 779-7551 or at LLWForumInc@aol.com.

Central Interstate Commission

Central Interstate Commission Holds Special Teleconference Meeting

On November 18, 2014, the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission held a Special Teleconference Meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m CDT.

The purpose of the meeting was to take necessary action on meeting minutes; Cochran, Head, Vick & Co. Audit FY 2013-2014; FY 2015 audit agreement with Cochran, Head, Vick & Co.; ratify actions taken previously on export applications; and, all other business to come before the Commission.

The following items were on the draft agenda for the meeting:

- call to order and roll call
- ratify action taken
 - export applications approved in
 - * July 2014
 - * August 2014
 - * September 2014
 - * October 2014
 - questions/discussion by Commissioners
 - questions/discussion by public
 - roll call vote
- approve minutes of annual meeting on June 10, 2014
 - questions/discussion by Commissioners
 - questions/discussion by public
 - roll call vote

- approve Cochran, Head, Vick & Co Audit for Fiscal Years 2013-2014
 - questions/discussion by Commissioners
 - questions/discussion by public
 - roll call vote
- approve Cochran, Head, Vick & Co. Auditing Agreement for 2015
 - questions/discussion by Commissioners
 - questions/discussion by public
 - roll call vote
- adjourn

For additional information, please contact the Rita Houskie, Administrator of the Central Interstate Commission, at (402) 476-8247 or at rita@cillrwcc.org.

(Continued from page 1)

schedule to allow for implementation of the Clive area and regional dune soil layer graduation study. It is expected that this additional research will have significant impact on the confidence bounds of the Department's ultimate Safety Evaluation Report.

In order to provide sufficient time for execution of the additional study, EnergySolutions proposes delay of the schedule unit "The DRC posts public notice, final SER and proposed Director Determination to the public via Internet. Comment period begins immediately and ends on October 17, 2014 (EOB)" from a previously revised date of January 12, 2015 to April 6, 2015. It is recognized that such a delay in the commencement of the Public Comment Period will result in

6 LLW Notes November/December 2014

the Comment Period ending May 22, 2015. It is recognized that the Public Meetings will require similar rescheduling.

EnergySolution's full request is available online via the Utah DEQ's web site at http:// www.deq.utah.gov/businesses/E/EnSolutions/ depleteduranium/performassess/ docs/2014/11Nov/ExtensionRequest.PDF.

Utah DEQ's Response

By letter dated November 21, 2014, the Utah DEQ provided approval of the extension. Utah DEQ's letter states, in part, as follows:

The Department of Environmental Quality has completed its evaluation of the DU PA [depleted uranium performance assessment] extension request dated November 14, 2014. It is agreed that a more thorough evaluation of an analogue, Clive or regional area dune soil layer gradation study should be beneficial and add clarity to the input parameter modeling of the proposed evapotranspirative cover and layering system of the Federal cell before the start of the public comment period. The request for extension is hereby approved.

As requested, the public comment period will start on April 6, 2015, with public meetings scheduled in Tooele and Salt Lake City during the week of May 4, 2015. However, the public comment period will end on May 29, 2015 (one week longer than requested) in order to maximize the opportunity for public input.

The Utah DEQ's full response is available online via the Utah DEQ's web site at http:// www.deq.utah.gov/businesses/E/EnSolutions/ depleteduranium/performassess/ docs/2014/11Nov/DUExtensionApproval.pdf.

Background

EnergySolutions requested a license amendment to allow it to accept large quantities of depleted uranium for disposal at its facility. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recommended site-specific performance assessments for depleted uranium to assess whether disposal of this unique waste stream would meet public health and safety requirements. Based on direction from the Utah Radiation Control Board (RCB), the Division of Radiation Control (DRC) initiated rulemaking to specifically address this issue. On April 10, 2010, the Radiation Control Board approved the Depleted Uranium Performance Assessment Technical Analysis rule. This rule requires a quantitative compliance period for depleted uranium of a minimum of 10,000 years, with additional qualitative simulations for the period of peak radiation dose occurring at approximately 2.5 million years.

On June 1, 2011, Energy*Solutions* submitted a 960-page, site-specific performance assessment that identified critical data, facility design, and modeling procedures for depleted uranium disposal at its facility. This performance assessment took into account public input from DRC stakeholder scoping meetings held in November 2010 and February 2011.

In August 2013, DRC hired an outside contractor from Virginia to evaluate the performance assessment for adequacy. DRC sent a Completeness Review to Energy*Solutions* in October 2013 and asked the facility to respond to agency comments and supply any missing or additional information for the performance assessment. DRC reviewed the performance assessment for technical accuracy and regulatory compliance, submitted division issues or concerns to the facility in a series of three Interrogatories. Energy*Solutions* revised the initial design of the depleted uranium disposal cell and resubmitted the portion of the modeling report related to cell

performance, as well as an updated compliance report in June and July of 2014.

Additional information regarding the review schedule for the depleted uranium licensing action, including both the request and approval letters, is available on the Utah DEQ's web site at http://www.deq.utah.gov/businesses/E/ EnSolutions/depleteduranium/performassess/ index.htm#chron.

For additional information, please contact Rusty Lundberg at (801) 535-4257 or at rlundberg@utah.gov.

Utah Extends Comment Period re Physical Protection of Byproduct Material

On December 2, 2014, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Radiation Control, announced that the Director has received a request from Energy*Solutions* to extend the public comment period of a new rule, R313-37, *Physical Protection of Category 1 and Category 2 Quantities of Radioactive Material* (DAR No. 155666).

The comment period, which was originally set to close at 5:00 p.m. on December 1, 2014, will now end at the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Friday, January 9, 2015.

This action means that the public comment period for a companion rulemaking involving R313-19, *Requirements of General Applicability to Licensing of Radioactive Material* (DAR No. 155665), will also close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2015.

R313-37 re Physical Protection of Category 1 and 2 Quantities of Radioactive Material

The proposed changes to R313-17 are necessary for the Utah Radiation Control Rules to be compatible with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requirements and to ensure that the Division's program activities are adequate to protect the public health and safety. In particular, the changes are intended to adequately secure significant quantities of radioactive material against theft, diversion, or sabotage. Such security measures are needed to secure valued assets of the affected businesses and to protect the public health and safety.

Purpose The proposed changes to R313-37 are intended to incorporate by reference the requirements in 10 CFR 37 for the protection of Category 1 and Category 2 quantities of radioactive materials. The rule, which was filed on October 14, 2014, codifies requirements previously imposed on holders of a Utah Radioactive Material License to possess such quantities of radioactive material through an order issued by the NRC or by license condition.

Summary R313-37 will replace the requirements for the physical protection of significant quantities of radioactive materials possessed by Utah radioactive material licensees that were previously imposed under an NRC order or through special conditions in the licensee's license. In promulgating 10 CFR 37, the NRC modified some of the requirements for the physical protection and security of these quantities of radioactive material, and imposed additional requirements on the NRC's licensees. As an Agreement State, the Utah Radiation Control Board must adopt compatible regulations to those of the NRC in order to maintain a regulatory program that is adequate for the health and safety of the public from sources of radiation.

Agreement States are given three years from the publication date of the final rule in the *Federal Register* to adopt compatible regulations. In order to assist the Agreement States in their adoption of these requirements, the NRC has established compatibility categories for its rules, and has determined the compatibility category for each of the requirements to be adopted. The Division of Radiation Control has reviewed the compatibility categories for the requirements in 10 CFR 37, and has included all requirements necessary to have compatible regulations and maintain an adequate regulatory program.

Text The text of the new rule R313-37 as published in the Utah Bulletin is available online at www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/ bulletin/2014/20141101/38908.htm.

