Major Lance Evans (Iowa) called the meeting to order at 10:33 am and welcomed attendees. He then provided his report from the committee co-chairs. He said he had attended a meeting in Washington, DC, with Jane Beetem (Missouri) and Lisa Janairo (CSG Midwest) to discuss the progress being made by the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Nuclear Energy (DOE-NE) in trying to implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future (BRC). Major Evans said shipments of transuranic waste heading to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) were moving through Iowa on a weekly basis. Ms. Beetem added that she appreciated DOE-NE’s interest in working with the states through the regional groups. She was hopeful about DOE-NE making progress on its Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation Planning Project (NFSTPP).

Ms. Janairo briefly reviewed her written project update. Two of the committee’s active work groups had been working very hard on tasks that would wrap up by June 30: the WIPP tour and the briefing packet for states to use when communicating with elected officials, other agency personnel, and the public about radioactive waste transportation. Ms. Janairo said both groups had earned a break.

Ms. Janairo provided a report on the committee’s Information and Communications work group. The group had revised the Transportation Project brochure, which was scheduled to be mailed in the coming week. The brochure would be one of the items included in the new briefing packet that the work group was developing. Folders for the packet would be printed soon, and the group members had contributed to the development of the two draft fact sheets, a glossary, and a map. Ms. Janairo said the committee would be discussing the new fact sheets later during the meeting.

Kelly Horn (Illinois) provided a report on the State Government Officials’ Tour of WIPP, scheduled for June 19 in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Mr. Horn said the committee’s WIPP Tour work group had held several calls to develop the agenda, invitation list, and letter of invitation. He referred to the attendance list provided in the briefing materials. It was suggested that Kevin Leuer (Minnesota) might want to go on the tour considering the number of Minnesota legislators who were registered to attend. Ms. Janairo said she would send Mr. Leuer the information, would be inviting a few more legislators, and would extend the deadline for registration to May 29.

Ms. Janairo reported on the NTSF Communications ad hoc working group. A few months ago, the group had finished its work assisting Ella McNeil (DOE-EM Office of Packaging and Transportation) in revising DOE’s fact sheet on the transportation of low-level radioactive waste. The fact sheet is available on the NTSF wiki site. During the breakfast meeting on Wednesday, the group would discuss with Ray English of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP) his application of the fact sheet “development guide” to the NNPP public information materials. A small writing group of the Communications working group had helped Ms. Janairo with the two draft fact sheets that the committee would discuss later during the meeting. At the breakfast meeting on May 15, the group would be reviewing a new brochure for the NFSTPP. Ms. Janairo expressed her hope that members of the working group would volunteer to replace her and Ken Niles (Oregon) as the co-leads in FY14.
Ms. Janairo reported on the **NTSF Section 180(c) Implementation Working Group**. The group had been meeting via webinar since January to review the recommendations on 11 issues identified by a Transportation External Coordination Working Group topic group in 2005. Of the 11 issues, the former topic group had reached consensus on eight. The new ad hoc working group had started its task by looking at those eight issues. Most had been easy to complete, but the issue of the funding distribution mechanism had proven to be difficult. A few of the members felt strongly that the funding should be distributed to the states through the regional cooperative agreements in the same manner that WIPP assistance is administered. The three Midwestern states serving on the working group – Indiana, Iowa, and Michigan – preferred to receive grants directly from DOE. Ms. Janairo hoped the group would be able to put this issue to rest at its afternoon meeting.

One issue that had not yet been discussed is how to allocate the funding among the eligible recipients. In 2005, the topic group had recommended using a formula that factored in route miles, number of shipments, affected population, and the number of shipping and intermodal sites. The only region that disagreed with the approach was the West. Ms. Janairo explained that the other regions did not do a good job communicating with the West about the proposed formula approach. She said the idea was to use the formula to determine the amount of funding for which a state could apply, but the state would still need to submit an application justifying the need for that level of funding. She had suggested to the ad hoc working group members that the regions try to work on this issue separately from the rest of the group. Doing so would free up time for the full working group to address other matters, such as the merit review criteria for applications for assistance. Ms. Janairo noted that the committee would have an opportunity after lunch to discuss some of the implementation issues.

