October 22, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: ACNW&M Members

FROM: Antonio F. Dias, Chief /***RA***/
Technical Support Branch, ACRS/ACNW&M

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF TRIP REPORT BY ACNW&M STAFF ON THE FIRST ANNUAL RADWASTE SUMMIT HELD IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA ON SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2007

Attached is a trip report by Dr. Latif Hamdan on his attendance, along with Committee Chairman Mike Ryan, of "The First Annual Radwaste Summit" on low level radioactive waste (LLW) held in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 4-7, 2007. The purpose of ACNW&M staff participation in this conference was to obtain information about current LLW issues and to identify LLW stakeholder contacts, in support of the Committee's ongoing LLW program activities.

Attachment: Trip Report

cc: F. Gillespie
C. Miller
L. Camper
K. McConnell
J. Kennedy
G. Deegan
B. Eid
ACNW&M Staff

MEMORANDUM TO: ACNW&M Members

FROM: Antonio F. Dias, Chief
Technical Support Branch, ACRS/ACNW&M

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF TRIP REPORT BY ACNW&M STAFF ON THE FIRST ANNUAL RADWASTE SUMMIT HELD IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA ON SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2007

Attached is a trip report by Dr. Latif Hamdan on his attendance, along with Committee Chairman Mike Ryan, of "The First Annual Radwaste Summit" on low level radioactive waste (LLW) held in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 4-7, 2007. The purpose of ACNW&M staff participation in this conference was to obtain information about current LLW issues and to identify LLW stakeholder contacts, in support of the Committee's ongoing LLW program activities.

Attachment: Trip Report

cc: F. Gillespie
C. Miller
L. Camper
K. McConnell
J. Kennedy
G. Deegan
B. Eid

ACNW&M Staff

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without enclosure **"E"** = Copy with enclosure **"N"** = No copy

g:\acnw secretary\acnw trip report\hamdan\trip report radwaste summit.doc

OFFICE	ACNW&M	C	ACNW&M		ACNW&M	
NAME	LHamdan		JFlack (SUNSI)			
DATE	10/9/07		10/23/07		10/22/07	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Trip Report
The First Radwaste Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada
September 4-7, 2007

Latif Hamdan, Senior Staff Scientist
Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials (ACNW&M)

ACNW&M staff member Dr. Latif Hamdan attended "The First Annual Radwaste Summit" on low-level radioactive waste (LLW) held in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 4-7, 2007. ACNW&M Chairman Dr. Michael Ryan presented a paper at the conference. The conference was organized by Exchange Monitor Publications & Forums (4455 Connecticut Ave, Washington, D.C.), with support from some private companies. The purpose of ACNW&M staff participation in this conference was to obtain information about current LLW issues and to identify LLW stakeholder contacts, in support of the Committee's ongoing LLW program activities.

1) Conference Overview

Exchange Monitor has been organizing and conducting annual LLW "Decisionmakers Forums" for many years, with a primary focus on the LLW compacts. The current meeting was apparently organized to attract greater and more diversified stakeholder participation. The conference attracted a broad audience, including government and private company representatives, and covered a large number of LLW topics. A complete list of covered topics are provided in the meeting agenda, which is available at the following Exchange Monitor web page (http://exchangemonitor.com/conferences/07/07radwaste/07radwaste_info.pdf).

Exchange Monitor indicated that the presentation view graphs will also be posted at the Exchange Monitor website (exchangemonitor.com), but that may take some time.

Conference attendance included 175 registered participants, representing the following organizations:

-Federal Government Agencies (U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Army including the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste and Materials (ACNW&M), and Government Accountability Office (GAO).

-States (Nevada and South Carolina)

-LLW Compacts (Rocky Mountain Compact, Atlantic Compact, Central Midwest Compact)

-Private Companies and Institutions, including Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc. (CRCPD), Cal Rad Forum, Nuclear Energy Institute, Energy Solutions, Waste Control Specialists, Perma-Fix, Visionary Solutions, Denison Mines USA Corp, Clean Harbors, Joseph Oat Corporation, American Radiation Services, Inc., Cabrera Services, Inc., Barlett Services, TerranearPMC),UniTech Services Group, Washington TRU Solutions, Environmental Rail Solutions, R&R Trucking, Western Sling & Supply Company, and CareerSmith.