Energy*Solutions*' Request for Extension of the Public Comment Period on R313-17

By letter dated November 26, 2014, Energy*Solutions* requested that the Utah Radiation Control Board grant an extension of the public comment period for the proposed new rule, R313-17, from December 1, 2014 to January 12, 2014.

In support of the extension request, Energy*Solutions*' letter stated in part as follows:

On June 12, 2014, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) filed a petition to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission OIRC) requesting that they amend their regulations on the Physical Protection of Byproduct Material, 10 CFR 37 et al., to "remove unnecessary and burdensome requirements on licensees with established physical security programs." More specifically, NEI requested that the rule be amended to clarify and expand the exemptions in 10 CFR 37.11. One specific request is to add a new exemption, \$37.1 1(d), to include large components and material stored in robust structures, which could affect the physical protection requirements at the Clive Facility. The petition was docketed by the NRC on July 17, 2014 (Docket No. PRM-37-1) and the NRC is requesting comments on the petition for rulemaking. By extending your comment period to January 12, 2015, the Utah Radiation Control Board will align the comment period of the new proposed rule, R313-37, with the comment period for the petition for rulemaking.

Energy*Solutlons* supports the views provided by NEI and plans to provide comments to the NRC supporting these amendments, as well as adding additional recommendations. By granting an extension to the comment period for R313-37, Energy*Solutions* will be able to include its comments on the petition for rulemaking, which we believe will be useful to the Utah Radiation Control Board for its rulemaking for R313-37.

The final rulemaking for Part 37 requires Agreement States to issue compatible requirements within 3 years of the publication date of the final rule, that is, March 19, 2016. In the interim, licensees will maintain secure operations through the Orders currently in place. By granting an extension of the R313-37 comment period, the Utah Radiation Control Board will remain in compliance with the implementation timeline required by the NRC and benefit from comments on the petition for rulemaking.

Energy*Solutions*' letter requesting the extension, and the Utah Division of Radiation Control's

response, are available online on the Utah Department of Environmental Quality's website at http://www.deq.utah.gov/NewsNotices/notices/ radiationcontrol/docs/2014/12Dec/ ExtenstionLetters.pdf.

Additional information on R313-37 and R313-39 is available on the Utah DEQ's web site at http:// www.deq.utah.gov/NewsNotices/notices/ radiationcontrol/rulechange.htm.

For additional information, please contact Rusty Lundberg at (801) 535-4257 or at rlundberg@utah.gov.

Utah Radiation Control Board Holds November & December 2014 Meetings

The Utah Radiation Control Board held meetings on November 10, 2014 and December 9, 2014.

The meetings, which were open to the public, were held at the Multi Agency State Office Building located at 195 North 1950 West in Salt Lake City, Utah.

November 2014 Meeting Agenda

The following items, among others, were on the November 10 regular Board meeting agenda:

- I. Welcome
- II. Recognition of Matthew Bryant for personal effort to recover and return an industrial gauge containing radioactive material
- III. Approval of the Minutes from the October 14, 2014 Board Meeting

- IV. Administrative Rulemaking
 - a. Final adoption of proposed changes to R313-24-1 and Approval of filing a change in proposed rule for R313-17-4:
 - Proposed changes to R313-17, *Administrative Procedures;* R313-24, *Uranium Mills and Source Material Mill Tailings Disposal Facility Requirements,* regarding public participation procedures for licensing uranium mills and radioactive byproduct material management per 42 U.S.C. §2021(0)(3)
- V. Information Items
 - a. Nuclear Regulatory Commission activity update
 - i. Commission Changes
 - ii. Branch Technical Position— Concentration Averaging and Encapsulation
 - iii. 10 CFR Part 61 Rulemaking
 - b. Uranium Mills
 - i. Shootaring Canyon Mill— Uranium One / Anfield Resources—Transfer of Control
 - c. Low-Level Radioactive Waste— EnergySolutions
 - i. Depleted Uranium Performance Assessment
 - 1. HEAL Utah Presentation
 - d. Other Items
 - i. News Article—London Fog Proposal—U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground
- VI. Public Comment

VII. Next Scheduled Board Meeting:

Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 10:30 a.m. Multi Agency State Office Building, Board Conference Room #1015 195 North 1950 West Salt Lake City, Utah

December 2014 Meeting Agenda

The following items, among others, were on the December 9 regular Board meeting agenda:

- I. Welcome
- II. Recognition of Craig Jones
- III. Approval of the Minutes from the November 10, 2014 Board Meeting
- IV. Administrative Rulemaking
 - a. Comment Period Extension
 - i. Proposed changes to R313-19, Requirements of General Applicability to Licensing of Radioactive Material and R313-17, Physical Protection of Category 1 and Category 2 Quantities of Radioactive Material
 - b. R313-34, Requirements for Irradiators
 - i. Approve filing of five-year review
 - ii. Approve filing of proposed changes and initiate a 30-day public comment period
 - c. Petition for Rulemaking
 - i. Report from Board Subcommittee on Aribex petition to amend R313-28, *Use of X-rays in the Healing Arts*, for NOMAD MD and NOMAD 75kV X-ray sources

- ii. Approve filing of proposed changes to R313-28-31, General and Administrative Requirements; R313-35-2, Definitions; and, R313-35-115, Portable, Hand-held X-ray Systems, and initiate a 30-day public comment period
- V. Information Items
 - a. Low-Level Radioactive Waste— Energy*Solutions*
 - i. Depleted Uranium Performance Assessment – status update
 - b. Other Items
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Next Scheduled Board Meeting:

Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 1:00 p.m. Multi Agency State Office Building, Board Conference Room #1015 195 North 1950 West Salt Lake City, Utah

Background

The Board—which is appointed by the Utah Governor with the consent of the Utah Senate guides development of Radiation Control policy and rules in the state.

The Board holds open meetings ten times per year at locations throughout the state. A public comment session is held at the end of each meeting.

Copies of the Utah Radiation Control Board meeting agendas can be found at http:// www.radiationcontrol.utah.gov/Board/minagd/ agenda.pdf.

For additional information, please contact Rusty Lundberg, Director of the Division of Radiation Control at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, at (801) 536-4257 or at rlundberg@utah.gov.

LLW Notes November/December 2014 11

Southeast Compact

Energy *Solutions* & Utah DEQ Named **2015** Hodes Award Recipients

The Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management has selected Energy*Solutions* and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as the winners of the 2015 Richard S. Hodes, M.D. Honor Lecture Award—a program that recognizes an individual, company, or organization that contributed in a significant way to improving the technology, policy, or practices of low-level radioactive waste management in the United States.

Energy*Solutions* and the Utah DEQ are being recognized for their leadership and innovative efforts in developing and implementing the Utah Sealed Source License Variance initiative, which facilitated the collection and cost-effective disposal of certain sealed sources that did not have a commercial disposal pathway. Their efforts have improved radiation health, safety and security throughout the nation.

The award recipients will present the innovation being recognized at a lecture during the Waste Management '15 Symposium in Phoenix, Arizona.

Background

Dr. Richard S. Hodes was a distinguished statesman and a lifetime scholar. He was one of the negotiators of the Southeast Compact law, in itself an innovative approach to public policy in waste management. He then served as the Chair of the Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management from its inception in 1983 until his death in 2002. Throughout his career, Dr. Hodes developed and supported innovation in medicine, law, public policy, and technology. The Richard S. Hodes, M.D. Honor Lecture Award was established in 2003 to honor the memory of Dr. Hodes and his achievements in the field of low-level radioactive waste management.