Major Evans reported on the activities of the **NTSF Security Communications Protocol ad hoc working group**. In March, DOE had sponsored training for dispatchers in Omaha, which was well attended. Major Evans thought this group might need to operate indefinitely and suggested it might be time to drop “ad hoc” from the group’s name. It was not clear whether the new security communications protocol would need a security classification. Once the protocol is completed, it would be incorporated into the WIPP transportation plan and perhaps the transportation plans for other shipping campaigns (e.g., foreign research reactor spent fuel). Ms. McNeil said Mike Wangler of her office was working on DOE’s physical protection order. The security communications protocol could be rolled up into the new order. Tony Dimond (Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen) noted that the protocol seemed to be focused on shipments by truck and asked whether any thought had been given to shipments by rail. Ms. McNeil said DOE typically relies on the railroads to manage security, including security communications. Mr. Dimond said, based on his experience in the field, it would be a good idea to address rail shipments in the protocol. Ms. Janairo asked whether the ad hoc working group was planning to hold an exercise. Major Evans said, if there were to be an exercise, it would likely take place in the fall. He said the ad hoc working group would be meeting later in the day. At the meeting, he would bring up the need to address rail issues, ask about the exercise, mention the need to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security, and suggest that the group share its work on an NTSF webinar when the time was right.

Ms. McNeil provided a report on the **Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Training ad hoc working group**. She said TEPP had recommended changes to the MERRTT training. Ms. McNeil noted that it was a difficult time for TEPP, funding-wise. Tom Clawson (contractor to DOE) said he had been on the verge of handing out a new DVD with the training materials when the 2013 NFPA was issued with some new competencies. The DVD had been reworked to incorporate the changes. Major Evans mentioned that Iowa had a great experience with recent MERRTT training and would like to
schedule additional sessions. Ms. McNeil noted that DOE’s policy is to focus on “active corridors,” which include Iowa, but that training could be arranged in other states as time and resources permitted. Online training is a new initiative, but the funding constraints were causing DOE to go more slowly on that. Ms. Beetem asked how far in advance states would have to contact Mr. Clawson to schedule training. Ms. McNeil said DOE-EM could support radiation specialist training in Missouri this year. She noted that DOE can support exercises, too. Iowa and Missouri are both interested in having training. Major Evans and Ms. Beetem agreed to work out a plan for holding the training in one of the states. Major Evans told the story of a trooper who had gone through the training and then, within 10 days of the class, had to put what he had learned into action.

Ms. Beetem reported on the activities of the NTSF Planning Committee. The Planning Committee’s main task over the past several months had been to plan the NTSF annual meeting. She encouraged members to share ideas for topics or speakers to include on the agenda for next year’s meeting. Ms. Beetem would continue to represent the Midwest on the Planning Committee in FY14. If the Midwest winds up hosting the 2014 annual meeting, it would be a good idea to have another state representative join the Planning Committee. Ms. Beetem explained that the tribes are considering whether to host next year, to wait a year, or partner with one of the regions. The Midwest had already polled members to identify possible locations. Ms. Janairo shared a comparison of costs for the Midwestern cities. After some discussion, the committee agreed to put forward all the Midwestern cities on the list (except for Traverse City) for consideration.

On the subject of NTSF ad hoc working groups, Ms. McNeil said she would begin working in August on transforming DOE’s Transportation Practices Manual into an appendix to the revised DOE order on transportation. Ms. Janairo asked what the best way would be for states to get involved in that process. Ms. McNeil said she envisioned having the states review a draft that she will prepare. A new Manual Revision ad hoc working group could form in the coming fiscal year, if the NTSF members were interested.

Ms. Janairo asked the committee for other ideas for ad hoc working groups. She mentioned a suggestion from Tammy Ottmer (Colorado) to develop a “business plan” or “handbook” for the NTSF Planning Committee. The idea was to codify how the Planning Committee works to develop meeting plans, and also to provide some guidance for new ad hoc working groups. Ms. McNeil said she thought that would be a good task for the Communications working group. The group would discuss the proposal at its breakfast meeting on Wednesday.

Ms. Janairo asked for ideas for NTSF webinars. Ms. McNeil said Arnold Edelman, the DOE lead on the Greater-than-Class-C (GTCC) environmental impact statement (EIS), had retired. It might be a good idea to feature the GTCC EIS on a webinar. The committee had previously discussed having a webinar on the new security communications protocol. Ms. Janairo also thought the draft environmental impact statement for the NRC’s Waste Confidence Decision might be a good topic.

