

**The Council of State Governments  
Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee**

**Proceedings of the Fall Meeting  
November 17-18, 2015 • Des Moines, Iowa**

**Committee Business Session**

Welcome and Introductions

Senior Co-Chair Laura Dresen (Indiana) welcomed members and thanked them for attending. She acknowledged Kansas Senator Mike Petersen and Illinois Representative Pat Verschoore, who are attending their first meeting after being appointed as legislative members to the committee. She thanked them for taking time out of their schedules to attend the meeting and support not only the committee, but the process and the program. She discussed the value of their participation on the committee and the importance of building relationships with those involved in the legislative process.

Ms. Dresen also welcomed two new committee members, Dale Patrick from the North Dakota Department of Health and David Whitfill from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management.

Ms. Dresen acknowledged her co-chair Kelly Horn (Illinois) who is the official alternate for Joe Klinger with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Governor Rauner reappointed Mr. Klinger in May after the committee's spring meeting.

Ms. Dresen welcomed two Tribal attendees, Dan King from the Oneida Nation (Wisconsin) and Heather Westra representing the Prairie Island Indian Community (Minnesota). She thanked them for attending the committee's meeting, and noted the importance of having them there. She also welcomed representatives from different offices within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), including Ellen Edge from DOE's Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM), James Mason from DOE's Carlsbad Field Office (DOE-CBFO), and Erica Bickford from DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE).

Ms. Dresen then briefly reviewed the agenda and recapped the newcomer's orientation that was held earlier that morning. She noted that the committee would be hearing a special presentation from Brian Rude with Dairyland Power Cooperative, which owns the LaCrosse Boiling Water reactor – one of the shutdown sites that is "first in line" to ship spent fuel to a storage or disposal facility, when one is available. She added that the committee hoped to strengthen ties to industry in the region and was very appreciative of Mr. Rude taking the time to share his information with the group.

Ms. Dresen reminded everyone that members of the committee and the Rail/ Routing ad hoc working group (AHWG) would both meet the next morning for transportation demonstrations at the Iowa Department of Transportation facility in Grimes. She thanked Lance Evans (Iowa) for his help in making the arrangements to use the facility.

Ms. Dresen made committee members aware that they would likely be seeing more of her colleague, Kaci Studer (Indiana), at future meetings.

Report from the Co-Chairs

Ms. Dresen began by reflecting on her time as co-chair of the committee, which she said wouldn't have been possible without the direction of Lisa Janairo (CSG Midwest). Ms. Dresen said the experience has been wonderful and is grateful for the relationships she's made. She also thanked Mr. Horn and Major Evans for their leadership at the Albuquerque meeting when she ran into last-minute travel delays.

### Project Update

Ms. Janairo gave highlights from the Project Update, which was given to members in a handout. She went over the status of the three cooperative agreements with DOE. There was no new funding from DOE-CBFO, but there is carryover to sustain the committee because of the lack of shipments. She said they would talk next year about the renewal of that agreement. The DOE-EM cooperative agreement is going well and will be renewed in the next calendar year. Regional groups and DOE-NE are currently in the process of renewing that agreement, which is aligned on the federal fiscal year. She added that the committee would be discussing which projects and programs the committee wants to pursue under the renewal of that agreement.

Ms. Janairo went through the new appointees to the committee. Legislative appointees are still needed for Wisconsin and Missouri and she anticipates having someone from Nebraska by June. She added that Carla Schreiber from Nebraska would be retiring at the end of the year and asked for anyone else with retirement plans to please share. Ms. Dresen clarified that she will not be retiring, but Ms. Studer would still be taking on a bigger role in the committee.

### Report on DOE-NE Core Group Meeting

Ms. Dresen reminded committee members that the DOE-NE hosted a meeting of the Transportation Core Group in August in Boston, which she, Mr. Horn, Ms. Janairo, and Katelyn Tye (CSG Midwest) attended on behalf of the region. She covered a few highlights of the meeting including a discussion about DOE's lengthy review process that is preventing documents from being released to the regions and the Tribes for review and comment. She provided the example of the June 2014 Near-Term Implementation Plan, which the committee has yet to see.

Ms. Dresen added that because of the states' strong concerns, the regions followed up on the meeting by writing a joint letter to John Kotek, DOE's Acting Secretary for Nuclear Energy. Ms. Dresen noted that the states have a good working relationship with members of the DOE Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation (DOE-NFST) team, who were aware the letter would be sent. She said the regions were still waiting on a response and hoped to hear an update from Ms. Bickford later that afternoon.

Ms. Dresen added that the biggest news learned at the meeting was that DOE is likely to launch a new consent-based site selection process sometime before the end of June. She said attendees were told the committees would have the opportunity to send representatives to public meetings, particularly those in the Midwest, to stay apprised of any developments on site identification.