Past Recipients

The following individuals and entities are past recipients of the Richard S. Hodes, M.D. Honor Lecture Award:

- W.H. "Bud" Arrowsmith (2004);
- Texas A & M University Student Chapter of Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas (2004 honorable mention);
- William Dornsife (2005);
- California Radioactive Materials Management Forum (2006);
- Larry McNamara (2007);
- Michael Ryan (2008);
- Susan Jablonski (2009);
- Larry Camper (2010);
- Christine Gelles (2011);
- Lawrence "Rick" Jacobi (2012);
- James Kennedy (2013);
- EnergySolutions, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ), the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD), and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Global Threat Reduction Initiative (2013 honorable mention); and,
- Electric Power Research Institute (2014).

The Award

The Richard S. Hodes Honor Lecture Award established in March 2003—is awarded to an individual, company, or organization that contributed in a significant way to improving the technology, policy, or practices of low-level radioactive waste management in the United States.

The award recipients are recognized with a special plaque and an invitation to present a lecture about the innovation during the annual international Waste Management Symposium. The 2015 symposium is sponsored by the University of Arizona and will be held in Phoenix, Arizona in the spring of 2015.

A special time is reserved during the Symposium for the lecture and the award presentation. The Southeast Compact Commission will provide the award recipient a \$5,000 honorarium and will pay travel expenses and per diem (in accordance with Commission Travel Policies) for an individual to present the lecture.

Criteria

The Richard S. Hodes Honor Lecture Award recognizes innovation industry-wide. The award is not limited to any specific endeavor contributions may be from any type of work with radioactive materials (nuclear energy, biomedical, research, etc.), or in any facet of that work, such as planning, production, maintenance, administration, or research. The types of innovations considered include, but are not limited to:

- conception and development of new approaches or practices in the prevention, management, and regulation of radioactive waste;
- new technologies or practices in the art and science of waste management; and,
- new educational approaches in the field of waste management.

The criteria for selection include:

- 1. *Innovation*. Is the improvement unique? Is it a fresh approach to a standard problem? Is it a visionary approach to an anticipated problem?
- 2. *Safety*. Does the practice enhance radiation protection?

- 3. *Economics*. Does the approach produce significant cost savings to government, industry or the public?
- 4. *Transferability*. Is this new practice applicable in other settings and can it be replicated? Does it increase the body of technical knowledge across the industry?

For additional information, please contact the Southeast Compact Commission at (919) 380-7780 or at secc@secompact.org.

Texas Compact / State of Texas

Governor Perry Makes New Appointments re Texas Compact Commission

In late October 2014, Texas Governor Rick Perry (R) appointed Clint Weber of Fort Worth to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission. In addition, Perry named Brandon Hurley of Grapevine as the Chair and John Salsman of Driftwood as Vice-Chair.

Hurley replaces Bob Wilson, who will remain a Commissioner, as Chair of the Texas Compact Commission for a term to expire at the pleasure of the Governor. "I want to thank Bob Wilson for his instrumental and dedicated leadership since the inception of this Commission," said Governor Perry. "His knowledge and experience will continue to be invaluable to the Commission."

Salsman will serve as Vice-Chair of the Texas Compact Commission for a term to expire at the pleasure of the Governor.

Background

Weber—whom Governor Perry appointed to the Commission for a term to expire on September 1,

2019—is an Associate for Corbett Capital, LLC. He is also a Major in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, where he previously served as an F/A-18 Instructor Pilot. Weber received a Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&M University and is pursuing a Master of Business Administration in Finance from the Neeley School of Business at Texas Christian University.

Hurley—who is also a Board Member of Trinity Habitat for Humanity and The Parenting Center in Fort Worth—is an Attorney and Partner at Kelly Hart and Hallman in Fort Worth. He is also a past member of the Eldon B. Mahon Inn of Court and the Austin College Alumni Board. Hurley received a Bachelor's Degree from Austin College and a Law Degree from Baylor Law School.

Salsman—who is a Certified Health Physicist—is Director of Environmental Health and Safety at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a member of the Health Physics Society and American Academy of Health Physics, as well as a Board Member and Past President of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society. Salsman received a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Nuclear Engineering from Texas A&M University.

For additional information, please contact Leigh Ing, Consulting Supervisory Director of the Texas Compact Commission, at (512) 217-8045 or at ing.leigh@gmail.com.

Texas Compact

Texas Compact Commission Holds November Meeting

On November 13, 2014, the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission (Texas Compact Commission) held a regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting, which began at 9:30 am CDT, was held in Room E1.012 at the Texas State Capitol located at 1100 Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas.

Meeting Agenda

The following is an abbreviated overview of the agenda for the Texas Compact Commission meeting. Persons interested in additional detail are directed to the formal agenda themselves.

- call to order;
- roll call and determination of quorum;
- introduction of commissioners, elected officials and press;
- public comment;
- discussion on revisions to 31 Texas Administrative Code §675.20, §675.21, §675.22 and §675.23 related to exportation and importation of waste;
- consideration of and possible action on requests for amendments to agreements for importation of low-level radioactive waste from Exelon Generation; Florida Power and Light—Turkey Point Nuclear Plant; Philotechnics, Ltd.; Thomas Gray & Associates; and, Xcel Energy—Monticello;
- consideration of and possible action on applications and proposed agreements for importation of low-level radioactive waste from RAM Services, Inc.; Pacific Gas & Electric Company—Diablo Canyon Power Plant; Philotechnics, Ltd.; and, Tennessee Valley Authority;
- consideration of and possible action on applications and proposed orders for exportation of low-level radioactive waste from Bionomics, Inc. on behalf of Peloton Therapeutics-Dallas; Comanche Peake Nuclear Power Plant; STP Nuclear Operating Company; and, Vermont Yankee;
- receive reports from Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) about recent site operations and any other matter WCS wishes to bring to the attention of the Texas Compact Commission;
- Chairman's report on Texas Compact Commission activities including reporting on

fiscal matters and on other actions to be taken by the compact;

- report from Leigh Ing, Consulting Supervisory Director of the Texas Compact Commission, on her activities and questions related to Commission operations;
- discussion and possible changes of dates and locations of future Texas Compact Commission meetings in 2014 and 2015; and,
- ♦ adjourn.

Background

Texas Compact Commission Meetings The Texas Compact Commission may meet in closed session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code. Texas Compact Commission meetings are open to the public.

Texas Compact Commission meeting agendas may be found on the Commission's website at http://www.tllrwdcc.org/.

Draft Import/Export Rules On July 18, 2014, the Texas Compact Commission announced the availability for public review and comment of working drafts of proposed revisions to 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §675.21, §675.22 and §675.23 related to exportation and importation of waste. (See *LLW Notes*, July/August 2014, p. 12.) Comments received will be reviewed in order to develop rules for proposal in the *Texas Register*.

The working draft rules for comment include redline/strikeout versions in PDF format and clean versions in PDF format. Links are provided to the current rules in the TAC, and clean versions of the revised working drafts are also provided in Word to assist reviewers in developing comments. The working draft rules and associated links can be found at http:// www.tllrwdcc.org/rules/.

For additional information, please contact Leigh ing, Consulting Supervisory Director of the Texas Compact Commission, at (512) 217-8045 or at ing.leigh@gmail.com.

Texas Compact Commission Schedules Next Meeting

January 6, 2015 in Austin, Texas

The Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission (Texas Compact Commission) has scheduled its next meeting for January 6, 2015 in Austin, Texas.

The meeting that had been scheduled for January 22, 2015 has been canceled, as has the meeting that was scheduled for December 17, 2014.

The Texas Compact Commission may meet in closed session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code.

Texas Compact Commission meetings are open to the public.

Texas Compact Commission meeting agendas may be found on the Commission's website at http://www.tllrwdcc.org/.

