

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers  
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Martin J. Virgilio, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: TRILATERAL MEETING WITH MEXICO AND CANADA

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) representatives met with counterparts from the Mexican Comision Nacional de Seguridad Nuclear Salvaguardias (MCNSNS) and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). Commissioner Merrifield welcomed the Mexican and Canadian representatives and kicked off the meeting. The topics addressed at the meeting are as follows:

1. Processes for Notification of Lost or Stolen Sources Near Border.
2. Institutional Controls for Large Volumes of Long-Lived Radioactive Materials.
3. Requirements of the Joint Convention on Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management.
4. Security-Related Matters at Nuclear Facilities.
5. Security of Trans-Boundary Shipments (materials and spent fuel).

In addition, after the close of the meeting, MCNSNS and CNSC representatives participated in a demonstration of the General License Tracking System (GLTS) that is under development.

Presentations on all the topics were made by each of the participating agencies. A listing of the presentations is included in Attachment 1. Copies of the briefing charts are available.

The highlights of the meeting are summarized as follows:

- We suggested to the Mexican and Canadian representatives that, in light of the parallel efforts underway in the various areas, it would be desirable to pursue exchange of technical staff (i.e., including assignees to and from NRC). It was suggested that this may be particularly useful in developments relating to the tracking of radioactive sources.

CONTACT: Theodore S. Sherr, NMSS/FCSS  
415-7260

- The processes for notification of lost or stolen sources and the development of mechanisms for tracking are under review in each of the countries. An excellent exchange took place on current challenges, and there was agreement that further follow-up, and perhaps bilateral missions, would be useful to share experience and develop a coherent approach.
- In the context of the discussion of the GLTS demonstration, a detailed discussion of important data and methods for tracking resulted in useful insights. The Mexican delegation noted that they have a similar system operational. The Canadian delegation was particularly interested in the lessons learned in the development effort because they are currently looking to develop a similar system
- NRC presented an overview of the U.S. situation regarding large inventories of long-lived radioactive materials. The Canadians have a significant inventory of mine and mill tailings. They use a concept based on a trigger level of 100 mrem/y exposure, which then initiates a contaminated land hearing process. Funding is handled either by existing or previous licensees, or else through Federal Government intervention. Institutional controls are an integral and necessary component in the proper management of these materials. Mexico has been trying to develop a policy to address its contaminated sites, but progress has been difficult.
- NRC gave a brief explanation of the status of the Waste Convention ratification process, which is currently under Senate review. The U.S. is moving forward with the ratification process and proceeding with the preparation of the National Report on the waste management profile in the U.S. Canada has ratified, but Mexico has not yet signed the convention. All three parties agree that there is a need for a targeted trilateral meeting before the organizational meeting set for May 2003. Canada offered to host a meeting in Canada next September.
- The participants recognized that Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. share a common interest in ensuring the security of radioactive materials, nuclear facilities, and trans-boundary shipment of radioactive materials especially following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.
- The agencies are following similar approaches in reviewing the adequacy of existing safeguards for nuclear facilities and radioactive materials, including threat definition, vulnerability assessment, interim compensatory measures, and longer-term revisions to the regulatory framework to ensure adequate protection.
- There are a number of specific areas in the ongoing safeguards assessments where interagency collaboration is prudent to promote consistency and reduce unnecessary duplication (e.g., aircraft vulnerability studies, threat assessment, physical protection for transport). The agencies will coordinate informally to exchange information of mutual benefit.

The meeting participants expressed views that the meeting was very useful, and all parties look forward to continued dialogue and working arrangements. In addition, CNSC suggested that consideration be given to meeting trilaterally on an annual basis to address similar topics. MCNSNS offered to host the next meeting.

The list of attendees is included in Attachment 2.

Attachment: 1. Listing of Presentations  
2. Meeting Attendees

cc: Janice Dunn Lee, OIP  
Kevin Burke, OIP  
Suzanne McGuire, OIP  
John Craig, OEDO

The meeting participants expressed views that the meeting was very useful, and all parties look forward to continued dialogue and working arrangements. In addition, CNSC suggested that consideration be given to meeting trilaterally on an annual basis to address similar topics. MCNSNS offered to host the next meeting.

The list of attendees is included in Attachment 2.

Attachment: 1. Listing of Presentations  
2. Meeting Attendees

cc: Janice Dunn Lee, OIP  
Kevin Burke, OIP  
Suzanne McGuire, OIP  
John Craig, OEDO

**DISTRIBUTION:**

ADAMS PUBLIC FCSS r/f NMSS r/f NMSS Dir Off r/f EDO r/f

ADAMS Accession Number: **ML020450598**

S:\FCSS\TSS\Memo1.wpd \*See previous concurrence

|             |            |  |         |  |           |  |           |  |           |  |            |  |
|-------------|------------|--|---------|--|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|--|------------|--|
| <b>OFC</b>  | FCSS       |  | FCSS    |  | DWM       |  | INMS      |  | SFPO      |  | NMSS       |  |
| <b>NAME</b> | TSherr:dw* |  | MWeber* |  | JGreeves* |  | DCool*    |  | WBrach*   |  | MVirgilio* |  |
| <b>DATE</b> | 2/11/02    |  | 2/11/02 |  | 2/ 08 /02 |  | 2/ 07 /02 |  | 2/ 07 /02 |  | 2/ 14/02   |  |