Mr. Horn added that from his perspective the meeting was very productive and he hoped DOE-NE would keep inviting regional representatives to be part of the Core Group. Ms. Bickford concurred.

Ms. Dresen closed by saying a complete summary of the Boston meeting is now available on the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) wiki site and the next Core Group meeting will take place in Washington, DC, in early March – either March 1-3 or 15-17. Mr. Horn indicated he hopes to attend the meeting, but it will depend on if it interferes with the Waste Management conference. Ms. Dresen added that the new committee co-chair will have the opportunity to attend the Core Group meeting if he or she is available to do so.

### Report on the Environment and the Economy Congressional Subcommittee Hearing

Mr. Horn told the committee that he was one of five individuals asked to testify at a hearing of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy. He mentioned other individuals who testified were Christopher Kouts (former director of the DOE Office of Civilian

Radioactive Waste Management), Robert Quinn (EnergySolutions), and Edward Hamberger (Association of American Railroads).

Mr. Horn explained that his purpose at the hearing was to convey what a state like Illinois would need as plans to transport spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level waste (HLW) moved forward. He said he repeated the mantra that the states and the regional groups want to have a voice in the planning and analysis of rail and routing activities. He felt the Rail/Routing AHWG was a good step in that direction. He added that his testimony included that the state regional groups feel the Section 180(c) grant process should mirror the kind of assistance that is available for transuranic (TRU) waste shipments under the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Land Withdrawal Act.

He said he was honored to represent the states and that subcommittee chairman Illinois Congressman John Shimkus was pleased with the entire hearing. Mr. Horn is working on answering a few follow-up questions, including one from Texas Congressman Bill Flores.

### NTSF Reports

#### *Planning Committee*

Ms. Dresen said that she and Teri Engelhart (Wisconsin) represent the Midwest on the NTSF Planning Committee. The NTSF 2016 Annual Meeting will take place in Orlando, Florida, on June 7-9. Ms. Dresen said it looks like the regional groups will hold their meetings on June 8 unlike previous years when the regional meetings were held on the first day. She solicited input from committee members on topics or speakers for the meeting agenda, which is still being planned.

#### *Information and Communications Ad Hoc Working Group*

Ms. Tye said the group has a couple of projects it's working on right now, one of which is a New Member page on the NTSF wiki site. She reminded those who aren't members of the site to let her or Ms. Janairo know if they need help joining. The second project, which is in development stages, is an NTSF Newsletter that will hopefully go out in early 2016. This will require help from multiple groups, including DOE offices, the regions, and NTSF AHWGs. She said people could hear more about these projects on the December 7 webinar on NTSF Internal Communications.

#### *Rail/Routing Ad Hoc Working Group*

Mr. Horn said the group would meet at 6:00 pm that night and gave an overview of the agenda. He mentioned that they would be reviewing historical documents so they can build upon the work done by previous working groups on rail and routing issues.

#### *Section 180c Implementation Ad Hoc Working Group*

Ms. Engelhart said Section 180(c) exercise participants were "applying" for a grant to support the planning, assessment, training, and operations pertaining to the shipment of spent fuel to a repository somewhere in the near future. Originally, it was supposed to be submitted as one large application, but to make it more manageable it was broken into smaller categories. She said states have submitted their planning and assessment applications, which were reviewed by a Mock Merit Review Panel. States have also submitted applications for their first year of training. She said there have apparently been differences in the level of detail provided by states in the training applications, which are currently being reviewed by the panel. Remaining steps in the exercise are another year of training and a year of operations, although that is not currently included in the actual Section 180(c) program. The states feel strongly that operations need to be included, so they are doing so in the mock applications. She said the

remaining sections have to be submitted by March, and August 2016 is the deadline for an after-action report that will include policy suggestions.

She said reviews of the Section 180(c) exercise were compiled into a lessons-learned document, which was provided to meeting attendees. Some of the positive lessons-learned were that the process clarified what allowable activities were and increased the states' awareness of what the DOE grant process would be like. One of the more criticized elements was that the funding formula itself was not tested, which some of the states really wanted to see. She said most exercise participants found the process to be very useful.

Ms. Janairo asked Kevin Leuer (Minnesota) to give an update on the Mock Merit Review Panel, which he is a member of. Mr. Leuer said it had been an interesting process and was amazed at the level of detail DOE wanted in the mock applications, such as vehicle mileage and other specific details. In his opinion, DOE was asking for too much information and imposing too many requirements. He saw the need for defined roles – DOE can decide on the funding, but the states should get to decide how to implement the program. He noticed a missing aspect was the shared understanding of the concept of shipment operations. He observed that, while DOE was asking for a lot of unnecessary information in the applications, the department wasn't providing applicants with crucial information about what a shipment would look like. As a result, the states had to make assumptions about that, which means the applicants are planning for different scenarios. He said reviewers were missing information too, for example, whether a state is under home-rule or not.

