

AGENDA

**NCRP PAC 5 Meeting
ENVIRONMENTAL RADIATION
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES
Hyatt Regency
Bethesda, MD
(Embassy Room)
March 1, 2009 (Sunday)**

1:30 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.	Opening Remarks	Chen
1:40 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Status of PAC5 and Activities	Chen
2:00 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Briefing on the Related Agency Activities and Others <ul style="list-style-type: none">• States (CRCPD)• DOE/HS• DOE/EM• EPA• Others•	Lipoti Wallo Letournau* Clark
2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break	
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Proposed Projects	All
4:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	Assignment and Responsibilities	All
4:20 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	Suggestions/Comments	All
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Path Forward	Chen
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

*See attachment

NCRP PAC 5 Meeting Summary
March 1, 2009
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Bethesda, MD

Participants

S.Y. Chen; Mary Clark; Jill Lipoti; Bruce Napier; Carl Paperiello; Frank Parker; Andrew Wallo, III; Chris Whipple; and Thomas Tenforde (absent: Anthony Wolbarst, Martin Letourneau, and Margaret MacDonell)

Discussion

- S.Y. Chen opened the meeting by welcoming all PAC 5 members. NCRP
- Short briefings were provided by Jill Lipoti (State), Mary Clark (EPA). And Andy Wallo (DOE). Although Marty Letourneau did not attend, he did prepare a summary of the recent activities about DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM).
- Jill mentioned about the new EPA administrator (Lisa Jackson was from the State of New Jersey) and her new policy of placing more emphasis on science as basis to strengthen regulatory activities. She also mentioned the challenges facing the state regulators in light of the recent economic downturn.
- Mary echoed Jill's view of EPA's emphasis on science. When asked by President Tenforde about the possible EPA's funding support for the NCRP legacy report on radon, she indicated that would be a somewhat difficult subject, largely due to the EPA's established position of following the BEIR VI recommendations on radon health effects. But she also thought that a proposal on radon (and byproducts) remediation and management issues might meet a better reception from EPA.) .S.Y. then noted that perhaps it would be helpful to prepare a proposal along the line as an update to NCRP's previous reports on radon remediation issues (i.e., Report 45 and 47).
- Andy Wallo then briefed on the activities related to DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security (HSS). He stated that DOE is in the process of revising several orders including the environmental health and safety (i.e., Order 5400) and Radioactive Waste Management (i.e., Order -435). Among the recently published document include the preliminary report on the operations guidelines developed for emergency response to RDD events. Andy indicated that he will provide some more information along the line later.
- Marty Letourneau's written summary specifically mentioned about DOE/EM's recent receipt of \$6B money from the Federal Stimulus Package for its activities.

A lot of discussions were held surrounding this subject; and it was raised as a possibility for NCRP to look into the opportunities of future funding. Regarding the funding issue, Dr. Tenforde did mention about the unfulfilled funding promise from DOE/EM for the report on environmental monitoring, to which he noted the discussion will continue for the opportunity in the next fiscal year.

- President Tenforde then briefed participants on the potential PAC 5 proposals, particularly those topics associated with homeland security issues that pertain to decision making regarding RDD/IND long-term cleanup. He said the effort will continue with EPA and DHS.

Suggested Topic for Future Study on NORM

Issues on NORM reemerged during the meeting. A review of the PAC 5 2007 meeting minutes revealed the following tasks. The subject will be further pursued by PAC 5.

- *Development of Fate and Transport Mechanisms for Specific NORM Radionuclides under Certain Environments.* The idea follows the recently published NCRP Report No. 154–*Cesium-137 in the Environment: Radioecology and Approaches to Assessment and Management*, except that it will focus only on the environmental transport mechanisms for a few industries, including petroleum, phosphate, and uranium mining.
- *Characterization of Source Terms and Calculation of Doses from NORM Contamination in the Environment.* The report will address the NORM source term characterization and the methods for dose assessment (including doses from radon gases).
- *NORM Waste Treatment Technology and Disposal Alternatives.* The report will provide an in-depth evaluation of the viable NORM waste treatment technology and potential disposal alternatives (including deep well injection and land spreading).

Input from Martin Letourneau

-----Original Message-----

From: Letourneau, Martin [<mailto:Martin.Letourneau@em.doe.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 2:55 PM
To: Chen, Shih-Yew
Subject: RE: 2009 NCRP PAC 5 Meeting (March 1, 2009)

EM is currently trying to figure out how we are going to spend an additional \$6 Billion coming to the Department under the "Stimulus Package". Jay Rhoderick has had the lead, and sites have been submitting proposals to HQ that are being vetted both for their timeliness and their effectiveness. For example, a project that requires a new EIS or permit would be low on the funding priorities because the up front work would take too long to complete before the real work could get started. The goal is to be able to make actual work happen within 6 months and to spend the allocated funds within 2 years.

For example, the D&D work at Savannah River has been on hold due to lack of funding. Applying some of the stimulus resources to additional D&D at SRS is something that can happen very quickly and have immediate results.

Under the Mercury Export Ban Act, the Department has the lead to identify a site within the US to be a host facility for all elemental mercury in the US. DOE will need to prepare an EIS, select a site, develop the site, and develop a chargeback system for commercial entities to pay the government to take their elemental mercury.

The Office of Environmental Management is getting ready to initiate an update to the Complex-Wide Review, which was completed in 1996 as one of the DNFSB Recommendation 94-2 actions. It has been over 10 years, and we would like to see what things have improved, what has not, and what new issues there may be that need to be addressed. As with the previous Complex-Wide Review, this new effort will lead into an update to DOE Order 435.1 (Radioactive Waste Management). 435.1 is essentially sound, and there is no need to revise its structure, but there are some things that can be improved and we have 10 years of lessons-learned to build off of. The intent is to improve areas that can be, add new guidance where needed, and update to current ICRP and NCRP expectations as needed.

We continue to make progress on closing HLW tanks at our sites, and are currently transplanting the process we used so successfully at Savannah River to Hanford. Starting next week, we will begin conducting "scoping meetings" for a performance assessment that is intended to support closure of the C Tank Farm at Hanford once the Tank Closure and Waste Management EIS is completed (expected to be in about 1 to 1 and 1/2 years).

Secretary Chu and Ines Triay have challenged us to find a role for the Department's advance computing capabilities through the National Labs in our PA work. We have only just started that discussion, and are trying to figure out how to meet that challenge.