

TRIP REPORT: 12th Annual Meeting of the Forum on Stakeholder Confidence

Traveler, Office, Division, Phone Number:

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Subject:

12th annual meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Forum on Stakeholder Confidence (FSC).

Dates of Travel and Countries/Organizations Visited:

September 12-15, 2011. OECD/NEA, France.

Desired Outcome:

Represent the U.S. and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) as FSC chairman and member of the FSC core group at the 12th annual meeting of the FSC; present recent draft recommendation of the U.S. Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future regarding a consent-based approach to siting radioactive waste management facilities.

Results Achieved:

Desired results were achieved. Leadership of FSC, as well as participation in the annual meeting and ancillary discussions, strengthen existing networks for sharing experiences and effective means for engaging stakeholders on issues of radioactive waste management and disposal; Considerable interest was expressed in the status of the draft BRC findings.

Summary of Trip:

Between September 13 and 15, 2011, I represented the U.S. and NRC as chairman at successive OECD/NEA meetings in Paris, France. I chaired the 12th annual meeting of the FSC. Immediately before the FSC annual meeting, on September 12, I met with the NEA Secretariat to complete last minute meeting preparations, and immediately upon adjournment of the FSC meeting on September 15, I presided at a meeting of the FSC core group. As Chair, I opened the annual meeting by introducing Mr. Yoshimura, Deputy Director-General for Safety of the NEA, who welcomed the 34 participants from 14 countries.

In reviewing FSC activities since the September 2010 annual meeting, the FSC heard presentations reflecting on the FSC 10-year Anniversary Colloquium and joint reflections on the May 2011 workshop, held in Östhammar, Sweden. The 8th FSC National Workshop and Community Visit were held May 4-6, 2011, in Gimo, near Östhammar, Sweden. The Swedish National Council for Nuclear Waste, Östhammar municipality, the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB) and the Swedish radiation Safety Authority (SSM) assisted FSC in organization and logistics and provided financial support for the workshop. The workshop theme was, "Actual Implementation of a Spent Nuclear Fuel Repository: Seizing Opportunities." 90 people participated, 63 from Sweden and 27 from 12 other countries. They included representatives of local, regional and national government, civil society organizations, environmental groups, universities, waste management agencies and regulatory authorities. A

workshop synthesis report will be issued by the end of 2011. Attendees also heard a presentation about, and discussed plans for, the 9th FSC National Workshop and Community Visit, proposed for the Czech Republic, in October 2012. It was decided that this workshop will be held the week of October 22, 2012, and will be held in conjunction with the FSC annual meeting that year.

The meeting included four topical sessions of interest: *“Anticipating and Preparing for the Future: Reflections of Social Networking and ICT in Civil Society;”* *“Adapting to Change as an Organizational Goal;”* *“Multi-Level Governance: Linking National and Regional/Local Levels in a Siting Process;”* and *“Siting Theory, and Concept of a Willing Host.”* During the third topical session, as FSC chair, I delivered a presentation, *“A Consent-based Approach to Facility siting: Enhancing the Role of Local, State and Tribal Governments—Observations about recent draft recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future.”*

[[ML112700373](#)] I discussed the first of the seven key recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission, and its basis with regard to the need to construct an adaptive, staged and consent-based approach. To be successful, I explained that the Blue Ribbon Commission found that a siting strategy must provide, not only a creative approach to benefits, but also a meaningful role for multiple levels of local and regional governance, when locating a disposal facility for radioactive waste.

Throughout the meeting, discussion of key concepts (e.g., *“transparency,” “ownership vs. acceptance,” “local community,” etc.*) was guided by a new FSC Glossary Handbook, first circulated in April 2011. During this meeting of the FSC, members were encouraged to make the link with Glossary entries and propose new wording or new entries where appropriate. This proved to be a surprisingly effective device for fostering, sustaining and linking dialogue among the members throughout the meeting.

FSC received draft versions of two more informational flyers about FSC, its activities and findings. The subjects of these were: *“Transparency”* and *“Symbolic Dimension.”* Both were approved for further development and comment by the members. Members agreed that FSC flyers represent an important mechanism for FSC, in addition to its many published reports and proceedings of its meetings and workshops, to make accessible the knowledge and lessons FSC has acquired over the past eleven years.

Pending Actions/Planned Next Steps for NRC:

The FSC National Workshop and Community Visit will be combined with the FSC annual meeting in 2012. The 13th FSC annual meeting will be held in Prague, October 22-23, 2012, to be followed by the 9th FSC National Workshop and Community Visit in the Czech Republic, October 24-26, 2012. The tentative theme will be *“Transparency in Siting Radioactive Waste Disposal Facilities.”*

Points for Commission Consideration/Interest:

The content of this report may be of interest to the Commission and it is recommended that it be forwarded to the Commission.