Ms. Janairo asked Mr. Leuer if his suggestions had been incorporated into the process, and he said that he thinks they're starting to be received. He added that the review is not in the mindset of what Section 180(c) needs to look like, but is instead based on what the grant process looks like now. He said he has been pushing back on that.

Ms. Janairo circled back on Mr. Leuer's comment about concept of shipment operations, which was also a top vote-getter for a webinar topic in the Turning Point survey administered at the NTSF meeting in Albuquerque. She said the webinar is currently slated for some time in February and suggested it be assigned to the 180(c) AHWG.

Ms. Dresen, one of the Section 180(c) exercise participants, added she lacked information to determine which routes states should use in the exercise. Mr. Leuer agreed.

#### *Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Training Ad Hoc Working Group*

Mr. Schwarz said he talked to Tom Clawson (DOE-TEPP) who was meeting with a group to do final edits on three completed TEPP training videos for hospitals, EMTs, and first responders. He hasn't heard back on how editing went yet.

He also mentioned that Bernice Zaidel from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) agreed to make edits to the agency's Modular Emergency Response Radiological Transportation Training (MERRTT) course. They are looking at getting staff to develop a one- to two-week long MERRTT course in Anniston, Alabama, which would be customizable for states. He said FEMA is also working to develop universal web-based training.

Ms. Edge said the three new TEPP training videos will be available on YouTube when they're complete. She announced that they will be restarting the TEPP Training AHWG within the next few months to help update MERRTT training. She said DOE-EM will work with states and Tribes to develop the most beneficial MERRTT program for each.

Mr. Mason added that they have been getting a lot more out of WIPP Transportation Emergency Exercise (WIPPTREX) and are focused on testing radiological response versus mass casualty response. He said they had a three-day exercise in Georgia that was 100 percent “rad-centric” and allowed all shifts of first responders/law enforcement to participate. They will be testing another WIPPTREX using this model in New Mexico.

Major Evans volunteered the state of Iowa to take part in WIPPTREX and offered to host or co-host an exercise with Illinois. Mr. Mason said the New Mexico exercise would occur in fall 2016 and peer groups from throughout the country would be invited to participate in the planning process. He added that he would like to see more border exercises and hoped the New Mexico exercise would be along the Colorado state line. He also mentioned that when transportation of TRU waste to WIPP begins again, he would like to hold an exercise on each shipping corridor. They are looking at funding for multiple WIPPTREXes to get everyone up to speed before shipments begin. He welcomed participation from the states especially in a peer-review of the exercise.

Mr. Horn seconded Major Evans’ offer to host or co-host a WIPPTREX and asked if there was written guidance for planning the exercise. Mr. Mason said he wants to see a cradle-to-grave test, incorporating as many different entities that would be involved in an emergency response scenario.

#### *Transportation Planning Ad Hoc Working Group*

Ms. Engelhart said the group had a short meeting in Albuquerque that was about general activities the group should be undertaking. Mike Reim (DOE-NE), the AHWG lead, was getting up-to-speed at that point. She said she had been very busy over the summer and may have missed a conference call, but wasn’t sure. Mr. Reim recently sent out three issue papers (dedicated train, overweight truck, and CVSA Level VI) for review and she thinks they might be turning in comments on the papers in January, but hasn’t received communication on that yet.

She added that the group might develop an issue paper on the adoption of the American Association of Railroads (AAR) S-2043 and there was a lot going on behind the scenes in relation to the draft framework for transportation planning. She commented, however, that she’s not completely clear on who would benefit from the Framework. She anticipated the AHWG will review more documents in the future.

Ms. Janairo added that she agreed with Ms. Engelhart that it needs to be clear who the Framework audience is. She thought the turnover in leadership of the AHWG, particularly Ken Niles (Oregon) who had to step down as state co-lead, may have contributed to the lack of clarity. Ms. Janairo circled back to the states’ letter to Acting Secretary Kotek and wondered how the issue papers would be used to produce an actual plan for making shipments. She said until the states understand the purpose of the papers it may seem like busywork to people. She suggested the group could benefit from a longer face-to-face meeting to discuss this and other uncertainties about the AHWG work plan.

#### Regional Roundtable

Ms. Dresen asked committee members to report briefly on any nuclear or nuclear-waste related activities in their states, including shipments, training and exercises, and legislation.

#### *Illinois*

Rep. Verschoore said he was not aware of any nuclear waste-related legislation in Illinois, but was going to talk to Mr. Horn about whether there was anything that needed to be addressed. He offered to introduce legislation on behalf of the committee if needed.