Major Evans discussed plans for the fall meeting. The dates of November 18-20 appeared to work the best for most members. Major Evans noted that the committee had been to Topeka and Overland Park for previous meetings, and asked how the members felt about going to Wichita. Swapan Saha (Kansas) urged the members to locate the meeting near the Kansas City airport. The committee agreed to look at that area. Nigel Mote (NWTRB) mentioned that the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board would be holding a technical workshop on those dates in Washington, DC.
Major Evans reminded the members that, at the fall meeting, the committee would be electing a new co-chair to take his place in 2014. Members who are interested in serving as co-chair should speak with a fellow member about a nomination or talk to Ms. Janairo. In response to a question from Ms. Beetem, it was determined that Ken Yale (Michigan), Teri Engelhart (Wisconsin), Mike Snee (Ohio), Mr. Horn, Laura Dresen (Indiana), and Jennifer Clark (Kansas) had not yet served as committee co-chair.

Major Evans moved on to the regional roundtable.

Nebraska: Lieutenant Carla Schreiber (Nebraska) reported that some WIPP shipments had been diverted into safe parking in the past few months. Jon Schwarz (Nebraska) had expressed concern about the shipments having been dispatched from Argonne National Laboratory despite the likelihood of bad weather. Major Evans asked whether the issue might be that Iowa is turning over the shipments to Nebraska when it should not. Lt. Schreiber did not know whether that was the case. Ms. Janairo wondered whether Nebraska had been involved in the dispatch conference calls. Lt. Schreiber added that the eight-week rolling schedule that WIPP provides does not always indicate what has changed on the schedule and why. Ms. Janairo said she would follow up with Bill Mackie (DOE-CBFO) to ask about the safe parking incidents and the eight-week schedule.

Minnesota: Mr. Leuer said Minnesota was still experiencing shipments that are avoiding the states that charge fees. Nordion wants to go to e-mail notifications instead of faxes, but the company was reluctant to send notifications to more than one e-mail address for each state. It was necessary in Mr. Leuer’s agency to have more than one e-mail recipient. Mr. Leuer also mentioned that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was changing its regulations to require active security for dry storage installations.

Michigan: Mr. Yale reported that Lieutenant Susan Fries had moved into a position in which she oversees inspectors. Sgt. John Holden had taken her place. Also, Michigan has a new head of Homeland Security. Mr. Yale said the state was forming a new group to coordinate on any shipments from Big Rock Point.

Wisconsin: Ms. Engelhart reported that the Kewaunee plant had shut down on May 7. She had attended a public meeting near the site and found the meeting to be very well attended compared to past meetings. She said there were a lot of questions about spent fuel and what would happen to it now that the plant was shut down. Ms. Engelhart reported favorably on MERRTT training that had been conducted in Wisconsin. Like Mr. Leuer, Ms. Engelhart was trying to work with Nordion on the switch to e-mailed shipment notifications.

Kansas: Mr. Saha said Kansas had been on the route for eight non-HRCQ shipments and one HRCQ shipment during the fiscal year. MERRTT training that was conducted in April went well, and more will be offered with assistance from Kansas’s HMEP grant. The state would host Radiation Specialist training in July. Mr. Saha encouraged committee members and others to register for the training by the June 30 deadline. Registration is available through the TEPP website. Ms. McNeil cautioned that there is a prerequisite for the training. Ms. Janairo added that CSG Midwest had some funding available to reimburse travel expenses for Midwestern state personnel who attend the training. Mr. Saha noted that Kansas was replacing its old civil defense equipment.

Illinois: Mr. Horn said the state continued to inspect and escort shipments of transuranic waste leaving Argonne. In addition, the state had experienced a shipment of TRIGA spent fuel from the Missouri University Research Reactor and several shipments of low-level radioactive waste leaving the Zion
nuclear power plant, which is undergoing decommissioning. He related the story of an accident involving equipment used in a fuel outage at a power plant in Wisconsin. The driver got off the highway, went under a low viaduct, and some of the equipment containers came off. The shipment was placarded as SCO ("surface-contaminated object"), and the emergency response kicked into full gear. Even a SWAT team was deployed. There was no breach of the cargo containers, nor was the viaduct damaged.

Ohio: Mr. Snee said some cobalt-60 shipments had passed through Ohio. In response to a question, he said two goldfish had been smuggled into the basement of the Perry nuclear power plant and placed in a container of reactor cooling water. It was highly likely the fish died from neglect, not radiation, although they had been disposed of as radioactive waste.

