



National Transportation Stakeholders Forum | May 2016

Welcome to our National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) Newsletter!

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Message from the NTSF Chair

by Michael Wangler (mike.wangler@doe.em.gov), Chair, National Transportation Stakeholders Forum, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM)

We are pleased to bring you the inaugural edition of the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) Newsletter. This newsletter is of, by, and for the participants in NTSF activities. The NTSF Newsletter will share information about NTSF activities and issues, particularly as they relate to interactions between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and its stakeholders. It will focus on the transportation of radioactive and nuclear materials. However, there will be times when we find an article that is not directly about transportation but could have an effect on future transportation, for example, storage issues.

To ensure the publication of relevant, topical subjects in the newsletter, we have identified an Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Joe Martinez of DOE-EM's Office of Transportation and Packaging. You may contact Mr. Martinez via email at joe.martinez@em.doe.gov if you have any questions about this newsletter or if you would like to submit an article for future publishing consideration. An Editorial Board will assist in and contribute to the development and management of the quarterly NTSF Newsletter. Membership of the Editorial Board is composed of volunteer reviewers from DOE Offices, State Regional Groups, and the NTSF Tribal Caucus to ensure that newsletter information meets the needs of the varied NTSF audiences.

As you read this newsletter, consider how you can contribute to future issues. While we have an internal process for getting regular articles, we want the Newsletter to be more about you than the NTSF itself. So please submit to us any ideas and potential articles for future issues, and share your feedback on the style and content of the articles.

This newsletter is available through email distribution, and will be published on the NTSF wiki site located at ntsf.wikidot.com. Archived copies will also be made available on the wiki site.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

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NTSF Planning Committee Update

by Chris Wells (wells@sseb.org), Assistant Director, Nuclear Programs, Southern States Energy Board (SSEB)

Meeting co-hosts, the Southern States Energy Board and the NTSF Tribal Caucus, are pleased with the progression of planning activities in anticipation of the 2016 National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) Annual Meeting, which is scheduled to take place in Orlando, Florida, from June 7-9. This year's event promises to be impactful and informative to those who are interested in emergency response, security, technology and the multitude of other issues surrounding the transportation of radioactive materials.

"Stewards of the Environment" is the theme for the annual meeting, which will focus on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) remediation efforts and national planning strategies for the safe transport of radioactive materials. As in the previous years, the 2016 NTSF Annual Meeting will serve as a collaborative gathering point for representatives from federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, private industry, and other entities associated with these important matters.

Specific to this year's meeting are keynote talks by DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management Frank Marcinowski and DOE Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy John Kotek, who will speak about the DOE Office of Environmental Management's cleanup of the former weapons production facility, and the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy's management, storage and transportation of spent nuclear fuel, respectively.

Under the leadership of DOE and with the input of the NTSF Planning Committee, we have developed a program that offers topical subjects, breakout sessions, and training opportunities to meet the needs of the diverse group of stakeholders who compromise the transportation community. We hope all who are reading the inaugural edition of this newsletter will be able to join us for this important event! For more information about the 2016 NTSF Annual Meeting please click on [this link](#) to visit the website.

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National Transportation Stakeholders Forum Management Plan Working Group

by Michael Wangler (mike.wangler@doe.em.gov), Transport Safety & Security Specialist, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM)

In its fifth year of existence, the NTSF Planning Committee determined that a Management Plan would facilitate the NTSF in conduct of its day-to-day as well as long-term business. With this in mind, the NTSF Management Plan is being written for the benefit of all NTSF stakeholders who are active in planning meetings, leading and/or serving on working groups, and participating in NTSF's many activities related to the transportation of radioactive waste and materials. Additionally, the Management Plan will provide the overall framework in which these activities operate.

The Management Plan will identify NTSF's goals and explain the roles and responsibilities of members of the Planning Committee, *ad hoc* working groups and other activities, as well as specific procedures that have proven successful in past efforts. The elements of successful annual meetings, *ad hoc* working groups and webinars will be detailed. Importantly, the Management Plan will provide templates and examples of correspondence, work plans, and more.