Mr. Horn said it has been business as usual for shipments in Illinois. There have been a couple SNF shipments and the standard amount of highway route controlled quantity (HRCQ) shipments, but defense-waste shipments from Argonne National Laboratory are still on hold until WIPP resumes operations.

#### *Indiana*

Ms. Studer said Indiana continues to participate in the Section 180(c) exercise and had learned a lot through the process. She added that over the past year, Indiana State Police's commercial vehicle enforcement division was able to hire more inspectors for a total of six. They had about 88 HRCQ shipments come through the state. She said the past two years they've done a legislative report on Indiana's radioactive transportation program, which she would share with the committee.

#### *Iowa*

Major Evans said not much had been going on in Iowa. The past summer, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Level VI certified inspectors attended training in Nebraska, which they got a lot out of. He said with a total of six CVSA inspectors they are now up to staff, though he would like more.

#### *Kansas*

Mr. Whitfill said things have been pretty quiet and didn't know of any legislative actions involving radioactive material. He said he's received very few HRCQ shipment notifications and the most common transportation-related incident continues to be accidents with portable density gauges involved with highway construction projects. Sen. Petersen added that he doesn't know of any legislation due to come up next year, but that is subject to change.

#### *Michigan*

Ken Yale (Michigan) said not much had been going on, but noted Sgt. Kevin Hogan would replace Lt. John Holder as Michigan's motor carrier safety point of contact. Sgt. Hogan started the week before and will be attending the NTSF meeting in June. Mr. Yale added that Michigan held CVSA Level VI training over the summer to train a couple new inspectors and provide refresher training for existing inspectors. He said they averaged about 10-15 SNF shipments a month over the summer, which were mostly medical isotopes from Nordion coming in through Port Huron.

#### *Minnesota*

Mr. Leuer said Minnesota hadn't seen much change in shipments and was still getting Nordion and Cobalt-60 shipments totaling about a half dozen a year. He said they're still having issues with proper routing and avoidance of fee states, which raises the question about whether they should be doing something different with their current policy. They currently don't escort or permit HRCQ shipments and will have discussions with policymakers about that in the coming year. He added that they're monitoring Bakken oil shipments and thinks this will be the model they follow when they implement a radioactive waste shipping campaign. He mentioned aspects such as outreach, technical training, and advanced planning courses for first responders. He said they've already put a lot of effort into hospital and EMS training (i.e., transportation of contaminated victims) and equipment standardization across the state (use of QR codes and a smartphone application).

#### *Missouri*

Tiffany Drake (Missouri) said last fiscal year the state saw a large increase in low-level waste (LLW) shipments. They also saw a slight increase in HRCQ shipments and she said she knew some of the LLW shipments were moving by train and trucks from clean-up sites within the state. She said they have plans to

revisit trainings they held a couple years ago at the request of fire departments that have either had a lot of turnover or are looking for a refresher course.

Ms. Drake added they are working to finalize their memorandum of understanding (MOU) with all the state government organizations that work on radioactive materials transportation, as part of a legislative reporting requirement that will be submitted at the end of the year. Ms. Janairo requested a copy of the legislative report when it is completed.

Ms. Drake said for the past six months to a year, Callaway Nuclear Generating Station has built on-site dry cask storage and has been moving SNF. She said because Missouri is a non-agreement state, Callaway does not share any information with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Greg Gothard (Michigan) offered to talk to Ms. Drake about that afterward. He said Michigan is also a non-agreement state, but still gets a lot of information from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

#### *Nebraska*

Jon Schwarz (Nebraska) said Lt. Carla Schreiber retires at the end of December and Lt. Jim DeFreece will take over her role as emergency preparedness coordinator with the Nebraska State Patrol. In regards to shipments, Mr. Schwarz said the state will probably be getting Cobalt-60 shipments through Minnesota for facilities that need refueling.

#### *North Dakota*

Mr. Patrick said the state doesn't have high-level waste (HLW) shipments, but they do get courtesy notifications. They have had Bakken oil and Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (TENORM) shipments. He said as a result of illegal dumping of TENORM waste, the state is now licensing all haulers of TENORM. Large amounts of TENORM waste are leaving the state (for Idaho, Wyoming, and Colorado) because of in-state disposal limits. He added that the state is producing a lot of oil and natural gas that is heading east, west, and south.

#### *Ohio*

Mike Snee (Ohio) said the big issue in the state is the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, which is undergoing decommissioning using on-site disposal and has run into some funding problems. They recently laid-off hundreds of employees and the issue is currently being dealt with by the Ohio Legislature.

#### *Wisconsin*

Ms. Engelhart said Wisconsin has been a hotbed of activity. There was a decrease of HRCQ shipments (six total), but they did implement an escort program that is going well. She said planning for the crude-by-rail shipments and the work on the Section 180(c) exercise were very much in sync. Her agency also has a new geographic information system (GIS) that can be used for future radioactive material shipments.

