

## SUMMARY

### 2024 Annual Fall Meeting

#### Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRMTC)

The annual fall meeting of the MRMTC was held on Tuesday 08 and Wednesday 09 October 2024 at the Wingate by Wyndham Bismarck hotel in Bismarck, North Dakota. Bismarck is the capital city of the Peace Garden State, a charming bucolic oasis and the second biggest population center in the state. MRMTC members and Federal, State, and Tribal partners to the tune of 33 attendees ensconced themselves in the conference room at the Wingate for 1.5 days of presentations, updates, debriefs, and discussions.

Joseph R. Lynch from KewauneeSolutions spoke to the group about the decommissioning project underway at the Kewaunee Power Station located in Carlton, WI. Mr. Lynch spoke about the nature and number of the shipments travelling from Wisconsin to the EnergySolutions low level radioactive waste (LLRW) disposal facility in Clive, Utah. In 2023, 607 intermodal containers were shipped representing 20,146,905 lbs of net waste. This waste is all classified as LLRW, Class A waste.

We subsequently heard from Dr. Will Livingston of the University of Oklahoma, who works on the research team focusing on integrating socially led co-design into consent-based siting of interim storage facilities. Dr. Livingston discussed some of the hypothesizes underpinning their research including the hypothesis that co-design can enable more positive siting outcomes when integrated with consent-based siting processes. He then detailed the process to which their research activities adhered and a broad discussion of preliminary statistically significant findings.

Members of the North Dakota High Level Radioactive Waste Advisory Council including Senator Dale Patten, Representative Jon Nelson, Senator Jim Roers, and State Geologist Ed Murphy participated in a panel discussion. These gentlemen shared their perspectives and insights into the current state of affairs within North Dakota. The panel spoke about the expected future increase in energy demand driven by data centers possibly relocating to the state and the general sense that there is a transformation underway in how the North Dakota citizens feel about nuclear energy. They commented that 55% of the state budget is funded by oil and gas taxes deriving from four counties within the state.

Kevin Connolly (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) and Miriam Juckett (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)) presented on the North Anna High Burnup Demonstration Cask Transportation and the Package Performance Demonstration Request for Information (PPD RFI) respectively. Whilst seemingly disparate, these presentations dovetailed to emphasize Department of Energy (DOE)'s commitment to building public trust and confidence by engaging early and often with the public in areas that matter most. Dr. Connolly underscored that the North Anna shipment will be the first shipment of commercial SNF on the DOE's Atlas railcar. Ms. Juckett emphasized that the PPD was intended to build toward shareable confidence within and among all parties.

The business portion of the meeting included reports from the DOE offices of Environmental Management, Nuclear Energy, and the Carlsbad Field Office; reports from the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) ad Hoc working groups; reports from representatives from the South, West, and East state regional groups; a report from the Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (TRMTC); and a regional roundtable.

The MRMTC elected a new co-chair to replace Tad Rumas (OH), who has served as co-chair for the last two years. Ryan Seabaugh (MO) will now serve as co-chair along with Mark Paulson (WI). Additionally, the committee voted to hold the 2025 annual Fall meeting in Michigan during the first weeks of October 2025. Melissa Shahzadeh is in the earliest stages of planning for that meeting and welcomes any feedback from them MRMTC as she begins to consider options.



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In summation, it was a meeting that brought together interested parties for discourse, engagement, and information exchange. As all the presentations highlighted, this is a time of shifting priorities and increasing urgency. Public engagement, public trust, and transparency with public stakeholders seem to be moving to center stage, suggesting perhaps that the conversations that have heretofore been largely self-referential are now beginning to widen for greater inclusivity. As always I am reminded what a privilege it is to be a part of this extraordinary multi-disciplinary effort, and I am proud to continue to serve as manager of this project and this committee.

*Drafted by M.Shahzadeh, Project Manager  
Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project  
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