The plan is being developed with input from state, tribal, and DOE personnel who were involved in the founding activities of the NTSF. Once finalized, the plan will be reviewed each year following the annual meeting of the NTSF, with input on needed improvements solicited from meeting planners, working group leads, and members of the NTSF Planning Committee.

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Information and Communications Ad Hoc Working Group

by Tammy Ottmer (tammy.ottmer@state.co.us), WIPP Program Manager, Colorado State Patrol, Co-Chair of the Information and Communications Ad Hoc Working Group

The goal of the Information and Communication Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) is to improve communications within the NTSF and to help DOE effectively and accurately communicate with the public and its stakeholders about DOE's transport of radioactive materials. A number of subgroups have been established in order to undertake a considerable number of projects:

- In December 2015, the premier undertaking resulted in the roll out of the New Member Page on the NTSF wiki site.
 - This news article is appearing in the inaugural edition of the NTSF Newsletter, a project brought to fruition by the AHWG's NTSF Newsletter Editorial Board.
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- A 2012 DOE Office of Packaging and Transportation low-level radioactive waste fact sheet is being updated by the Low-Level Waste Fact Sheet Writing Group.
- The Key Messages Review and Development Subgroup will be conducting an after-release analysis of key messages utilized in DOE's Consent-Based Siting Initiative. The Subgroup will be making recommendations on additional key messages that could be included by DOE to increase public acceptance.

Volunteers are needed with expertise and experience in the following areas: Marketing and Social Media. Please send an email to Tammy Ottmer (tammy.ottmer@state.co.us) and Uldis Vanags (uvanags@csg.org) for further information about participating in these short term projects.

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Section 180(c) Ad Hoc Working Group

by Erica Bickford (erica.bickford@nuclear.energy.gov), Physical Scientist, U.S. Department of Energy-Office of Nuclear Energy

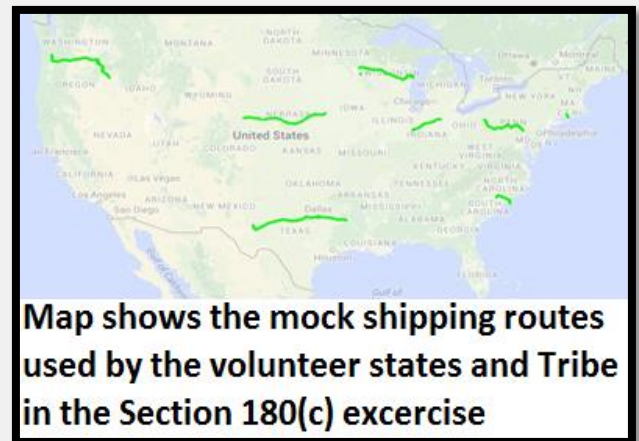
Under Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended (NWPAct), the Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for providing technical assistance and funds for training local public safety officials of states and Tribes through whose jurisdictions the Secretary of Energy plans to transport spent nuclear fuel (SNF) or high-level radioactive waste to an NWPAct-authorized facility. The NTSF Section 180(c) Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) is working to evaluate the need for potential refinements and clarification of the Department's proposed policy for implementing Section 180(c).

In the 2000s, DOE staff worked closely with state and tribal representatives to develop a proposed policy to implement Section 180(c). As described in the proposed policy, grants would cover assessment and planning activities as well as training for public safety officials to meet the increment of need for NWPAct shipments. This proposed policy was published in a 2008 Federal Register notice (73 FR 64933, Oct. 31, 2008).

For the past year and a half, the working group has been conducting a paperwork exercise to evaluate the operability of the 2008 proposed policy, and identify and address outstanding questions about the grant application process and the implementation of the funding program. Eight states and one tribal volunteer participated in the exercise; selecting mock transportation routes in their jurisdictions, conducting mock needs assessments and completing mock grant applications for planning and assessment, and training. A mock merit review panel was assembled with DOE staff and contractors and one tribal and one state representative to provide feedback on the mock grant applications.