Ms. Engelhart said that Shine Medical Technologies, which wants to become the first domestic producer of medical radioisotopes, has applied to build a facility in Janesville, Wisconsin. Paul Schmidt (Wisconsin) added that a second company, NorthStar Medical Radioisotopes based in Beloit, is also in the running to do the same. Both hope to become operational by 2018 and would be the first of their kind in the world. He said the facilities would both produce a fairly large amount of waste and the state has had to determine how waste will be transported from there. The Shine facility will be classified as a production facility, which falls under the jurisdiction of the NRC, and the NorthStar facility will be fully-regulated by the state. Mr. Schmidt added that the state has also been looking at training of first responders near the two facilities.

Ms. Engelhart said Wisconsin has two decommissioning plants (Kewaunee and LaCrosse) and the state continues to work with both of them. Kewaunee still has a notification process and is doing drills with the state. She said there has been more involvement with LaCrosse (tours, site visits, and drills), which has been good. The state is working to develop a standard notification process that can be used for both plants. She added that the state has met with LaCrosse operator Dairyland Power Cooperative and will be involved in community meetings the company is organizing. She also mentioned that she and Ms. Bickford have been trying to find old shutdown site reports, but they haven't gotten very far.

Mr. Schmidt mentioned that when the decommissioning of LaCrosse first began, first responders in the area requested training. When the state revisited those responders three years later, they found that all who had undergone training had left. He said they anticipate additional requests for radiological response training when the decommissioning accelerates.

Ms. Engelhart said there are two legislative initiatives in Wisconsin regarding radioactive waste. One is an amendment that would allow the state to permit and escort radiological shipments. She said the money collected under the permit would be strictly a permit fee (not Department of Transportation revenue) and state patrol would be able to invoice the carrier for out-of-pocket costs related to the escort.

Mr. Schmidt mentioned an introduced bill (SB 288) that would remove Wisconsin's de facto moratorium on construction of new nuclear power plants. He said the bill is currently in committee and has a fair amount of support in both chambers of the legislature. It would also add new generation nuclear power to the state's energy policy, which hadn't been included in similar legislation in the past.

#### **Election of Co-Chair for 2016-2017**

Mr. Horn started by thanking Ms. Dresen for her wonderful job as leader of the committee for the past year. Mr. Horn then opened the floor for elections of the new junior co-chair. Mr. Leuer nominated Ms. Engelhart and Mr. Schwarz seconded. Ms. Engelhart accepted the nomination and was elected by the full committee to be the new co-chair. She will serve as junior co-chair with Mr. Horn in 2016 and in 2017 she'll become the senior co-chair.

#### **Discussion: Prioritization of Spent Fuel Transportation Issues**

Ms. Dresen said that, when the Yucca Mountain program was still active, the committee maintained a list of "key issues" that helped guide its work, direct its resources, and keep it focused on issues members felt were really important for Midwestern states. The committee stopped maintaining that list when the Yucca Mountain program was cancelled, but because the committee's workload related to the Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation (NFST) Planning Project is increasing, there is a need to revisit the committee's "key issues" to maintain focus. She expressed her hope that the committee would be able to refine the list during the meeting, but if not, by the end of the year. She said the other regions are working on the same exercise, and when they are done staff will identify issues that all four have in common and share that smaller list with DOE-NFST colleagues.

Ms. Janairo briefly went through the list of "key issues," such as consultation and cooperation, consent-based siting, and mode selection. Rep. Verschoore asked if there were any places other than Texas and New Mexico that were interested in becoming a spent fuel disposal site. Ms. Janairo responded that only Waste Control Specialists and Holtec have announced publicly that they will pursue a license, but discussions between DOE, industry, and other interested entities could be happening. Rep. Verschoore asked if Yucca Mountain was dead. Ms. Janairo said it currently was, but Congressman Shimkus was interested in reviving it.



Ms. Dresen asked if members had any comments on the “key issues” that were just reviewed. Mr. Horn asked if there was interest in doing a post-meeting survey to identify the key issues, and members indicated they would like to do that. Ms. Janairo said she would send out a SurveyMonkey survey so members are able to rank and prioritize the issues. Mr. Leuer expressed that he was not a big fan of getting the committee involved in consent-based siting because it veers the focus away from transportation and could change the makeup of the committee. Mr. Horn said he agrees that the focus should be kept on transportation, but thinks the reason consent-based siting was on the “key issues” list is because siting will lead to transportation.

#### **Discussion: Planning for FY16 and Beyond: Results of the Committee Member Survey**

Ms. Tye briefly recapped the purpose and results of the committee member survey. The survey determined members want to pursue some of the committee’s traditional activities (meet regularly in-person, publish the *Planning Guide for Radioactive Material Transportation through the Midwestern States*, and publish the committee’s e-newsletter), and add new priorities (hold occasional webinars, send participants to transportation-related training, and organize a tour of WIPP).

