

NRC INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TRIP REPORT

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Subject:

International Radiation Protection Association 13th Congress

Dates of Travel and Countries/Organizations Visited:

May 11 – 19, 2012, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Desired Outcome:

As members of the NRC delegation, engage international counterparts to develop new connections and information in the various areas of expertise and activities, including techniques for stakeholder interactions, benefits and impacts of increasing alignment of U.S. regulations to international recommendations, safety culture, use of the INES scale, techniques to enhance radiological risk communications, and internal and external dosimetry in events.

Results Achieved:

The travelers successfully engaged in a wide variety of discussions, providing information on NRC activities, obtaining information that can be used in NRC programs and activities, and strengthening contacts and opportunities for future collaboration.

Summary of Trip:

The 13th Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA) was held in Glasgow, Scotland May 14 – 18, 2012. The theme of the Congress was “Living with Radiation – Engaging with Society”. A total of 1,500 individuals attended the Congress from 77 different countries. More than 70 vendor displays were also available during breaks and poster viewing sessions. The Society for Radiological Protection (SRP) of the United Kingdom was the host society for the Congress. As special event during the Congress, the SRP organized a presentation and technical exhibit for secondary education students. A total of 1,200 students from all over Scotland attend these activities. During the Congress, NRC staff made two poster presentations (ADAMS ML12125A105, ML12123A185), four oral presentations (ML12118A252,

ML12146A078, ML12124A215, ML 12124A220), chaired one technical session, and presented one refresher course (ML12122B016). In addition, Commissioner William Magwood spoke during the final plenary session on “Lessons and Challenges following the Fukushima Accident”.

The Congress used a combination of plenary sessions, technical sessions, symposia, poster sessions and current issues discussions to develop 12 technical areas.

1. Biological and Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation
2. Measurements and Dosimetry
3. Radiation Protection System Development and Implementation
4. Stakeholder Engagement and Involvement
5. Non-ionizing Radiation
6. Planned Exposure Situations: Industry and Research
7. Planned Exposure Situations: Medical
8. Waste Management
9. Emergency Exposure Situations
10. Existing Exposure Situations
11. Protection of the Environment
12. Fukushima

The program, abstracts, papers, posters, podcasts, and PowerPoint presentations have been, or shortly will be made publically available for download on the IRPA13 web site:

www.IRPA13glasgow.com. The final program for the Congress is provided as Attachment 1 (ML12146A079). Given the volume of other materials available, they have not been attached. For the first time, three of the sessions were webcast, so that IRPA sessions could be participated in by individuals and organizations that were not able to personally attend. Questions and comments could be provided in real time using Twitter and email. A summary of the information and challenges was presented in the final session of the Congress. This summary will be made available on the website for input by attendees, and will be further developed into a paper to be published in the Journal of Radiological Protection later this year.

The Congress provided an exceptional opportunity for travelers to professionally interface and network with counterparts from all over the world on a wide range of topics. The staff was frequently engaged in extended discussions where individuals from other countries were interested in the activities and work of the NRC. Further, the NRC staff was able to develop contacts and information on programs within other national authorities, within various industries using radiation and radioactive material, and within various international multilateral organizations. The active participation of senior NRC staff was greatly appreciated by the program committee and by other attendees. Continued participation in IRPA activities is recommended, through the Health Physics Society (the Associate Society representative in the United States). Participation and attendance is also recommended for the next Congress, IRPA14, to be held in 2016. The venue will be Cape Town, South Africa.

Pending Actions/Planned Next Steps for NRC:

There are no specific pending actions from the IRPA13 Congress. Ongoing and planned future work will benefit from the contacts and information gained during the Congress

Points for Commission Consideration/Interest:

The content of this report may be of interest to the Commission and it is recommended that the report be forwarded to the Commission. Commissioner Magwood attended a portion of the Congress and spoke during a plenary session. There are no areas in which Commission action is required.

“On the Margins”: (this section is optional)

None

Attachments: (this section is optional)

Attachment 1: Final Program (ML12146A079)