Over the summer of 2016, the exercise participants will compile a lessons learned document from the exercise experience that will inform future discussions about the design of the Section 180(c) program, planning for future transport of SNF, and possible changes to the 2008 proposed policy. Next steps for the ad hoc working group include developing a grant application template to streamline and standardize the grant application process, evaluate the proposed funding formula from the 2008 proposed policy using a variety of potential shipping scenarios and schedules, and coordinate with the TEPP AHWG to discuss developing training modules specific to shipments of commercial SNF.

The Section 180(c) AHWG will next meet at the NTSF Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, in June. For more information on the activities of the Section 180(c) ad hoc working group, please visit our page on the NTSF wiki



site (ntsf.wikidot.com) where current and historic documents relating to Section 180(c), including the recent exercise, are posted.

To get involved in the Section 180(c) AHWG contact Erica Bickford (erica.bickford@nuclear.energy.gov).

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Ad Hoc Working Group on Transportation Practices

by Michael Wangler (mike.wangler@doe.em.gov), Transport Safety & Security Specialist, DOE-EM

DOE Manual 460.2-1, which was approved on September 23, 2002, established a set of standard transportation practices for DOE organizations, including National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), to use in planning and executing offsite shipments of radioactive materials including radioactive waste. This document was revised on June 4, 2008 and renumbered as DOE M 460.2-1A.

Subsequent to the last revision of the Manual, the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) was chartered. NTSF is the mechanism through which DOE engages at a national level with tribes, states, federal agencies and other interested stakeholders about the Department's shipments of radioactive waste and materials, as well as occasional high-visibility shipments that are nonradioactive.

NTSF has actively engaged in the review of the current Manual and development of a recommended set of revised practices for consideration by the DOE through the efforts of a Working Group. This Working Group consists of individuals from Federal, State, and Tribal governments whose membership was recommended by the Tribal Caucus and State Regional Groups. Ms. Tammy Ottmer (State of Colorado) has lead of the Working Group with assistance from the DOE Office of Packaging and Transportation, which has provided secretarial/logistical services.

The actions taken by Working Group were a review of DOE M 460.2-1A in order to: identify the requirements and practices in DOE Manual 460.2-1A that are required for the safe, secure, efficient, and compliant packaging and transportation of radioactive and other hazardous materials, substances, and wastes; identify other practice areas that need to be included, as appropriate; and to draft a recommended revised set of practices, which DOE organizations, including NNSA, will use in planning and executing offsite shipments of radioactive materials including radioactive waste. As a result of the review, the Working Group identified more than 200 comments for review on each of the 14 chapters in the Manual. Systematically reviewing each comment, the Working Group has resolved all identified comments. More than three quarters of the comments were accepted for inclusion in the new transportation practices document. Still open are paragraphs in the Chapters on Notification and Emergency Response, which are currently being reviewed and revised by DOE Office of Emergency Response. This document forms the basis for Attachment 2 of the DOE Order 460.2B.

This partnership effort demonstrates the DOE's commitment for communicating and consulting with its external stakeholders to ensure the safe secure and efficient transport of its radioactive materials, substances and wastes.

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Spent Nuclear Fuel Rail/Routing Ad Hoc Working Group

by Erica Bickford (erica.bickford@nuclear.energy.gov), Physical Scientist, U.S. Department of Energy-Office of Nuclear Energy

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation Planning Project (NFST) plans to use rail as the primary mode for future transport of commercial spent nuclear fuel from nuclear power plants to storage

and disposal facilities. The NTSF Rail/Routing Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) was established in spring 2015 to facilitate a dialogue among federal staff from DOE, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Tribes and states, and other transportation stakeholders; to develop a common understanding of how future rail shipments of spent nuclear fuel will operate; and to identify outstanding issues or questions to resolve in advance of commencing shipping campaigns. The goal of the working group is to identify key issues relating to rail transport from the NTSF community, address those issues, document the work and make it available to the wider NTSF community.

In a survey of AHWG members, the topics of route selection and rail inspections were of most interest to state and tribal representatives. The AHWG is currently focused on understanding rail operations and considerations for selecting routes, as well as developing a reciprocal rail inspection protocol for rail, similar to the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) level VI inspection protocol, to be conducted by FRA-trained State Rail Participation Program personnel.