Ms. Janairo thanked those who participated in the survey and led a discussion of possible project activities to undertake in the remaining FY and include in the FY17-20 work plan under a renewed DOE-NE cooperative agreement. She said the agreement does have funding to support the priority activities such as travel to transportation-related training/exercises/conferences and tours of facilities, such as WIPP. Committee staff is also able to organize Midwest-specific webinars or webinars specifically for members of Midwestern legislatures.

Mr. Horn expressed his disappointment in the lack of participation in the survey (only eight members responded). He acknowledged that everyone is busy, but said the information received is valuable. He encouraged all members to watch for future appeals from the staff and to make it a priority to respond.

#### **Discussion: Committee Publications**

Ms. Tye gave a brief report on the committee’s publications beginning with the *Planning Guide*. She asked states to look over the contact information listed and send any changes back by December 4. She also previewed an electronic version of the *Planning Guide* that will eventually supplement the hard copy of the publication. Major Evans asked when the electronic version would be ready and Ms. Janairo said it could be ready by the end of the year if everyone submits their changes in time.

Ms. Tye also asked members to review the committee’s transportation project brochure and decide if the information needs to be updated. Ms. Janairo suggested that the committee wait until after hearing updates from the DOE partners to decide updates need to be made. Members agreed it would be best to come back to the brochure at the end of the day, or include it in the post-meeting SurveyMonkey survey.

#### **Discussion: Committee Work Group Assignments**

The committee decided to address this later in the day because of time constraints. It was ultimately included in the post-meeting SurveyMonkey survey.

#### **U.S. Department of Energy Program Updates**

##### DOE Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM)

Ms. Edge gave a presentation entitled “Transportation in Environmental Cleanup.” She discussed operations and activities under DOE-EM, including the clean-up of 107 historical sites, of which there are

16 remaining. She said DOE-EM has seen budget expenditures decrease as more sites are cleaned up and that waste management makes up half of the budget.

Ms. Edge gave waste disposition updates on the sites transporting through the Midwest (Oak Ridge, Portsmouth/Paducah, Savannah River, and West Valley). In Oak Ridge, contact-handled transuranic (CH-TRU) waste activities continue as they have in previous years. She said they are exploring options to mitigate the inability to transport the waste off-site and are also focusing on mercury and uranium cleanup at two facilities. She said cleanup activities are ongoing at the Portsmouth/Paducah sites and, as of July 31, roughly half of the sites' depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF6) had been treated. At Savannah River DOE-EM has reduced the stored legacy CH-TRU from over 12,000 to 600 cubic meters. They've also halted production of HLW canisters at the defense-waste processing center. At West Valley, planning is underway to ship waste incidental to reprocessing (WIR) to a disposal site. She said the HLW storage pad is complete, vertical storage casks have been completely assembled, and the site is now waiting for delivery of multi-purpose canister overpacks. Deactivation of the main plant, including asbestos remediation, continues. She said the current DOE-estimated cost for treating and disposing of the approximately 88 million gallons of radioactive liquid tank waste exceeds \$50 billion.

Ms. Edge briefly described continuing EM activities related to nuclear materials and SNF (at the Oak Ridge, Richland, Paducah/Portsmouth, and Savannah River sites), and gave updates on LLW and mixed low-level waste (MLLW). She then discussed activities being undertaken specifically by DOE-EM's Office of Packaging and Transportation (OPT). There were over 16,000 EM shipments in FY15 and over 15,000 were LLW. She showed a route map for the shipments, in which the Midwest was highly impacted.

After briefly discussing the purpose and activities of the NTSF, Ms. Edge opened the floor for questions. Ms. Janairo asked if an updated route map was available to reflect the current prospective shipment report (PSR), which has rail shipments. Ms. Edge said that was one of DOE-EM's goals and she would make sure Eric Huang (DOE-EM) knows to update the rail routes, as well. Ms. Janairo also asked about updating a map of previously-used routes that could be a resource for states who are trying to determine their training activities, and suggested the Information and Communications AHWG could do this if they were provided the necessary information.

Ms. Janairo asked what the status of train shipments for Portsmouth and Paducah were and Ms. Edge said she would have to find out and get back to her. She also asked for the status of the poured canisters at the Savannah River Site and Ms. Edge said she believed they were aiming for 2017 to complete the work, but would check on that. Ms. Janairo said she thought it would be nice to get people to Savannah River for another tour of the Defense Waste Processing Facility.

#### DOE Office of Nuclear Energy Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation Planning Project (DOE-NFST)

Ms. Bickford gave updates from DOE-NFST and discussed FY16 planning for the program. She said efforts are underway to determine what a consent-based siting process will look like, and they hope to make an announcement sometime this fiscal year.