For additional information, please contact Leigh ing, Consulting Supervisory Director of the Texas Compact Commission, at (512) 217-8045 or at ing.leigh@gmail.com.

Industry

Nuclear Power Plants and Other NRC Licensees

News Briefs for Nuclear Power Plants Across the Country

The following news briefs provide updates on recent activities, enforcement actions and general events at nuclear power plants and other licensees around the country. The briefs are organized by compact and state.

For additional information, please contact the referenced facility or licensee.

Appalachian Compact/State of Maryland and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant On October 27, 2014, NRC announced that the agency will increase its level of oversight at the Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 nuclear power plant based on the finalization of a white (low to moderate safety significance) inspection finding for the Lusby, Maryland facility. The finding involves one of the internal radiation measurements that would be used to determine the level of an emergency at the plant in the event of a severe accident. In particular, the plant's owner (Exelon Generation Co. LLC) determined in April 2014 that the Unit 2 Emergency Action Levels (EALs) were inaccurate and could have led to emergency events being improperly classified. Prior to making a final enforcement decision, the NRC offered the company the opportunity to accept the finding without any formal response or provide additional information in a Regulatory Conference or in writing. The company submitted a written response dated September 2014 in which it stated that it agreed that a performance deficiency occurred but, in its view, it should have been classified as green, or of very low safety significance. Exelon argued, among other things, that there was less significance relative to declaring an emergency prematurely

than missing or delaying such decisions and not evacuating the public in a timely manner. NRC reviewed the company's response and concluded that no new information was presented that would warrant changing the agency's determination that the finding should be classified as white. As a result of the finalization of the finding as white, Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 will move from the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix to the Regulatory Response column, and therefore be subject to additional agency oversight.

Calvert Cliffs Dry Spent Fuel Storage Facility

On October 23, 2014, NRC announced that the agency has approved a 40-year license renewal for Exelon Generation's dry-cask independent spent fuel storage installation at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant. The license now has an expiration date of November 30, 2052. The initial 20-year license would have expired on November 30, 2012, but Exelon submitted a request to renew it in 2010. This meant the facility was considered to be in "timely renewal," where the license would not expire as long as the NRC staff was reviewing the request. This allowed the Calvert Cliffs' independent spent fuel storage installation to continue to operate under its existing license until the NRC completed its safety and security review and reached a decision on the license renewal application. The renewed license, the fifth the NRC has issued for a dry cask storage facility, contains conditions requiring periodic inspections of the casks and their components to ensure potential aging effects are identified and managed. These conditions require Exelon to take corrective action to address findings that could prevent a cask component from performing its safety function. There are now 71 independent spent fuel storage facilities in the United States. Spent fuel is moved into NRC-approved dry casks after an appropriate time of cooling in a spent fuel pool. Plants implement dry storage when their spent fuel pools are at or near capacity.

Limerick Nuclear Power Plant On October 20, 2014, NRC announced that the agency has renewed the operating licenses of the Limerick

Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, for an additional 20 years of operation. The new licenses will expire on October 26, 2044 for Unit 1 and June 22, 2049 for Unit 2. The Limerick plant has two boiling water reactors and is located in Limerick Township, Pennsylvaniaapproximately 21 miles northwest of Philadelphia. Exelon submitted the license renewal application on June 22, 2011. The NRC staff's review of the application proceeded on two tracks. A Safety Evaluation Report was issued on January 10, 2013 and supplemented on August 12, 2014. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement was published on August 27, 2014. These documents, as well as other information on the Limerick license renewal, are available on the NRC website. Renewal of the Limerick licenses brings to 75 the number of commercial nuclear power reactors with renewed licenses. Applications for an additional 17 renewals are currently under review. A few days later, on October 23, 2014, NRC announced that the agency will increase its level of oversight at the Limerick nuclear power plant following the finalization of a security-related inspection finding that has been classified as "greater than green." The NRC uses a color-coded assessment system for inspection findings and performance indicators. The colors range from "green," for very low safety or security significance, to "white," "yellow" or "red," for high safety or security significance. In the case of securityrelated inspection findings or performance indicators, the NRC notifies the public when the "greater than green" threshold has been crossed. However, the agency does not provide specifics because of the sensitivity associated with such findings and indicators. During an inspection conducted at the Limerick plant from June 16-20, 2014, the NRC documented the finding. Per the NRC's review process, Exelon was offered an opportunity to provide a written response or take part in a Regulatory Conference with NRC staff to provide additional information and/or perspectives regarding the finding. Exelon chose to take part in a conference, which was held on September 18, 2014. After considering the

information presented by the company, and the information developed during the inspection, the NRC has determined the finding is appropriately characterized as "greater than green."

Atlantic Compact/States of Connecticut and New Jersey

Millstone Nuclear Power Plant On October 21, 2014, NRC announced that the agency will increase its level of oversight at the Millstone Unit 3 nuclear power plant following the finalization of a "white" (low to moderate safety significance) inspection finding for the Waterford, Connecticut facility. The finding, which involves a violation of NRC requirements, is based on the plant owner's failure to promptly identify and correct repetitive problems involving a pump that is part of a reactor safety system. Specifically, NRC inspectors determined that from May 2013 through February 2014, Millstone Unit 3's turbine -driven auxiliary feed-water pump was operated improperly due to the installation of an incorrect bearing. This manifested itself in two cases of oscillations, or unexpected fluctuations, in reactor coolant flow from the pump and three trips, or shutdowns, of the pump because of overspeeding. The auxiliary, or back-up, feed-water system is one of several that can be used to help cool down the reactor following a shutdown by pumping water into the secondary side of the plant's steam generators. The steam generators are essentially large heat exchangers that convert heat produced by the reactor into steam, which in turn is used to spin the plant's turbine and generate electricity. Although Dominion Nuclear Connecticut Inc., the plant's owner and operator, has taken action to repair the pump and has completed a root-cause evaluation, the NRC is taking enforcement action because of the length of time it took for the issue to be addressed. Because this finding has been finalized as "white," Millstone Unit 3 will move from the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix to the Regulatory Response Column and be subject to additional inspections by the agency. The NRC conducted a Special Inspection at

Millstone Unit 3 in February and May 2014 in response to the problems involving the auxiliary feed-water pump. Among the areas that were reviewed during the inspection were Dominion's responses to the issues, including the adequacy and completeness of testing on the pump and a root-cause evaluation of the problems. On September 15, 2014, the NRC initiated an additional Special Inspection at Millstone Unit 3 in response to further unrelated problems with the pump. This action occurred after the pump failed quarterly surveillance tests in July and September 2014. That Special Inspection is still in progress, and the results will be detailed in an inspection report to be issued within 45 days of its completion.

PSEG Early Site Permit On October 23, 2014, NRC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff held a pair of public meetings in Middletown, Delaware to receive public comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for an Early Site Permit (ESP) application for a site near Salem, New Jersey. NRC and Army Corps staff also hosted informal discussions for one hour prior to the start of each session. However, formal comments were only accepted during the meetings. Comments on the DEIS were earlier received by NRC and Army Corps staff during two public meetings on October 1 in Carneys Point, New Jersey. On May 25, 2010, PSEG submitted an application for an ESP for a site adjacent to the Salem and Hope Creek nuclear power plants, which it owns and operates. The site is located in Hancocks Bridge (Salem County), New Jersey. An ESP, if approved, allows a company to address site-related issues, including environmental impacts, for the possible future construction and operation of a nuclear power plant at a predetermined site. No specific type of reactor design has to be selected when an ESP application is being pursued and a company is not obligated to proceed with a project should the NRC grant approval. Under an ESP, a company has up to 20 years to decide whether to seek a license from the NRC to build and operate a reactor, or reactors, on the designated site. The

public comment period on the DEIS was open until November 6, 2014. A copy of the DEIS and more information on the PSEG ESP application are available on the NRC website.