To pursue this work, a need was identified for the working group members to have a better understanding of how railroads operate, select routes, and how State Rail Participation Programs conduct current inspections. A series of three informational webinars on Rail Transport Safety were organized for spring 2016 to cover these topics and included the following speakers; John Johnson (Oregon Department of Transportation), Brian Lehman (Arizona Corporation Commission), Mike Stead (Illinois Commerce Commission), Eugene Bastian (Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission), Bob Montgomery (New York Department of Transportation) and Kevin Blackwell (Federal Railroad Administration). Based on feedback from the first three webinars, a fourth and final webinar was held for May 18th in order to receive information from the railroad industry.



Additional activities conducted by members of the SNF Rail/Routing AHWG included a visit to the dispatch center of the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad in Fort Worth, Texas, in April 2016. The visit was arranged by Mel Massaro (FRA) and included an overview of railroad dispatching operations followed by a Q&A discussion with railroad personnel regarding future shipments of spent nuclear fuel. A summary of the BNSF discussions will be posted on the ad hoc working group wiki site for your review.

The SNF Rail/Routing AHWG will next meet at the NTSF Annual Meeting in June in Orlando, Florida. For more information on the AHWG, visit the NTSF wiki site page. For recordings and registration information on the Rail Transport Safety webinar series, visit the Webinars page of the NTSF wiki site. The SNF Rail/Routing ad hoc working group is co-chaired by Tony Leshinskie (State of Vermont) and Mike Stead (State of Illinois), with Erica Bickford as DOE-lead.

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Three Northeast Nuclear Power Stations to Close

by Uldis Vanags (uvanags@csg.org), Director, Radioactive Waste Transportation Project, Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference

Three operating nuclear power stations in the Northeast have recently announced their closure dates. This adds to the growing list in the Northeast of already shutdown nuclear power stations that include Maine Yankee, Connecticut Yankee, Yankee Rowe, Milestone 1, Indian Point 1, and Vermont Yankee.

Entergy's Pilgrim station located in Plymouth, Massachusetts, announced that it would cease operations on May 31, 2019. In addition, Entergy's Fitzpatrick station located in Scriba, New York, announced last November that it will close on January 27, 2017. In 2010, the State of New Jersey entered into an Administrative Consent Order with Exelon to close the Oyster Creek station no later than December 31, 2019. Oyster Creek is scheduled to cease operations on November 30, 2019 in order to prevent violating its New Jersey state water discharge permit which requires no planned shutdowns during the winter months in order to protect the fish in the discharge path.

All three plants are General Electric Boiling Water Reactors and are mid-size power producers, as compared to larger nuclear power stations (e.g., Seabrook and Palo Verde). Although the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has renewed the operating licenses for all three plants for an additional 20 years of operation, Pilgrim and Fitzpatrick, according to Entergy, are no longer financially viable, as was the case for Vermont Yankee, also owned by Entergy. Oyster Creek's decision to close is based on an agreement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to cease operation rather than build closed cycle cooling towers to prevent warm water discharge into Barnegat Bay.

All the announced shutdown nuclear power stations have indicated they plan to transfer all their spent nuclear fuel to on-site dry cask storage after operations cease. Presently, all three plants scheduled for shutdown already have on-site storage due to the full spent fuel pools. To date, none of the three plants have submitted to the NRC a Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activity Report regarding the specifics concerning the storage of spent fuel and the decommissioning mode to be undertaken following permanent shutdown.

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Southern States Continue Training for WIPP Shipments

by Chris Wells (wells@sseb.org), Assistant Director, Nuclear Programs, Southern States Energy Board (SSEB)

The Southern States Energy Board's (SSEB) Transuranic Waste Transportation Working Group remains diligent in its effort to assist the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) with the remediation of Transuranic (TRU) sites in the southern region. This group of radiological health professionals and emergency response personnel are key components in maintaining a system for the removal of Cold War era bomb-making containments. As a result of the accidents that resulted in a fire and radiation release, no TRU shipments have been sent to the Waste Isolation

Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico, since the beginning of 2014. Instead, the Department has placed its focus on recovery efforts to identify and isolate the waste in question, improve the filtration system and various other safety measures and make sure characterization is conducted in a proper manner so the site can reopen.