She discussed the new ATLAS railcar that DOE is developing to comply with AAR S-2043. She shared a timeline that estimates a prototype should be ready by 2018-19 and DOE will look at setting up roadshows with dummy casks when that is complete.

Ms. Bickford also shared a list of NFST reports that had been released over the past year that are available on the Centralized Used Fuel Resource for Information Exchange (CURIE) website. Ms. Engelhart asked if the reports listed in the presentation were under review. Ms. Bickford said those have been

released and she has been sending them in batches to the state regional group (SRG) staff. She added that if there is interest in those being sent out to the whole committee she would be happy to do so. Ms. Janairo said some of the reports have been mentioned in the Midwest's newsletter and others have been forwarded to the committee via email. Ms. Janairo discussed the possibility of adding the reports to the wiki site and said she or Ms. Tye would also email members a link to the CURIE site.

Ms. Janairo asked about the status of the DOE cooperative agreements with the states. Ms. Bickford said they are up for renewal and the current agreements will conclude in June 2016. DOE is looking to renew them in a 5-year period (rather than four) and are looking at structuring them as a continuation award rather than a cooperative agreement. Ms. Bickford said under a continuation award, the regions would start with a broad framework and set annual milestones that can be realigned as the program evolves. She said the awards would work best if they were aligned with the federal fiscal year, and could be presented at the Core Group meeting in March before undergoing a 30-day review period. Ms. Janairo said she would speak with her offline about that, but CSG Midwest could accommodate any fiscal year.

Ms. Westra asked about the used fuel database and if they were looking at shutdown sites or the whole universe of spent fuel. Matt Feldman (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) said the focus of the database was shutdown sites.

Ms. Westra also asked if there was an update on the project that was supposed to send high-burnup fuel to Idaho. Ms. Bickford said as far as she knows it is no longer going to Idaho and they were looking at other possible facilities that could handle the fuel. Mr. Feldman confirmed this.

Ms. Dresen asked about the status of consent-based siting and public meetings related to that effort. Ms. Bickford said DOE-NFST has been looking at positive examples in other countries (i.e., Canada or Sweden) and other DOE programs, and taking recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) and National Academies to determine what would work best for the U.S. program. Ms. Dresen asked if public meetings would still be a portion of the consent-based siting process, and Ms. Bickford responded she expects they would be.

Jim Williams (Western Interstate Energy Board) said he had a request from Western members for a summary of the AAR S-2043 rail car and asked if that exists. Ms. Bickford said she anticipated that question and took it as an action item from the WIEB meeting. Mr. Feldman said he's working on a brief summary, which will be made available to everyone once it's finished.

#### DOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)

Mr. Mason gave updates on the WIPP National TRU Program. He discussed training (i.e., MERRTT, WIPPTREX and CVSA Level VI Inspection Certification) and other program support provided by the office.

Mr. Mason also spoke about the status of resuming operations at WIPP. He said WIPP will open and start handling waste again in 2016, starting with backlog and housekeeping waste, unless there are emergency shipments. He said he anticipates genuine resumption of corridor shipments in 2017, starting with sites that have fully implemented new characterization processes (some of the larger sites have yet to do so). He was adamant that WIPP shipments will never reach the levels they were before the release out of an abundance of caution regarding site safety.

Ms. Dresen asked that they forego questions until Mr. Mason's presentation the next day, but expressed the committee's interest in doing another tour of WIPP.

## **Presentation: Nuclear Energy in the Midwest and Issues Related to Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel**

Mr. Rude gave a presentation entitled “The Nuclear Industry and the Future of Spent Fuel.” He gave a brief overview on the status of the nuclear industry, spent fuel challenges, and operations at Dairyland’s LaCrosse Boiling Water Reactor. He specifically discussed Yucca Mountain, the BRC report, and expressed his apprehension with consent-based siting and what the term means. He wondered if consent would be a one-time thing, which level of government would give the consent, and what would happen if there was a change in the administration that consented.

Mr. Rude said Dairyland believes there is a need for consolidated interim storage and Yucca Mountain, and supports all efforts to move forward on either. Dairyland has an agreement to transfer the LaCrosse license to EnergySolutions. Once EnergySolutions has decommissioned the plant, the license will be returned to Dairyland with only an interim spent fuel storage installation (ISFSI) remaining.

Chris Wells (Southern States Energy Board) asked if Dairyland has a strategy on how they think consent-based siting should look. Mr. Rude said he was a little negative about consent-based siting because of an experience Dairyland had as part of its leadership of the Private Fuel Storage (PFS) initiative. PFS had gained approval for operations at a local level only to be stopped by state-level government—similar to what is happening in Nye County, Nevada. He acknowledged consent-based siting has benefits, but said there needs to be a way for it to become law once consent is given.