Central Interstate Compact/State of Arkansas

Arkansas Nuclear Power Plant On October 28, 2014, NRC staff met with officials from Entergy Operations to discuss the safety significance of apparent violations related to flood protection which affect both units at Arkansas Nuclear One. The plant, operated by Entergy Operations, Inc., is located in Russellville, Arkansas. The NRC has preliminarily determined that the violations have substantial safety significance, or are "yellow" for both units. The flooding issue came to light following an incident that occurred at the plant on March 31, 2013. Workers were moving a 525-ton component out of the plant's turbine building during a maintenance outage when a lifting rig collapsed, causing the component to fall and damaging a fire main in the Unit 1 turbine building. Fire pumps started and pumped water into the building. Some of this water leaked past degraded floor seals and flowed down onto the lowest level of the Unit 1 auxiliary building, covering the floor with two inches of water. Water also entered one of the safety-related pump rooms because a valve in an adjacent hallway was not fully closed. Following the event, a comprehensive inspection of flood barriers was undertaken by the licensee and the NRC, and numerous deficiencies were identified and subsequently documented in an NRC inspection report issued on September 9, 2014. Due to the degraded condition of numerous flood barriers, in the unlikely event of extreme flooding at the site, the NRC has preliminarily determined that significant amounts of water could potentially have entered the auxiliary buildings and vaults where fuel for the plant's emergency diesel generators is stored. The licensee has resolved the issue by replacing all of the degraded seals or parts, installing new penetration seals, implementing compensatory measures, or adding appropriate instructions to procedures to ensure

the protection of vital safety-related equipment. The NRC has reviewed these corrective measures to ensure their adequacy.

Central Midwest Compact/State of Illinois

LaSalle Nuclear Power Plant On December 17, 2014, NRC announced that the agency has received an application from Exelon Generation Co. to renew the operating licenses for the LaSalle County Station nuclear plant, Units 1 and 2, in Marseilles, Illinois. The application and information about the license renewal process is now available for public inspection on the NRC website. Exelon filed the application on December 9, 2014. It seeks to renew the licenses for an additional 20 years of operation. The LaSalle plant consists of two boiling water reactors. Unit 1 is currently licensed to operate through April 17, 2022; Unit 2 is licensed to operate through December 16, 2023. The NRC staff is reviewing the application to determine if it is sufficiently complete to begin the agency's extensive safety and environmental reviews. If the application is determined to be complete, the staff will docket it and publish a notice of opportunity to request an adjudicatory hearing before the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Midwest Compact/States of Iowa and Wisconsin

Duane Arnold Nuclear Power Plant On

October 21, 2014, NRC announced that the agency has started a Special Inspection to review the circumstances surrounding the loss and peeling of coating in areas of the Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant's torus. The torus is a ring-shaped structure that wraps around the base of the reactor and is part of containment. Its purpose is to help cool and condense steam in accident scenarios. The coating is similar to paint that is used to preserve metal. The issue was discovered by plant workers after the single-unit plant shut down for a planned refueling outage. The five-member inspection areas of interest include better understanding the loss of coating issue, reviewing the procedures used during the installation of the coating, and assessing the plant's repair activities and corrective actions. NRC inspectors will work both on- and off-site evaluating the licensee's root cause analysis and observing repairs and testing when possible. An Inspection Report documenting the team's findings will be made publicly available when complete. The plant is operated by NextEra Energy Duane Arnold LLC. It is located in Palo, Iowa—approximately 8 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids.

Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant On October 28, 2014, NRC has announced that the agency has granted Dominion Energy Kewaunee's request to alter the emergency preparedness program for the Kewaunee nuclear power plant in Carlton, Wisconsin to reflect the plant's decommissioning status. The Kewaunee Power Station is a single pressurized water reactor. The plant permanently shut down on May 7, 2013 and the reactor was defueled shortly thereafter. The changes come in the form of exemptions from certain requirements in NRC's regulations for operating nuclear power plants that may not be applicable for a plant undergoing decommissioning. Specifically, Kewaunee will no longer be required to maintain offsite radiological emergency preparedness plans or the 10-mile emergency planning zone. The plant will maintain an onsite emergency plan and response capabilities, including the continued notification of local government officials for an emergency declaration. The Kewaunee emergency plan incorporating these exemptions will be reviewed separately by the NRC. The NRC staff agreed with Dominion's analyses that the exemptions are warranted because the risk of an offsite radiological release is significantly lower, and the types of possible accidents are significantly fewer, at a nuclear power reactor that has permanently ceased operations and removed fuel from the reactor vessel than at an operating power reactor. The staff proposed granting the exemptions in June 2014. The Commission approved the exemptions in August 2014. The exemptions for emergency preparedness

requirements are part of several changes to the plant's licensing basis and technical specifications to reflect Kewaunee's decommissioning status. *The exemption package, including a safety evaluation report, is available in the NRC's ADAMS database under accession number ML14261A223.*

Southeast Compact/States of Alabama, Florida and Mississippi

Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant On October 20, 2014, NRC announced that staff has returned all three units at the Browns Ferry nuclear plant to the agency's normal levels of inspection and oversight for the first time in more than four years. The Browns Ferry plant is operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority and is located near Athens, Alabama—approximately 32 miles west of Huntsville. The increased oversight ended when NRC officials completed an inspection of the most recent issue at Browns Ferry. It involved staffing needed in the event of an emergency in the plant's control room. The NRC issued an order confirming actions TVA is taking to address the issue. The NRC inspection verified that the steps are appropriate to maintain the needed staffing levels and the agency considers the issue closed. The NRC has three resident inspectors at the Browns Ferry plant who are mostly responsible for completing the agency's normal, but still extensive, inspections. Those inspectors are also assisted by specialist inspectors from the NRC regional office in Atlanta.

St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant On November 20, 2014, NRC announced that the agency is increasing its oversight of St. Lucie Unit 1 due to violations linked to plant operators' failure to ensure that the reactor's auxiliary building was watertight. The St. Lucie plant is operated by Florida Power and Light (FPL) and is located in Jenson Beach, Florida—east of Port St. Lucie. The finding, originally documented in an NRC inspection report dated September 24, 2014, was found to be "white," or of low to moderate safety

significance. With the white finding, St. Lucie Unit 1 will receive an increased level of inspection and oversight. FPL did not contest the safety significance of the finding, and has agreed to corrective actions that include repair of flood seals, flood response procedure revisions, additional site visual inspections of flood protection features and program improvements to ensure external flood barrier integrity. In addition to the white finding, NRC also assessed a Severity Level III violation against FPL for failure to provide the NRC with complete and accurate information on the condition of the flood barriers at St. Lucie. Civil penalties for that violation were waived because St. Lucie has not been the subject of escalated enforcement actions for the last two years and has undertaken the necessary corrective actions.

Grand Gulf Nuclear Power Plant On December 2, 2014, NRC announced that the agency has issued its final supplemental environmental impact statement for the proposed renewal of the operating license for the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant in Mississippi. The report concludes that there are no environmental impacts that would preclude renewing the plant's license. The Grand Gulf plant is a single boiling water reactor located in Port Gibsonapproximately 20 miles south of Vicksburg. It is licensed to operate through November 1, 2024. Entergy Nuclear applied on November 1, 2011 to renew the license for an additional 20 years. The license renewal review process proceeds along two tracks - one for review of safety issues and another for environmental issues. As part of the environmental review of the application, the NRC held public meetings near the plant to discuss the review process and the draft version of the Environmental Impact Statement, which was published in November 2013. Comments were received and considered from members of the public, local officials, and representatives of state and federal agencies. The NRC published its Safety Evaluation Report, with open items, in January 2013. The Safety Evaluation Report, the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact

Statement (NUREG-1437, Supplement 50), the license renewal application and other information on the review can be found on the NRC website.