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

February 5, 2002  
Trilateral Meeting Presentations

Processes for Notification of Lost or Stolen Sources Near Border

1. NRC: "Processes for Notification of Lost or Stolen Sources Near the Mexico/US/Canada Border"
2. CNSC: "Processes for Notification of Lost or Stolen Sources Near Border"
3. CNSNS: "Process for Notification of Lost or Stolen Sources Near Border"

Institutional Controls for Large Volumes of Long-Lived Radioactive Materials

1. NRC: "Institutional Controls for Large Volumes of Long-Lived Radioactive Materials"
2. CNSC: "Institutional Controls for Large Volumes of Long-Lived Radioactive Materials"
3. CNSNS: "Institutional Controls for Large Volumes of Long-Lived Radioactive Materials"

Requirements of the Joint Convention on Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management

1. NRC: "Requirements of the Joint Convention on Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management"
2. CNSC: "Requirements of the Joint Convention on Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management"
3. CNSNS: "Requirements of the Joint Convention on Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management"

Security-Related Matters at Nuclear Facilities

1. NRC: "Ensuring the Security of Nuclear Power Plants"
2. CNSC: "Nuclear Security Approach Post September 11, 2001"
3. CNSNS: "Security Related Matters at Mexican Nuclear Facilities"

Security of Trans-Boundary Shipments (Materials and Spent Fuel)

1. NRC: "Security of Trans-Boundary Shipments : Materials and Spent Fuel"
2. CNSC: "Transportation of Nuclear materials: Nuclear Security Approach"
3. CNSNS: "Security of Trans-Boundary Shipments (Materials and Spent Fuel)"

## **Attendees**

### **US/Mexico/Canada Trilateral Meeting February 5, 2002**

#### **Mexican Commission National de Seguridad Nuclear Salvaguardias**

Mr. Jose Luis Delgado  
Manager for Radiological Safety

Mr. Hermenegildo Maldonado  
Head Department for Licensing

#### **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission**

Mr. K. Pereira  
Vice-President  
Operations Branch

Mr. T. Viglasky  
Director General  
Directorate of Nuclear Substance Regulation  
Operations Branch

Ms. C. Maloney  
Director General  
Directorate of Nuclear Cycle and Facilities Regulation  
Operations Branch

Mr. I. Grant  
Director General  
Directorate of Assessment and Analysis  
and  
Acting Director General  
Director of Operational Strategies  
Operations Branch

Mr. R. Ferch  
Director  
Wastes and Decommissioning Division  
Directorate of Nuclear Cycle and Facilities Regulation  
Operations Branch

Mr. P. Dube  
Manager  
Security Section  
Directorate of Assessment and Analysis  
Operations Branch

Mr. R. Jammal  
Acting Head  
Medical, Academic and Industrial Licensing Section  
Directorate of Nuclear Substance Regulation  
Operations Branch

Mr. A. Laidlaw  
Nuclear Non-proliferation Section  
Office of International Affairs

## **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

### **Office of the Commission**

Jeffrey S. Merrifield  
Commissioner

Margaret M. Doane  
Legal Assistant to Commissioner Merrifield

### **Office of the Executive Director for Operations**

Carl J. Paperiello  
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Research and State Programs

### **Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards**

Martin Virgilio  
Director, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)

John Greeves  
Director, Division of Waste Management (DWM)

Donald Cool  
Director, Division of Industrial  
and Medical Nuclear Safety (IMNS)

Michael Weber  
Director, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards (FCSS)

Charles Miller  
Deputy Director, Division of Spent Fuel Project Office, (SFPO)

John Hickey  
Chief, Materials Safety and Inspection Branch, (INMS)

Theodore S. Sherr  
Senior Technical Advisor  
and NMSS International Activities Liaison, (FCSS)

Giorgio Gnugnoli,  
Senior Systems Performance Analyst, (DWM)

Douglas Broaddus  
Regional Program Coordinator, (IMNS)

David Pstrak  
Transportation Specialist, (SFPO)

Kimberly Gruss  
Acting Technical Assistant to the Director, (SFPO)

#### Office of International Programs

Janice Dunn Lee  
Director, Office of International Programs, (OIP)

Kevin Burke  
Senior International Relations Officer, (OIP)

Suzanne McGuire  
International Relations Officer, (OIP)

#### Office of State and Tribal Programs

Josie Piccone  
Deputy Director, Office of State and Tribal Programs

Spiros Droggitis  
Senior Inter-Governmental Program Analyst

#### Region IV

William Maier  
Regional State Liaison Officer

#### Incident Response Operations

John MacKinnon  
Nuclear Systems Engineer