Mr. Horn asked if there was any movement on the side of industry to reprocess fuel. Mr. Rude said they were aware fuel is being reprocessed in France, and the French actually asked if Dairyland wanted to ship LaCrosse SNF to them. He added that industry sees the opportunity for reprocessing, and he thinks it’s technically possible, but there is an economic issue and is not sure if that’s where industry will put its focus.

## **Information on Other Federal Programs**

### Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP): Overview of Shipments and Exercises

Barry Miles (NNPP) gave an overview of the program, NNPP shipments, shipping container accident exercises, and the M-290 spent fuel shipping container. He said there is one Naval SNF shipping route through the Midwest to fuel or refuel ships at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. The shipments are transported by rail to a facility in Idaho for examination, and are stored temporarily pending disposal in a geologic repository or interim storage site. The route is similar to new fuel routes and goes through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. Mr. Miles discussed the NNPP’s shipping container accident exercise that was held in Indiana, and the pineapple truck crash that occurred shortly after. He thanked Ms. Dresen for her help in mediating that incident.

### Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Update

Mel Massaro (FRA) gave an overview of the U.S. DOT and FRA and described their involvement in the shipment of radioactive materials. Ms. Tye will share this information and a copy of a SNF HLW inspection flow chart with committee members.

## **Committee Business Session Continues**

### Intergovernmental Groups

Ms. Dresen asked for representatives from the various intergovernmental groups to give a brief update.

#### *NTSF Tribal Caucus*

Ms. Westra said she has been attending SRG meetings for the last year or so and it has been beneficial to get to know her state counterparts and provide updates from the Tribal Caucus. The Tribal Caucus met in San Diego and will meet again in January in Palm Springs, California. Ms. Westra said she attends Core Group meetings and the Prairie Island Indian Community is part of the Section 180(c) exercise. She asked committee members to let her know if they are aware of any tribal representatives in their region, as she is working on collecting contact information. Mr. King said Ms. Westra covered everything.

#### *Southern States Energy Board (SSEB)*

Mr. Wells said the major SSEB event was the organization's annual meeting at the end of September. The SSEB Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee has a meeting coming up in New Orleans, and is hosting the NTSF 2016 Annual Meeting in Orlando. He said they are working on a calendar notice and are developing the meeting agenda for that.

#### *Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference (CSG ERC)*

Uldis Vanags (CSG ERC) said the Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Project meeting is in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in December. The major shipping activities in the region are National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) shipments of SNF (from Chalk River to Savannah River) that go through New York and Pennsylvania. He said only need-to-know individuals are given information about the shipments, which are mostly SNF rods and liquid. Once the campaign is over the region will discuss lessons-learned.

#### *Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB)*

Mr. Williams said WIEB held a meeting in Spokane, Washington, on November 3-4 and heard presentations from Ms. Bickford and Mike Wangler (DOE-EM), updates on the Hanford site cleanup, and the status of the nuclear waste program from Mike McBride (counsel to the BRC). During the meeting, WIEB determined that the group needs to develop a better electronic information resource, review project priorities, and share them with the other regions.

#### Spring Meeting

Ms. Dresen asked for suggestions on topics or speakers and members indicated that they needed time to think about it. She said to feel free to send ideas for the NTSF meeting agenda to her or Ms. Engelhart, who are both on the NTSF Planning Committee.

#### Other Committee Events

Mr. Horn asked for suggestions for other committee events or topics for future webinars. Mr. Schmidt suggested a webinar on the medical radioisotope facilities being licensed in Wisconsin. Ms. Janairo suggested a webinar to convey information on the SNF program with someone from industry – similar to Mr. Rude's presentation but with the siting initiative added. Mr. Horn and Mr. Mason suggested a webinar on DOE transportation-related training programs.

Mr. Horn said the committee was interested in combining its next fall meeting with SSEB and mentioned Missouri was up next in the rotation of Midwest states to host the meeting. He asked Ms. Drake for her input on whether the meeting could be held in Kansas City or St. Louis. Ms. Janairo said they were thinking they could tour one of the rail yards. Ms. Janairo asked Mr. Wells if SSEB was still interested in co-locating the meeting and he said yes.

#### Travel Reimbursement Review

Ms. Janairo gave instructions for filling out the committee's travel reimbursement form. Mr. Gothard asked

if hotel taxes and rates should be combined or separate. Ms. Janairo said to put those on separate lines to make sure it's clear you received the government rate. She added that itemized receipts are required, except for per diem meals.

Action Items Review

Ms. Tye reviewed the action items, which will be emailed to everyone after the meeting.

Mr. Horn adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm.

*Prepared by Katelyn Tye, January 5, 2016.*