Missouri: Ms. Beetem reported that HRCQ shipments were passing through the southern part of the state. She said at times the shipments involved eight trucks at one time, with the trucks arriving in the state at 11 pm and departing at 6 am. In other news, Ms. Beetem was hoping to put a contract in place to get new equipment for responders along the commonly used shipping corridors. The funding was coming from the revenue raised by the state’s fee on shipments of radioactive waste and material.

Iowa: Melanie Rasmusson (Iowa) mentioned some minor shipment-related incidents. She said the MERRTT training was awesome and noted that it was one of the first times that the radiation protection people were in the room with the trainers. That made it possible for the instructors to point to the staff and say, “There they are – those are the people you need to call.” Major Evans mentioned some additional staff changes within his agency, including the addition of two individuals to the hazardous materials enforcement program. The goal for the MERRTT training had been to get fire, law enforcement, and other personnel trained along the I-80 corridor. There was a great deal of interest in holding more training in the future.

Carlisle Smith (CVSA) gave a brief report on the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance and on the sections of the federal transportation act (MAP-21) that applied to radioactive materials transportation. He also said COHMED would be holding its conference in Sarasota on January 26-31 and would be offering training at the conference. He mentioned that PHMSA and FMSCA within DOT sponsored COHMED. He said he would love to see both DOE and the Federal Railroad Administration support the event, too. CVSA would hold its annual conference on September 15-19 in Denver. In federal FY14, CVSA would conduct two peer reviews. By August, CVSA would have data available to help identify the states that would undergo the peer review. A new booklet containing the CVSA Level VI inspection procedures was available and Mr. Smith had copies to hand out.

On the subject of MAP-21, Mr. Smith reminded the committee of H.R. 7, which had been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2012. The bill would have limited the states’ authority to inspect shipments after the initial point-of-origin inspection had been conducted. He cautioned the committee to be on the watch for new attempts to restrict inspections in a similar manner. Major Evans asked whether MAP-21 would address the issue of states inspecting shipments at the border as a matter of policy or law. Mr. Smith said CVSA preferred to see the states conduct a Level II inspection if a shipment had already been inspected to the Level VI standard. But CVSA recognizes that the states have the authority to choose the level of inspection. Mr. Smith speculated that states might eventually shift to Level II inspections because of the lower cost. Ms. McNeil said she had heard states make the argument that the state inspectors needed to conduct a minimum number of inspections in order to maintain their certification. Mr. Smith said CVSA had dropped that requirement and now requires refresher training.
He emphasized that DOE was not behind these attempts to restrict shipment inspections, but rather private industry was.

CVSA is against removing from federal law the preemption provision that gives state officers the authority to enforce federal rules. Mr. Smith clarified that MAP-21 had, indeed, passed, but some of the things he was cautioning the states about are ideas being floated as changes to the provisions in the act. Mr. Smith also reported on HMACCESS, which is an effort to switch to electronic paperwork for shipments. He said paperless documentation was coming. A pilot test would be starting in the fall.

The committee was joined by David Huizenga (DOE), Jeff Williams (DOE-NE), and Steve O’Connor (DOE-EM). Mr. Williams spoke first. He explained that he had a long history working for DOE and the former Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM). His team working on the NFSTPP was assembled after the BRC issued its recommendations. There are court cases suggesting that DOE’s new strategy for beginning to implement the BRC recommendations is illegal, but the BRC report indicated that a good deal of work would be allowed under DOE’s existing authority. Much of the technical analyses, for example, could proceed. Mr. Williams said the “Core Group” of state and tribal representatives plus DOE staff and contractors had met twice since the regional cooperative agreements were re-established. The NFSTPP was working to develop a policy for implementing federal financial assistance consistent with Section 180(c) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. He was not sure whether DOE would be able to finalize the policy under existing authority and funding. He mentioned that one of the BRC’s recommendations was the creation of a new organization to take over the work of the former OCRWM program. If that happens, the new organization would take over the work being done by the NFSTPP.

Mr. Williams introduced Matt Feldman, who is the new Transportation Core Manager for the NFSTPP. Mr. Williams mentioned other members of the team, including Corinne Macaluso, Judith Holm, Mark Abkowitz, Elizabeth Helvey, Alex Thrower, John Wagner, Mark Nutt, Steve Maheras, Tim Runyon, Lake Barrett, and Adam Levin, who retired from Exelon and is now consulting part-time with the project. Mr. Williams calls his team “the A Team.” When Major Evans noted the dates for the committee’s fall meeting, Mr. Williams said he would strive to send someone from the NFSTPP to the meeting. He also mentioned that a new AAAS fellow would be joining the team in September. He said he would send Ms. Janairo the new person’s name and contact information.

