

April 15, 2010

Ms. Susan M. Jablonski, PE, Director
Radioactive Materials Division
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087 MS 122
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Ms. Jablonski:

We are inviting you to participate as a session co-chair and speaker at the upcoming **Workshop on Engineered Barrier Performance** being held at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Headquarters Auditorium on August 3 -5, 2010. As you know, this workshop is to facilitate communication among technical experts, and Federal and State regulators. Your knowledge and experience in regulating facilities involving radioactive materials would greatly contribute to the discussions and technical exchanges at the workshop. The success of this workshop relies upon obtaining high quality speakers and participants such as you.

Your work in organizing Session 1 that focuses on experiences of the States in regulating facilities involving engineered covers and bottom liners has been very productive. The enclosed workshop prospectus reflects your valuable contribution. We are requesting your continued participation by attending the workshop as a presenter and co-chair of Session 1 with Dr. Stephen Salomon, Intergovernmental Liaison Branch, Division of Intergovernmental Liaison and Rulemaking, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs of NRC.

We look forward to seeing you in Rockville, Maryland.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry W. Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Enclosure:
Workshop Prospectus

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Radioactive Materials Division
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DATE	04/13/10	04/14/10	04/14/10	04/15/10

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Prospectus for

Workshop on Engineered Barrier Performance Related to Low-Level Radioactive Waste, Decommissioning, and Uranium Mill Tailings Facilities

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Offices of *Nuclear Regulatory Research* (RES) and the *Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs* (FSME) are organizing a *Workshop on Engineered Barrier Performance Related to Low-Level Radioactive Waste, Decommissioning and Uranium Mill Tailings Facilities*. This workshop is being coordinated with the States (e.g., Texas, South Carolina, Utah, Colorado, and Washington) and Federal Agencies (e.g., DOE, EPA, USGS, and National Laboratories).

Technical Topics:

Workshop will focus on engineered surface covers and bottom liners designed to isolate waste by impeding surface water from infiltrating into the waste systems or by retarding the migration of contaminants from the waste disposal site. Topics will include engineered barrier performance, modeling, monitoring, and regulatory experiences with LLRW, decommissioning, and uranium mill tailings management.

Workshop Dates: August 3-5, 2010

Location: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters Auditorium,
11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

Attendance: Participants will include invited speakers and panelists; and Federal and State staff and contractors, selected experts, representatives from affected Tribes, and NRC technical staff and management. The public is welcome to attend and observe.

Registration: No registration fee, but prior registration is required due to NRC security.

Documentation: Extended abstracts and PowerPoint presentations are requested 3 weeks prior to the workshop (by close of business on July 8, 2010).

Proceedings: NUREG/CP publication of revised extended abstracts with supporting technical references, Websites and URL addresses, and the workshop summary of significant insights and recommendations which will be posted on the NRC Public Website.

Workshop Objective:

Facilitate communication among Federal and State staff and contractors, and selected experts, on current engineered barrier issues and technical and regulatory experiences; discuss lessons learned and new approaches for monitoring and modeling; prepare recommendations to address maintenance of engineered barrier performance over time; identify topics for future research and the potential need to update technical guidance.

Enclosure

Current Workshop Organizing Committee:

Susan Jablonski (State of Texas, TCEQ)
 Craig Benson (Univ. of Wisconsin)
 W. Jody Waugh (SM Stoller for DOE-LM)
 William Albright (Desert Research Institute)
 Brian Andraski (USGS),
 Steve Rock (EPA-Cincinnati), and
 U.S. NRC staff: Thomas Nicholson, Hans Arlt, Stephen Salomon, Jacob Philip,
 David Esh, George Alexander, and Mark Fuhrmann

Program Format:

- Introductory session to present workshop objectives, technical themes and topics, and goals.
- Working sessions will include:
 - Session 1 - State and Federal agencies presenting an overview of their research activities and findings with an emphasis on practical insights on monitoring, modeling and confirming short- and long-term performance of engineered systems.
Session Chairs: Susan Jablonski, State of Texas; Stephen Salomon and Jacob Philip, NRC
 - Session 2 - Degradation Processes and Performance Evolution of Engineered Barriers
Session Chairs: Craig Benson, U. of Wisconsin and W. Jody Waugh, S.M. Stoller LLC
 - Session 3 - Experience with Monitoring Devices and Systems Used to Measure Performance
Session Chairs: William Albright, DRI/UNV and Craig Benson, UWI
 - Session 4 - Modeling Experiences in the Design, Performance Assessment and Evaluation of Performance Monitoring to Simulate Variably-Saturated Flow, Contaminant Transport, Degradation, and Erosion in Barrier Systems.
Session Chairs: David Esh, NRC/FSME and Thomas Nicholson, NRC/RES
 - Session 5 - Experience with Model Support and Performance Confirmation to Gain Confidence in the Long-Term Performance.
Session Chairs: Hans Arlt, NRC/FSME and George Alexander, NRC/FSME
 - Session 6 - Recommendations on Assessing Engineered Barrier Performance, Identifying Future Research Needs, and Improving Guidance Documents.
Session Chairs: Thomas Nicholson, NRC/RES and Hans Arlt, NRC/FSME

- At the end of each working session, a panel discussion will respond to questions and will review significant insights and recommendation to be summarized for discussion in the final session.
- Summary session to review working session discussions and to document their significant insights and recommendations for incorporation into the workshop proceedings.