In preparation for the recommencement of the WIPP campaign, SSEB's TRU corridor states have taken this hiatus as an opportunity to test their training capabilities in the event of a transportation accident involving TRU waste. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Transportation Emergency Exercise, also known as WIPPTREX, allows states to simulate an accident involving a TRU shipment and test the preparedness of their responders, have become a practical method amongst SSEB's TRU corridor states to maintain preparedness as partners in the WIPP program. The state of Louisiana conducted a WIPPTREX in Ruston, Louisiana, in 2014, and the state of Georgia performed



Members of the Carrollton Fire Department prepare to extricate crash victim from accident scene as a part of the September 2015 WIPPTREX in Carrollton, Georgia

a series of exercises in Carrollton, Georgia, in 2015 to evaluate the preparedness of a multitude of emergency response personnel. The next state in the region to accept this undertaking will be Texas, which is in the planning phases to conduct an exercise in Big Spring in October 2016. SSEB knows the importance of maintaining program continuity and response capabilities along the shipping corridors, and its member states are committed to working with one another and the Department to be fully prepared for the resumption of the national campaign.

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Practicing for Perfection

by Bill Craig (bcraig@utah.gov), WIPP Coordinator for the Utah Division of Radiation Control, Chair of the Western Governors' Association WIPP Technical Advisory Group

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) transportation program has not shipped any waste in over two years. Shipments to the site were suspended in February 2014 because of a waste package breach that contaminated large areas of the underground disposal site. The DOE projects that waste shipments will resume by early 2017.



To ensure the shipments will resume in a safe and uneventful manner, the Western States' Technical Advisory Group (TAG), hosted by the Western Governors' Association (WGA), is developing an exercise plan to practice and evaluate activities related to shipping prior to resuming shipments, and will address routine as well as non-routine events. The plan does not include a simulated accident response because the TAG wishes to focus first on having states practice and train for normal shipments. TAG states also want to test the transportation system so that any weaknesses can be identified and corrected prior to resumption of shipments. Additionally, TAG states have a long history of ensuring safe and uneventful transportation of transuranic waste in transit to the WIPP facility.

Validating that states are ready to resume shipments in this manner is critical to assuring public officials and the public at large that states will be prepared to align with DOE's timeline. The exercise will be conducted in three phases. The first phase will be a conference call during which the states will walk through the WIPP Program Implementation Guide (PIG) section-by-section looking for any issues that may need to be addressed prior to resuming shipments. A list of issues will be compiled and addressed prior to beginning the next phase.

In the second phase, a mock shipment from Idaho National Laboratory (INL) to the WIPP facility will allow Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) inspectors to practice. The mock shipment will also allow states to practice tracking and communicating using the TRANSCOM system and will validate that DOE can make all of the necessary notifications and arrangements. Again, a list of any issues will be compiled and addressed prior to moving to the final phase.

Based on these reviews and the identification of specific gaps, the third phase will consist of actions to address these gaps in addition to providing an opportunity for the individual states to practice internal procedures for safe parking events. This will be done via a virtual shipment that will provide states an opportunity to perform various actions and address the gaps identified during the previous phases. It will also provide each state an opportunity to perform procedures associated with safe parking event(s) in their state. Potential initiating events could be bad weather and/or road conditions, a security threat, or road closure due to a severe crash.

After completing this exercise plan, DOE and states will make necessary changes. When affected states are confident that the DOE and the states have adequately prepared for the resumption of shipments, the state's TAG representative will notify the WGA. The WGA will then forward the notifications to DOE.

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WIEB High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee White Papers

by Jim Williams (jwilliams@westernenergyboard.org), Program Manager, Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB)

After a vigorous half-day “where-have-we-been/where-are-we-headed” discussion at its November 2015 meeting in Spokane WA, the WIEB HLRW Committee decided to review and update its policies regarding SNF/HLW transport of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste (SNF/HLW), taking into account recent initiatives and decisions—e.g. DOE's consent-based siting initiative; the search for a separate defense-only high-level waste repository; the increasing number of shutdown reactor sites; the “mostly rail” SNF/HLW transport decision. The project has been underway in subsequent months. Topics include the role of SNF/HLW transport in an integrated national waste disposition program, transport cask confidence and security, and SNF/HLW transportation management. The Committee will meet in early July to review and consider the topics.