Southwestern Compact/State of California

San Onofre Nuclear Plant On October 27, 2014, NRC conducted a public meeting in Carlsbad, California to present and seek public comment on a decommissioning plan submitted by Southern California Edison for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Units 2 and 3. Edison submitted the plan, known as a Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report, on September 24, 2014. Edison permanently ceased power operations at SONGS Units 2 and 3 in June 2013. The report contains a description of planned decommissioning activities and includes a decommissioning cost estimate. During the public meeting, NRC officials described the decommissioning process, including the current transition of the SONGS licensing basis from operating to decommissioning status, decommissioning inspections, and spent fuel management issues. An official from Edison presented the company's plans for decontaminating and dismantling the facilities. NRC staff experts were also available to answer questions from the public. Edison's decommissioning plan is available on NRC's web site by entering ML14272A121 in the search window at the upper right corner. Public comments may be submitted via the federal government's rulemaking website, www.regulations.gov, using Docket ID NRC-2014 -0223. Comments will be accepted through December 22, 2014. For additional information, please contact David McIntyre at (301) 415-8200.

State of Michigan

Fermi Nuclear Power Plant On November 19, NRC announced that the agency has completed its Final Safety Evaluation Report for a Combined License (COL) for the proposed Fermi Unit 3 reactor. The report concludes there are no safety aspects that would preclude issuing the license for construction and operation of the proposed reactor at the site, which is located near Newport, Michigan. The staff will provide the report and Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Fermi application to the Commission for the mandatory hearing phase of the licensing process. In the mandatory hearing, expected to take place early next year, the Commission will determine whether the staff's review supports the findings necessary to issue a license. Following the mandatory hearing, the Commission will vote on whether to authorize the staff to issue the license. Detroit Edison submitted its COL application for Fermi on September 18, 2008, which requested permission to build and operate an Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) at the site. The proposed reactor is adjacent to the company's existing reactor. The NRC certified the 1,600-megawatt ESBWR design following a Commission vote earlier this year. The NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) independently reviewed those aspects of the Fermi application that concern safety. The committee provided the results of its review to the Commission on September 22, 2014. The NRC completed its environmental review and issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Fermi reactor in January 2013.

State of Nebraska

Crow Butte Uranium Recovery Facility On November 6, 2014, NRC announced that the agency has renewed Crow Butte Resources Inc.'s license to operate an in situ uranium recovery facility in Crawford, Nebraska for an additional 10 years. The license now has an expiration date of November 5, 2024. NRC staff reviewed both the technical/safety and environmental aspects of the proposed renewal. A Safety Evaluation Report published in August 2014 found the facility could continue to operate safely. An Environmental Assessment published in the Federal Register on October 30, 2014 found that there would be no significant environmental impact from continuing operation for another 10 years.

Federal Agencies and Committees

Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards

ACRS Elects 2015 Leadership and Confirms Meeting Schedule

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) has re-elected John Stetkar as Chairman and elected Dennis Bley as Vice-Chairman and Michael Corradini as Member-at-Large.

The ACRS is a group of experienced technical experts that advises the Commission, independently from the NRC staff, on safety issues related to the licensing and operation of nuclear power plants as well as issues of health physics and radiation protection.

The complete listing of the ACRS membership and their bios can be found on the ACRS web page at http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/ advisory/acrs/membership.html.

The confirmed ACRS 2015 full-committee meeting schedule is available on the NRC website at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acrs/agenda/2015/.

For additional information, please contact Maureen Conley of the NRC at (301) 415-8200. U.S. Army/U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Army Proposes License Termination at Jefferson Proving Ground

On December 3, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission held a public meeting in Madison, Indiana to discuss the agency's review of the U.S. Army's request to terminate the NRC license for the Depleted Uranium Impact Area at the Jefferson Proving Ground, which is located in southeastern Indiana.

The meeting, which was transcribed, included an NRC presentation on the agency's process for the license termination safety and environmental review, followed by comments from the public. Public comments will be considered by the NRC staff and will be used in preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, which will assess the potential environmental impacts of the Army's proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action.

The Jefferson Proving Ground was used by the Army between 1941 and 1995 for test firing of conventional munitions. Between 1984 and 1994, the Army test fired depleted uranium projectiles under an NRC license in the Depleted Uranium Impact Area. Some of the undetonated munitions and depleted uranium remain in this area of the Jefferson Proving Ground. In 2000, the operation of the former proving ground passed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is currently known as the Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge. However, the Army retains ownership of the property.

In 2013, the Army submitted a request to the NRC to terminate the license for the Depleted Uranium Impact Area under restricted conditions. The Army proposes to leave the depleted uranium and

the undetonated munitions in place while it continues to maintain institutional control over the area, such as physical access restrictions.

Written comments can be submitted through the Federal Rulemaking Website by searching for Docket ID NRC-2014-0097. Comments may also be mailed to Cindy Bladey, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: 3WFN-06-A44M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-001.

Documents related to this action can be found in the Federal Rulemaking Website under Docket ID NRC-2014-0097.

For additional information, please contact Viktoria Mitlyng at (630) 829-9662 or Prema Chandrathil at (630) 829-9663.

U.S. Department of Energy/ U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

NRC Publishes Volume 4 of Yucca Mountain Safety Evaluation Report

On December 18, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission published Volume 4 of its Safety Evaluation Report on the proposed underground geologic nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. Volume 4 documents the NRC staff's evaluation to determine whether the U.S. Department of Energy's research and development and performance confirmation programs, as well as other administrative controls, systems and programs, meet applicable NRC requirements.

NRC published Volume 3 of its Safety Evaluation Report on the proposed underground geologic nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada on October 16, 2014. (See *LLW Notes*, September/October 2014, pp. 29-30.)

Additional information on the Yucca Mountain licensing process is available on the NRC website at www.nrc.gov.

Publication of Volume 4 re Administrative and Programmatic Requirements

Volume 4 covers administrative and programmatic requirements for the repository. It documents the staff's evaluation of whether DOE's research and development and performance confirmation programs, as well as other administrative controls and systems, meet applicable NRC requirements. It contains the staff's finding that most administrative and programmatic requirements in NRC regulations are met, except for certain requirements relating to ownership of land and water rights.

Specifically, DOE has not acquired ownership or jurisdiction over the land where the geologic repository operations area would be located, and the land is not free of significant encumbrances such as mining rights, deeds, rights-of-way or other legal rights. DOE also has not acquired water rights it determined are needed to accomplish the purpose of the geologic repository operations area.

NUREG-1949, Safety Evaluation Report Related to Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, Volume 4, and additional information on the Yucca Mountain licensing process are available on the NRC website at http:// www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/ staff/sr1949/.

Publication of Volume 3 re Post-Closure Requirements

Volume 3 covers the period after a repository at Yucca Mountain would be permanently closed should NRC authorize construction following

completed.

Path Forward/Next Steps

Commission review.

completion of the remaining steps in the licensing process. Volume 3 contains the staff's finding that the U.S. Department of Energy's repository design meets the requirements that apply after the repository is permanently closed, including but not limited to the post-closure performance objectives in NRC's regulations contained in 10 CFR Part 63, Subpart E. These performance objectives include the requirement that the repository be composed of multiple barriers to isolate radioactivity from the environment. The staff also found the proposed repository design meets the NRC's limits or standards as found in 10 CFR Part 63, Subpart L for individual protection, human intrusion and groundwater protection.

NUREG 1949, Safety Evaluation Report Related to Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Wastes in a Geologic Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, Volume 3, is now publicly available in the NRC's ADAMS online database as ML14288A121.

Background

The U.S. Department of Energy submitted its Yucca Mountain application in June 2008. The NRC staff published Volume 1 (General Information) of the Safety Evaluation Report in August 2010. After DOE moved to withdraw the application and Congress stopped appropriating funds for the NRC's review, the agency closed out its application review and published three technical evaluation reports containing the staff's technical analyses to that point but no regulatory conclusions. The adjudication of nearly 300 contentions filed by various parties contesting the application was also suspended in September 2011.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered the NRC in August 2013 to resume the licensing process using currently available funding appropriated from the Nuclear Waste Fund. That court order led to publication of Volume 3. The staff expects to

Agencies

Interagency Cybersecurity Forum Launched

Independent and Executive Branch

publish Volume 2 (Repository Safety Before

Permanent Closure) and Volume 5 (License

Specifications) by January 2015, as they are

Publication of Volumes 3 and 4 does not signal

whether the NRC might authorize construction of

the repository. A final licensing decision, should

appropriated, could come only after completion of

DOE's Environmental Impact Statement, hearings

For additional information, please contact David

the Safety Evaluation Report, a supplement to

funds beyond those currently available be

on contentions in the adjudication, and

McIntyre of the NRC at (301) 415-8200.

On October 10, 2014, senior leaders launched the interagency Cybersecurity Forum for Independent and Executive Branch Agencies. The Forum's objectives are to enhance communication, lessons learned, and to develop a common understanding of cybersecurity activities through the sharing of best practices and exploring approaches to enhance cybersecurity protections. The officials established areas of initial discussion that included lessons learned with regulation based and voluntary approaches to cybersecurity, proactive cyber risk assessment and management, and information sharing.

The meeting was chaired by Allison Macfarlane, Chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and included participation from

Chair Tom Wheeler of the Federal Communications Commission and Chair Cheryl LaFleur of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as senior officials from the Federal Trade Commission, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Treasury and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The Department of Commerce/National Institute of Standards and Technology serves as an advisor to the Forum. Rand Beers, Deputy Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, provided remarks at the meeting.

For additional information, please contact Dave *McIntyre of the NRC at (301) 415-8200.*

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

NRC Publishes Information Collection Request re Emergency Access

On December 1, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a notice of pending agency action to submit an information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and solicitation of public comment related to 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 62 titled, "Criteria and Procedures for Emergency Access to Non-Federal and Regional Low-Level Waste Disposal Facilities."

For additional information, please see NRC Docket No. NRC-2014-0237.

Overview

The regulations in 10 CFR Part 62 set out the information which must be provided to the NRC by any low-level waste generator or Governor of a state on behalf of generators seeking emergency access to an operating low-level waste disposal facility. The information is required to allow the NRC to determine if denial of disposal constitutes a serious and immediate threat to public health and safety or common defense and security.

The regulations in 10 CFR Part 62 also provide that the Commission may grant an exemption from the requirements in this Part upon application of an interested person or upon its own initiative.

The collection would only be required upon application for a Commission emergency access determination when access to a non-federal or regional low-level radioactive waste disposal facility is denied, which results in an immediate public health and safety and/or common defense and security concern.

Reporting would be done by generators of lowlevel radioactive waste, or the Governor of a state on behalf of any generator(s) located therein, who are denied access to a non-federal or regional lowlevel radioactive waste disposal facility and who wish to request emergency access pursuant to 10 CFR Part 62.

Information Requested

Interested stakeholders are requested to submit comments that address the following questions:

- 1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility?
- 2. Is the burden estimate accurate?

- 3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?
- 4. How can the burden of the information collection be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

Submitting Comments

Comments should be submitted by January 30, 2015 and should reference Docket No. NRC–2014–0237.

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Electronic comments go to *http://www.regulations.gov* and search for Docket No. NRC-2014-0237.
- Mail comments to NRC Clearance Officer, Tremaine Donnell (T–5 F53), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

Questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the NRC Clearance Officer, Tremaine Donnell, at (301) 415–6258, or at INFOCOLLECTS.Resource@NRC.GOV.

The OMB clearance requests are available at the NRC's Web site: http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/doc-comment/omb/.

For additional information, please see 79 <u>Federal</u> <u>Register</u> 71,134 (December 1, 2014).

Stephen Burns to Become 16th NRC Chairman

By press release dated December 23, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced that Stephen Burns has been designated as the agency's next Chairman by President Barack Obama effective January 1, 2015. Burns, a 33-year-veteran of the agency and an NRC Commissioner since November, will replace outgoing Chair Allison Macfarlane, who is stepping down to take a position at George Washington University. (See *LLW Notes*, September/October 2014, pp. 24-25.)

"I am pleased to have been selected to serve as the NRC's next Chairman. It is a great honor to lead the agency to which I dedicated most of my professional career," Burns said. "I extend my thanks to Dr. Macfarlane for her service and wish her success in her new position. I look forward to working with my fellow Commissioners, the NRC staff and our stakeholders in carrying out the NRC's important mission."

The NRC Commission is made up of five Commissioners, one of whom is designated by the President as Chairman. The Commission is a collegial body that formulates policies, develops regulations, issues orders and adjudicates legal matters. The NRC Commissioners serve fiveyear terms, with one term expiring every year on June 30. Burns' term expires in 2019.

Burns is the second career General Counsel to be named Chairman since Marcus Rowden, General Counsel for the Atomic Energy Commission, became the new agency's second Chairman in 1976.

Before returning to the NRC, Burns was the Head of Legal Affairs of the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris. Prior to that position, Burns had served at the NRC in a variety of roles,

including as the agency's General Counsel from 2009 to 2012. He began his career at the NRC as an Attorney in the Regional Operations and Enforcement Division in 1978.

Burns received a Bachelor's Degree, Magna Cum Laude, in 1975 from Colgate University in Hamilton, New York. He received his Law Degree with Honors in 1978 from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he was an Editor on the George Washington Law Review.

During his tenure at the NRC, Burns received the Distinguished Service Award in 2001 and the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award in 1998 and 2008.

For additional information, please contact Holly Harrington of the NRC at (301) 415-8200.

NRC Hosts Meeting re Proposals to Reduce Emergency Planning Zones

On December 17, 2014, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission hosted a meeting to discuss proposals from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for a reduced emergency planning zone for small modular reactors. During the meeting—which was held at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland—participants discussed NEI's proposed generic approach, as well as an expected sitespecific approach by TVA as part of its Early Site Permit (ESP) application for small modular reactors at the Clinch River site in Tennessee.

In 2010, the NRC highlighted emergency planning as one of several key policy issues for small modular reactors. Nuclear power plant emergency preparedness lays out plans for the plants as well as state and local authorities to recommend public protective actions within 10 miles of a plant in the unlikely event an accident releases radioactivity to the environment. Proposed small modular reactor designs are a fraction of the size of most current reactors, raising the question of how the new designs can best address emergency planning concepts. This meeting was part of ongoing NRC discussions with NEI regarding generic small modular reactor emergency planning issues. This was the first meeting to discuss a possible site-specific application.

If TVA includes a reduced emergency planning zone in its ESP application, the NRC will carefully review the proposal to ensure it would meet requirements for protecting public health and safety. Even if the NRC were to issue a permit, TVA would still have to apply for a license to build and operate small modular reactors at the Clinch River site.

The meeting agenda included opportunities for the public to participate in the discussion.

For additional information, please contact Scott Burnell at (301) 415-8200.

Construction Deadline Extended for MOX Fuel Fabrication Plant

On November 13, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission signed an order extending the completion deadline for a mixedoxide fuel fabrication facility in South Carolina. Shaw AREVA MOX Services will have an additional 10 years, or until March 30, 2025, to finish building the facility at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in Aiken.

MOX Services asked for the extension in May 2014 after a number of factors delayed construction, including lower than requested annual funding from Congress and delays in the delivery of components and key construction activities. The NRC issued the original 10-year construction authorization on March 30, 2005. The extension does not expand the scope of work.

On October 23, 2014, NRC published an environmental assessment that found no significant environmental impact would result from extending the authorization. NRC staff also found that MOX Services has shown good cause to extend the deadline for completion.

The order also reflects some administrative changes to the construction authorization, including a change in the licensee's name to CB&I AREVA MOX Services to reflect Chicago Bridge & Iron's acquisition of The Shaw Group in 2013. That change does not reflect any change in control of the company, management, operation or security. The order also removes a list of submittals that had been incorporated as references in the construction authorization, but have now been incorporated into the application.

The MOX fabrication facility is a major component of the United States' program to dispose of surplus plutonium taken from nuclear weapons by mixing it with uranium and burning it as fuel in commercial nuclear reactors.

For additional information, please contact Maureen Conley of the NRC at (301) 415-8200.

Comments Sought on Draft Tribal Policy Statement and Guidance Document

On December 1, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced that the agency is asking for public comments on two draft documents intended to encourage and facilitate involvement by Native American tribes in areas of NRC jurisdiction.

The proposed Tribal Policy Statement and draft guidance to the staff on interacting with federallyrecognized tribes are the next steps in the agency's effort to formalize the process for engaging with tribal governments. The NRC published *Federal Register* notices outlining the documents on December 1, 2014 and asking for comments by March 31, 2015.

The NRC produced the draft policy statement and manual in response to direction from the Commission in January 2012 following an increase in the number and complexity of consultations between the NRC and Native American tribes. The drafts are based on input the NRC received after publishing later that year the first draft of a Tribal Protocol Manual outlining staff guidance for consulting with tribal governments. At that time, the NRC also asked for input on how to strengthen government-togovernment relationships and make them most effective.

Additional information on the NRC's interactions with tribes can be found on the agency's website at http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/state-tribal/ tps.html.

For additional information, please contact Maureen Conley of the NRC at (301) 415-8200.

Macfarlane Urges Industry to Focus on Safety and Public Outreach

In prepared remarks on November 18, 2014, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chair Allison Macfarlane urged nuclear power industry leaders to "keep the lessons of Fukushima alive in your daily operations" while improving safety and fostering better relations with communities around nuclear plants.

The remarks were made during a farewell speech to the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations annual CEO conference in Atlanta, Georgia. During the speech, Macfarlane reflected on her two-and-a-half-year tenure as NRC Chair—a period in which the agency implemented safety enhancements inspired by the Japanese nuclear disaster in 2011.

"We should never view Fukushima as a relic of the distant past that's no longer relevant," Macfarlane said. "We need to keep that focus, make it sustainable for the long term, and—for those of us who have been there—we need to continue to tell others what we saw and why it matters."

Macfarlane stressed the importance of safety culture and public engagement, two major themes of her tenure as NRC Chair.

"Simply put, safety culture starts at the top. A strong commitment to safety on the part of senior management promotes an environment where this commitment is shared at all levels," she said. The NRC and industry need to emphasize safety culture not only in their own organizations but also in manufacturers and vendors, Macfarlene said, citing quality control challenges with vendors supplying components to new reactors under construction in Georgia and South Carolina. "Equally important is how plant management engages with the local community—including the public, law enforcement, local government and interest groups," she continued. Public outreach should be part of daily operations, not just crisis management. "Industry and the public working together can foster trust that can be called upon in both normal and extenuating circumstances. And while we work every day to prevent those extreme circumstances from occurring, I believe this is a far better approach than assuming the trust will simply materialize in a crisis."

Macfarlane was nominated to the Commission by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate, taking office as Chair in July 2012. On October 21, 2014, she announced that she would leave the agency effective January 1, 2015, to become Director of the Center for International Science and Technology Policy at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. (See *LLW Notes*, September/October 2014, pp. 24-25.)

For additional information, please contact David McIntyre of NRC at (301) 415-8200.

NRC Names New Director of Congressional Affairs

On October 20, 2014, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced that Chair Allison Macfarlane has named a long-time legislative professional with military experience, Eugene Dacus, as Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs. Dacus assumed the position effective on October 14, 2014.

Before his new appointment, Dacus served seven years as Senior Congressional Affairs Officer at the NRC after holding a variety of management positions in the Department of Defense and private industry.

"We are happy to have Gene step into this position," said Macfarlane. "His understanding of the NRC and knowledge of Capitol Hill, coupled with his extensive management experience throughout his career, will continue to serve the NRC well."

Dacus, who served with distinction during 26 years of active and reserve duty in the Air Force and retired as a Colonel, served as Congressional Liaison for the Comptroller of the Secretary of Defense. He spent much of his career managing finances and budgeting for different divisions of the military. He commanded two squadrons and held key financial management assignments at major command and Air Force staff levels. Dacus also held senior staff positions at two joint commands, United States Special Operations Command and United States Forces Japan (USFJ). As Comptroller, USFJ, he assisted the State Department with drafting and negotiating burden-sharing agreements with the government of Japan exceeding \$2 billion annually.

Dacus received a Bachelor's Degree in Economics, with a minor in marketing, from Alabama State University. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from George For additional information, please contact Eliot Brenner of the NRC at (301) 415-8200.

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GAO Document Room	
• Government Printing Office (to order entire Federal Register notices)	
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• Legislative Resource Center (to order U.S. House of Representatives documents)	
• U.S. Senate Document Room	

by internet

•	NRC Reference Library (NRC regulations, technical reports, information digests, and regulatory guides)www.nrc.gov
•	EPA Listserve Network • Contact Lockheed Martin EPA Technical Support at (800) 334-2405 or email (leave subject blank and type help in body of message)listserver@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov
•	EPA • (for program information, publications, laws and regulations)www.epa.gov
•	U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) (for the Congressional Record, <i>Federal Register</i> , congressional bills and other documents, and access to more than 70 government databases)

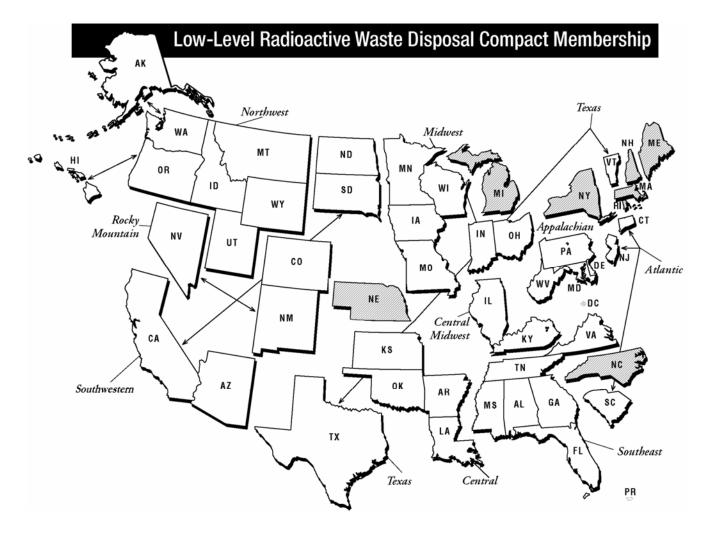
GAO homepage (access to reports and testimony)www.gao.gov

To access a variety of documents through numerous links, visit the website for the LLW Forum, Inc. at www.llwforum.org

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