Mr. Huizenga spoke next. He commented on how good it was to get out and see where the work was being done. He appreciated all the time and effort the states were devoting to helping to ensure that shipments are safe and secure. He explained that he had first worked on transportation 20 years ago with the start of the foreign research reactor program.

Ms. Beetem asked about DOE’s pilot projects related to technology. She said TRANSCOM had been around for a while and wondered whether DOE was interested in developing any new technology for either shipment tracking or route evaluation. She mentioned the RFID technology developed by Argonne and wondered about its status. Steve O’Connor said the RFID technology would be helpful for preventing tampering, for example. But there is also the possibility of using “passive RFIDs” simply to track assets. Ms. Beetem suggested coordinating with the states on the deployment of technology. She said DNDO had made funding available to Missouri to install portal monitors and wondered whether those could somehow be integrated with the technology DOE is using to track and monitor shipments.

Major Evans took the opportunity to tell Mr. Huizenga his story about the Iowa MERRTT training and the trooper that used the training shortly thereafter. He said the training was of high value to the state. Mr.
Huizenga observed that the Office of Environmental Management was in a steady state and while the Office of Nuclear Energy was ramping up. Mr. Williams said the draft legislation in Congress would really expand the federal government’s ability to work with the states.

Ms. Beetem asked Mr. Huizenga and Mr. Williams about DOE’s commitment to the regions and the NTSF. Mr. Williams said Assistant Secretary Pete Lyons had mentioned the Section 180(c) ad hoc working group in his recent testimony before Congress. He said DOE-NE wanted to keep supporting the regions, but whether the program could continue to do so would depend upon what happens in Congress with the proposed authorizing legislation. Mr. Huizenga said DOE values the states and said states are a vital part of the team that keeps DOE’s environmental cleanup program going. Ms. Beetem added that the people in the room representing the states had networks back home. Each member shares the information they gather at these meetings with their colleagues in state and local government.

Ms. Janairo mentioned a phone call she had received from an NNSA official regarding plans for a future shipping campaign. The individual had been involved in planning the spent fuel shipment from West Valley years ago. He was looking for a point of contact in the Western states so that outreach on the campaign could begin as soon as possible. Ms. Janairo was gratified to see that the need for early coordination was a lesson well learned.

After the DOE guests departed, Mr. Horn followed up on Ms. Beetem’s comment on emerging technology. He mentioned that CVSA had been interested in safety and security technologies for shipments of radioactive waste and material and had participated in a number of site visits. Through this work, the CVSA team learned that Battelle was working on a comprehensive study of emerging technologies. CVSA held off on publishing its findings until Battelle came out with its own report. Mr. Horn said the CVSA report is now available on the CVSA website. The HMCRP study can be found by googling “emerging technologies for safe, secure transport.” Ms. Janairo said the studies had been featured in a breakout session at the Knoxville NTSF meeting. Dr. Abkowitz said companies will make use of the technology if it makes sense financially, but they are less interested if the main benefit is related to security.

The committee discussed the regional briefing packet. Ms. Janairo asked for comments on the three draft fact sheets that she had included in the briefing materials for the meeting: one on the BRC recommendations, one on the states’ role in transportation planning, and a third prepared by Ms. Engelhart to explain the resources and procedures in Wisconsin. Mr. Mote commented that the fact sheets, as written, would be of value to the other regions, as well. Ms. Janairo explained that her intention was to make the Word files for the “BRC” and “States’ role” fact sheets available to the other regional staff so that they could customize the fact sheets for use in their own regions, if desired. For that reason, she had recruited members of the NTSF Communications working group to draft the two fact sheets. Ms. Engelhart asked for suggestions regarding what to include in the Wisconsin fact sheet. She acknowledged it was difficult to figure out what to put in the document considering the fact that Wisconsin does not yet have a full-fledged program to coordinate on shipments. Ms. Janairo said the Communications working group would be discussing the fact sheets at its Wednesday breakfast meeting. She asked for feedback from committee members no later than May 24.