-International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Most Participation was by DOE, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and private companies. DOE participation was especially significant, and included many representatives from DOE headquarters (Environmental Management Offices of Disposal operations, Compliance, and Transportation); and DOE field offices and sites (Nevada Test Site-NTS, West Valley, Richland, Idaho Operations Office, Carlsbad, Portsmouth, Oak Ridge, Idaho National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory).

The speakers discussed specific projects and programs, their views and perspectives, and the challenges they face in the area of LLW.

2) Potentially Useful LLW Stakeholder Contacts

Contact information including telephone numbers and/or email addresses for many of the contacts listed in this report are on file with the ACNW&M.

DOE Headquarters/Environmental Management (EM):
-Frank Marcinowski, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Regulatory Compliance
-Christine Gelles, Director, Office of Disposal Operations
-Karen Guevara, Director, Office of Compliance
-Brady Lester, Office of Transportation
-DOUG Tonkay, LLW Lead
-James Joyce, Lead ,Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) Waste
-Alton Harris, TRU Lead

DOE Field Offices and Sites:
-Jhon Carilli & Frank Di Sanza, NTS
-Dan Sullivan, West Valley
-Mike Collins, Richland
-Mark Arenaz, Idaho Operations Office
-Joy Sagar, Oak ridge
-Vernon Daub, Carlsbad
-Jack Zimerman, Portsmouth/Paducah

NRC:
-Keith McConnell and Jim Kennedy, DWMEP, FSME
-Michael Ryan and Latif Hamdan (ACNW&M)

EPA:
-Bonnie Gittlin, Associate Director, Radiation Protection Division, Office of Radiation and Air

Rocky Mountain Compact:
-Leonard Slosky, Executive Director

Atlantic Compact:
-Max Batavia, Executive Director

Central Midwest Compact:
-Marcia Marr, Executive Director

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
-Suzanne Beauchamp, Julie Clements, Brian Hearty, Hans Honerlah (Baltimore),

Conference on Radiation Control program Directors (CRCPD):
-Ruth McBurney, Executive Director

State of Nevada:
-Tim Murphy, Chief, Federal Facilities Bureau, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

State of S. Carolina:
-Bill Newberry, SC Budget & Control Board

-Richard Haynes, Director, Division of Waste Management, SC Department of Health & Environmental Control

Government Accountability Office:
-Thomas Laetz

IAEA:
-Didier Louvat, Haeda, Waste Safety Section, Radiation, Transport & Waste Division, Department of safety & Security

Monitor Exchange Publications & Forums:
-Edward Helminski, President

3) Observations and Comments

There is a need for disposal facilities for Class B&C waste. The planned closure of the Barnwell LLW disposal site to States outside the Atlantic compact on June 30, 2008 will leave LLW radioactive waste generators in many States without any disposal options for Class B&C waste. Current inventories and volumes of newly generated waste in these categories are not very large, but in the absence of access to disposal sites, they constitute a problem. In addition, volumes of newly generated waste are expected to increase in the future. As an interim measure, current generators without a disposal option will have to store the waste on site. Alternative interim measures could include disposal at Federal Government facilities such as disposal sites at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). But as some meeting participants have observed, sooner or later one or more facilities for disposal of Class B&C LLW waste will need to be developed, possibly including a national disposal facility. The latter may require amending the LLW Policy Act of 1980/1985 because current statutes assign this responsibility to the States rather than the Federal Government.

There is a need also for management and control of “orphaned wastes”. According to DOE, orphaned wastes are wastes with no clear pathway for disposition, disposal, treatment, or transportation. Both radioactive sources and GTCC waste are considered orphaned wastes by DOE, and current plan by DOE is to complete a final environmental impact statement (EIS) and to dispose of the orphaned wastes in its inventory at a disposal site at the NTS in 2010. In addition, it was indicated that 240-250 commercial radioactive sources are reported lost every year. There are some efforts to register and track these sources by different government agencies as well as the CRCPD, but these efforts do not evaluate the risks associated with the radioactive sources currently in use, and they are not sufficiently integrated. This is a small but not an insignificant problem that, sooner or later, will have to be addressed.

4) Suggested Committee Action

The Committee could offer advice to the Commission with regard to the role that the NRC may want to have in: (a) developing a national solution for disposition of Class B, C and GTCC waste; and (b) evaluating the risks associated with the radioactive sources currently in use, and integrating activities to identify, register, and track radioactive sources.