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DOE's Consent-Based Siting Process

by Erica Bickford (erica.bickford@nuclear.energy.gov), Physical Scientist, U.S. Department of Energy-Office of Nuclear Energy

The Department of Energy is currently in the initial phase of designing a consent-based process to site the facilities needed to manage the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. In this first phase, the Department is seeking input from the public on the following key questions:

- How can the Department ensure that the process for selecting a site is fair?
- What models and experience should the Department use in designing the process?
- Who should be involved in the process for selecting a site, and what is their role?
- What information and resources do you think would facilitate your participation?
- What else should be considered?

To launch the consent-based siting effort, the Department issued an [Invitation for Public Comment](#) in the Federal Register soliciting input on important considerations in designing a fair and effective process for siting. The Invitation for Public Comment will remain open through July 31, 2016.

The Department is also hosting a series of eight public meetings across the country to hear from the public and interested stakeholders on what matters to them as the Department moves forward with developing a consent-based process. Each meeting includes a presentation from the Department's Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, John Kotek, who describes the Department's vision for an integrated waste management system and the need for a consent-based approach to siting. Each meeting also features a panel session with several experts providing diverse perspectives on the primary issues that need to be resolved in the design and implementation of a consent-based

process. After a question and answer session with the panelists and the Department, meeting participants engage in facilitated small group discussions. These small group discussions provide the opportunity for frank and open conversations on key topics that will inform the design of a consent-based process in the future.

The next public meeting will be held in Denver, Colorado on May 24, 2016 at the Embassy Suites Denver - Stapleton. Please click [here](#) to read more about the meeting in Denver, view an agenda, or download meeting materials. Please register [here](#) if you would like to attend the Denver meeting in person or online. The remaining four public meetings will be in:

- [Boston, Massachusetts](#) on June 2, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Boston
- [Tempe, AZ](#) on June 23, 2016 at the Marriott Phoenix Tempe at the Buttes
- [Boise, ID](#) on July 14, 2016 at Boise Centre
- [Minneapolis, MN](#) on July 21, 2016 at the Hilton Minneapolis



The first three meetings were previously held in Chicago on March 29th, Atlanta on April 11th, and Sacramento on April 26th. Video of these past events is available at energy.gov/ne/activities-and-events. The meeting pictured within this article was taken from the Atlanta event which included the following speakers; John Kotek (Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy), Sonny Perdue (former Georgia Governor), Michael Elliott, Ph.D. (Associate Director, Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development), Mindy Goldstein (Director of the Turner Environmental Law Clinic at Emory University School of Law), Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, Jr. (Georgia Public Service Commission), and Rick McLeod (Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization).

The Department will release a summary report based on the input received through the Invitation for Public Comment, the eight public meetings, and other smaller meetings with stakeholders. The input received in this first phase and the resulting report will then inform the design of a proposed process for developing a site, which will in turn serve as a framework for collaborating with potential host communities.

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DOE Hosts Consent-Based Siting Public Meeting in Chicago

by Katelyn Tye (ktye@csg.org), Policy Analyst, Council of State Governments Midwestern Office (CSG Midwest)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) held the first of eight meetings to gather public input on the Department's planning activities for an integrated waste management system and a consent-based approach to siting facilities on March 29 in Chicago. The meeting featured a presentation from DOE Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy John Kotek, a panel discussion, audience question and answer, small group facilitated discussions, and a public comment period.

During the panel session, experts shared their perspectives on issues related to consent-based siting. One panelist, City of Zion Mayor Al Hill, told attendees about his community's negative experience hosting the now shutdown Zion Nuclear Power Station. He said when the site was operating Zion received up to \$19 million a year for schools and parks, and was under the impression that when the plant's operating license expired the lakefront site would be turned back into open green space. The mayor expressed that either someone needed to remove the 2.2 million pounds of spent fuel from the site or the town should receive money to continue storing it. He said that, in effect,

the site has become an interim storage facility, which prevents Zion residents from accessing a precious natural resource, Lake Michigan.

Another panelist, David Kraft, director of the anti-nuclear group Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS), said the group was in favor of finding a deep geologic repository for the nation's spent fuel and high-level waste, but did not support interim consolidated storage. Mr. Kraft said NEIS' recommendation is to keep spent fuel where it is (in "hardened on-site storage") until it can be moved to a permanent repository, so that it only needs to be transported once. He also suggested DOE should begin to restore its credibility by compensating communities, like Zion, that are already affected by waste storage.

Following panelist remarks, attendees were able to ask questions. Most of the questions came from members of anti-nuclear groups and were directed toward Acting Assistant Secretary Kotek. They raised a variety of social and environmental concerns, including a concern about hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, happening less than a mile from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Acting Assistant Secretary Kotek said he had not heard about fracking near the WIPP site, but would talk to his colleagues at the Carlsbad Field Office about it.

After the question and answer session, attendees were split into five small groups and asked to brainstorm what elements were most important for DOE to consider during its development of a consent-based siting process. The small group discussions were added to the agenda in response to feedback DOE received during its January consent-based siting kick-off meeting in Washington, D.C.

Representing the Midwest at the March meeting in Chicago were Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee co-chairs Kelly Horn (Illinois) and Teri Engelhart (Wisconsin), along with Lisa Janairo and Katelyn Tye from CSG Midwest.

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The Sacramento Consent-Based Siting Public Meeting

by Jim Williams (jwilliams@westernenergyboard.org), Program Manager, Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB)

The third public meeting in DOE's consent-based siting initiative was held on April 26, at the Holiday Inn in downtown Sacramento. Welcoming remarks were provided by Robert Weisenmiller, Chair to the California Energy Commission. John Kotek (DOE-NE Acting Assistant Secretary) introduced the topic, noting the current focus on defining the siting process, the concern regarding increasing taxpayer liabilities, and the increasing number of shutdown sites. James Ballard (California State University professor of sociology) identified four "Ts": Transportation (and the public perception of risk), Terrorism (and the security difficulty in transport), Tribes (each with cultural and environmental justice concerns), and Trust (regarding which DOE has an issue). Rochelle Becker (Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility) questioned the location of the meeting (distant from prospective storage or disposal sites), and the definition of the term "interim". Gabriel Bohnie (Nez Perce Tribe) listed several tribal perspectives and concerns. Dan Stetson (San Onofre Community Engagement Panel) advocated removal from shutdown sites. The meeting included a one-hour question and answer session. Then the audience was broken into eight "small group" for facilitated discussion, with report-out afterwards.

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Tribal Caucus Updates

by Katie Meehan (katie.meehan@ncsl.org), Research Analyst, National Conference of State Legislatures



The Tribal Caucus consists of members of 15 active tribes that meet semi-annually to plan and discuss topics relevant to the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF). The Tribal Caucus last convened in January 2016 in Palm Springs, California, for its Mid-Year Meeting. A new Tribal Caucus Steering Committee was created, which is primarily responsible for agenda development, meeting planning, and serving as a representative voice for the larger group. Various State Regional Groups (SRGs), local tribal members, Department of Energy (DOE) officials, and contractors also participated in the Mid-Year Meeting.

The next Tribal Caucus meeting will be Monday, June 6, 2016 in conjunction with the upcoming NTSF Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. At this meeting, John Kotek, from the U.S. Department of Energy- Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE), will host a two hour government-to-government discussion on DOE-NE's current consent-based siting efforts. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will host a tribal-focused training for its Advanced Notification Program (10 CFR 71.97). This program authorizes tribes to receive advanced notification of shipments of irradiated reactor fuel and other nuclear waste that cross reservation boundaries.

Moving forward, the Tribal Caucus will focus on jurisdictional questions related to DOE's consent-based siting efforts, increased geographic participation in the Tribal Caucus, examining ways to involve additional tribes affected by DOE shipments, and developing a webinar to provide important background knowledge for federal agencies to use when working and interacting with tribes.

In the photo above pictured from far to near; Steve Maheras, Staff Scientist (U.S. DOE, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), James (Jim) Williams, HLW Program Manager (Western Interstate Energy Board), and Devon Boyer, Fort Hall Business Council (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes).

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Federal Updates, Notices, and Announcements

MERRTT Training

Schedule of Upcoming Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) Training through the Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP).

For additional information on TEPP, check out the web site at <http://energy.gov/em/services/waste-management/packaging-and-transportation/transportation-emergency-preparedness>.

The MERRTT training schedule is available at: <http://www.teppinfo.com/events/classes/>.

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

The NRC is hosting Safeguards Information Training at the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF)'s Annual Conference scheduled for June 7-9, 2016 in Orlando, FL.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is inviting Tribes eligible for the Advance Notification Program and all other interested Tribes to a facilitated session of the Advance Notification Program. The Advance Notification Program enables Tribes to receive advance notification of shipments of irradiated reactor fuel and certain types of nuclear waste that cross their reservation boundaries. These notifications contain safeguards information. Safeguards Information is sensitive information that must be protected and can only be shared with authorized individuals that have a need to know that information and who have met the minimum access requirements. Unauthorized access to Safeguards Information could assist an adversary in developing or carrying out an attack or malicious act. Specific information about the program and training materials may be found [here](#).

If you are interested in participating in the program or if you have any questions, please contact Patricia McGrady-Finneran, Project Manager at (301) 415-2326 or Patricia.McGrady-Finneran@nrc.gov

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Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Washington D.C., (previously published by PHMSA on April 26, 2016) - The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) today released the 2016 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG2016), providing first responders with an updated go-to manual to help respond to hazardous materials transportation accidents during the critical first minutes.

PHMSA will distribute more than 1.5 million free copies of the guidebook to firefighters, emergency medical technicians and law enforcement officers across the nation. Emergency first responders will use the ERG2016 to identify specific risks associated with compromised hazardous materials, and the recommended safety measures and procedures they should take to protect themselves and contain the incident as quickly as possible.

"We take the safety of this nation and its emergency responders very seriously," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. "Our goal is to make sure that these first responders have the most current and accurate safety guidelines possible for use during that initial phase of a hazmat incident."

The ERG contains an indexed list of dangerous goods and the associated 4-digit United Nations identification numbers. The ERG also identifies the general hazards those dangerous goods pose and recommends safety precautions in remediating a hazmat incident. For example, if emergency first responders arrive at the scene of an overturned tractor trailer displaying a USDOT hazardous material placard, they would use the guidebook to identify the material associated with the placard and how best to respond.

"The ERG is an invaluable tool during the initial stages of any hazmat transportation emergency. Taking the proper action during those critical first minutes impacts the safety of both the first responders and the people they serve," said PHMSA Administrator Marie Therese Dominguez.

The 2016 version of the ERG includes general revisions, expanded sections and added guide pages for absorbed gases. Updated every four years as a collaborative effort of the USDOT, Transport Canada and Mexico's Secretariat of Transport and Communications, the ERG2016 is available free to public safety agencies in all states, territories and Native American Tribes through designated state emergency management coordinators' offices.

PHMSA has also partnered with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to provide a free Smartphone version of the ERG2016. NLM also develops and distributes the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders. The mobile application will be available this spring.

A copy of the new ERG2016 is posted online at: <http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/outreach-training/erg>. Print copies of ERG2016 are available for sale to the general public through the U.S. Government Printing Office Bookstore at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov> and other commercial suppliers.

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Industry Updates, Notices, and Announcements

Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS)

WCS Files License Application with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to Operate a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for Used Nuclear Fuel

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 28, 2016) - Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) submitted an application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a license to construct and operate a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for used nuclear fuel. The filing comes after a year of pre-application meetings with NRC and maintains the timeline WCS outlined in February 2015.

For more information contact Chuck McDonald at 512-658-5958 or please visit Waste Control Specialists at www.WCSstorage.com.

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For more information on the NTSF visit us on the web: [NTSF Public Site](#)