The committee also discussed several issues related to the Section 180(c) Implementation ad hoc working group. Ms. Janairo polled the states about whether they would prefer to receive 180(c) assistance directly from DOE or through the regional cooperative agreement. The states were unanimous in their support of obtaining funding directly from DOE. The members also said they were
more accustomed to grants than cooperative agreements, therefore they would prefer direct grants. A very important matter was whether the funds would be provided on a reimbursement basis or given to the state up front. A few members mentioned that they need to have legislative authority to spend the money, regardless of the source. Ms. Janairo said she would suggest that the ad hoc working group give some thought to these implementation issues. Mr. Yale commented that one reason he recommended direct grants from DOE is that he thought it would be better to negotiate directly with DOE about the specific requirements in each state instead of working through CSG Midwest. Mr. Leuer added that groups like CSG Midwest exist to assist the states, but not just to pass money through to them.

Ms. Janairo said the ad hoc working group had not even begun to discuss the issue of the funding allocation formula but would be doing so soon in order to meet DOE’s goal of completing the 180(c) recommendations by September 30. Mr. Leuer cautioned that, whenever people talk about formulas, the immediate reaction is to pull out a calculator to see “what’s in it for me?” He also said it would be very important to know what the allowable activities would be. Ms. Beetem said the frequency of shipments could affect a state’s needs. One shipment a year, for example, would create different manpower needs than having shipments on a weekly basis. Ms. Janairo noted that the original formula did not include a factor for frequency but perhaps it should.

Mr. Leuer asked whether exercises and operational costs would be allowable activities under Section 180(c). He suggested that DOE model the activities on the “blocks” that are used for other funding sources. The five blocks are planning, training, equipment, exercises, and operational, plus administrative costs. This approach helps a state to take a comprehensive approach, applying funding where it is needed and where it is allowed. Ms. Janairo encouraged Mr. Leuer to attend the ad hoc working group meeting later in the day to make this suggestion before the group members.

The committee discussed ideas for project activities in FY14. Ms. Janairo said that, if the Midwest hosts the NTSF meeting, that task alone would take up a good deal of her time. Ms. Janairo asked if the members needed travel funding for things like training and conferences. She noted that she had included funding in the budget, but so far no one has expressed a need for it except for the August PATRAM conference. The members appreciated the reminder about funding availability. Ms. Janairo will continue to budget some funding for this purpose. The committee discussed the August 28 NNPP demonstration exercise that would take place in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Travel funding is available through CSG Midwest if states are interested in sending representatives to observe the exercise.

Ms. Janairo reported on a conversation she had with a representative of the Keystone Center. The organization is hoping to initiate a national dialogue about site selection. Ms. Janairo said the committee had agreed at its last meeting not to pursue any projects related to site selection. Nevertheless, she encouraged the committee to have a representative participate in the national dialogue being planned if, indeed, it takes place. Major Evans nominated Mr. Horn to be the committee’s representative in the area of consent-based siting, and the other members approved. Ms. Janairo then informed Mr. Horn of his first opportunity to represent the Midwest on siting: the U.S. Nuclear Infrastructure Council’s technical workshop entitled, “2021 – DOE’s Proposed Pilot Interim Storage Project.” The event is scheduled for June 26-27 in Arlington, VA. Mr. Horn said he would check his schedule and try to attend.

Ms. Janairo said Ms. Beetem and Ms. Ottmer were co-authoring a paper for PATRAM, which is an international conference that is held every three years. This year, the conference will be in San Francisco on August 18-23. Ms. Janairo was co-authoring a paper with Mr. Niles. Ms. Engelhart and Ms. Dresen will also be attending the conference.
Finally, Ms. Janairo referred members to the list of “key issues” that was included in the briefing materials for the meeting. The committee had developed the list in the mid-2000s as a way to focus the region’s efforts related to the Yucca Mountain transportation program. Ms. Janairo had updated the list recently to reflect the status of the various issues. The regions had made a commitment to DOE-NE to identify their priority issues. Ms. Janairo recommended that the committee review the key issues and discuss via conference call what the current priorities should be for the Midwest. She also recommended changing the status of barge shipments from “closed” to “open” since DOE had shown some interest in shipping spent fuel by barge from Zion, Big Rock Point, and La Crosse. Ms. Janairo will schedule a conference call with the committee to discuss the key issues and also Section 180(c) issues.

Major Evans made some announcements regarding NTSF-related activities during the afternoon and on Wednesday. He adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm.