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Message from the NTSF Chair

by Michael Wangler (mike.wangler@doe.em.gov), Chair, National Transportation Stakeholders Forum, U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM)

Welcome to the second edition of the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) Newsletter. We have some exciting articles in this edition.

In June 2016, we held our Annual Meeting of the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum. It was very successful as more than 200 of our federal, state, tribal, and industry colleagues participated in three days of meetings, plenary sessions on waste transportation, topical breakout sessions, and training activities. The meeting was hosted by the Southern States Energy Board and its outstanding staff members. Mr. Ron Johnson of the Prairie Island Indian Community served as the Master of Ceremonies. More detailed information about this meeting can be found in a separate article later in this Newsletter.

As this annual meeting sunned, planning had already begun for the 2017 annual meeting. Next year, the meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the Sheraton Pittsburgh at Station Square on June 6-8, 2017. You will receive specific information about registration and hotel reservations at a later date.

As we plan for this meeting, we will be looking to you for suggestions for meeting content, particularly in topics for our breakout sessions. Please contact your Tribal Caucus or State Regional Group affiliate or me (mail to: mike.wangler@em.doe.gov) directly and we will include your suggestions in our regular Planning Committee meetings.

Finally, as you read this newsletter, please consider how you can contribute to future issues. While we have an internal process for getting regular articles, we want the Newsletter to be more about you than the NTSF itself. So, please submit to us any ideas and potential articles for future issues. We welcome your feedback on the style and content of the articles.

This newsletter is available through email distribution, and will be published on the NTSF wiki site located at ntsf.wikidot.com. Archived copies will also be made available on the wiki site.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

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NTSF Updates

Section 180(c) Ad Hoc Working Group

by Erica Bickford (erica.bickford@nuclear.energy.gov), Physical Scientist, U.S. Department of Energy-Office of Nuclear Energy

The Section 180(c) Ad Hoc Working Group (AHWG) wrapped up their Proposed Policy Implementation Exercise (Exercise) in June. The year and a half-long paperwork Exercise walked through mock applications for the Section 180(c) technical assistance and training funding program as proposed in the 2008 Federal Register Notice. A lessons learned document has been assembled from the Exercise, with input from the Exercise volunteers. DOE plans to offer an NTSF webinar on the lessons learned from the Section 180(c) Exercise later in the fall. Next steps for the Section 180(c) AHWG will address some of the lessons learned from the Exercise, including developing a proposed grant application template, evaluating the Section 180(c) funding formula proposed by the states, and coordinating with the TEPP AHWG on development of training modules specific to spent nuclear fuel transport by rail.
SNF Rail/Routing Ad Hoc Working Group

by Erica Bickford (erica.bickford@nuclear.energy.gov), Physical Scientist, U.S. Department of Energy-Office of Nuclear Energy

The Spent Nuclear Fuel Rail/Routing Ad Hoc Working Group is continuing to make progress on development of a draft reciprocal rail inspection protocol for a spent nuclear fuel rail transportation campaign, and understanding railroad infrastructure, operations and regulations and how they affect route selection. The AHWG will be holding an in-person meeting at the end of November in conjunction with the Midwest Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee meeting in St. Louis. The meeting will include updates on ongoing work, and a rail-related fieldtrip in the St. Louis area.

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2016 NTSF Post Meeting Update

by Christopher U. Wells, (wells@sseb.org), Assistant Director, Nuclear Programs, Southern States Energy Board

The 2016 National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF) concluded on June 9th. The seventh Annual Meeting of the Forum yielded an attendance of more than 200 participants. According to the post meeting survey results, the event overall was considered to be a success. Respondents were very positive in regard to the meeting location, hotel, surrounding venue and the pre-meeting correspondence. The speakers and topics featured during the plenaries, breakouts and keynotes also received favorable remarks. In addition, representatives found their individual state regional group meeting/tribal caucus to be particularly useful as it pertains to formulating strategy and dialoging with federal partners regarding policy issues. However, there were minor reported conflicts with working group involvement due to registrants being members of multiple groups. The response data also revealed topics of interest for future webinars such as response to a rail accident and Greater-Than-Class C Low-Level Radioactive Waste Environmental Impact Statement and Report to Congress. The NTSF Planning Committee has made note of the logistical feedback and will work diligently to resolve concerns and implement suggestions before next year's gathering.

The Southern States Energy Board and the Tribal Caucus, 2016 co-hosts, have passed the ceremonial baton to the Council of State Governments' Northeastern Office for the planning of the 2017 NTSF to be held on June 6-8th in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Thanks to all who attended the Forum and please be cognizant of future correspondence regarding this event; as always, we strongly encourage you to continue supporting the efforts of the NTSF!

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Photo 1: Attendees of the June 2016 National Transportation Stakeholders Forum held in Orlando Florida.

Photo 2: Display booths at the 2016 National Transportation Stakeholders Forum displaying information for satellite tracking and commercial vehicle inspections.
State Regional Group Updates

Radiation Specialist Training for our Hazardous Materials Responders

by Tammy Ottmer (tammy.ottmer@state.co.us), WIPP Program Manager, Colorado State Patrol, Co-Chair of the Information and Communications Ad Hoc Working Group

Colorado hosted the US Dept. of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management (EM) Radiation Specialist Course from August 1 – 5, 2016. The course was held at the Boulder County Regional Fire Training Center in Boulder, Colorado.

This course was designed to meet the training competencies outlined in the 2013 version of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 472, Chapter 18 Competencies for the Hazardous Materials Technician with a Radioactive Material Specialty. Through successful completion of the training, Specialists gain the ability to provide support to hazardous materials technicians by the use of specialized radiation detection instruments. These Specialists also learn how to manage the control of radiation exposure and conduct hazards assessments at a radiological incident, making them an even greater asset should an accident occur.

High activity “live” radiation sources were utilized during this training. As a result, course participants had the opportunity to maintain proficiency in use of their jurisdiction’s radiological survey instrumentation. Another key element of the course involved repeated use of high-level mathematical calculations with an emphasis on reasoning and understanding of the scientific principles about the nature of radioactivity.

While Hazardous Material Technicians were recruited from across the nation, most attended from Colorado and Wyoming. The course drew interest from both untrained and already trained Specialists who wished to attend in order to keep their skills fine-tuned.

The instructional team was provided through coordination with DOE/EM Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP) Central Operations. Expert instructors Tom Clawson, Mark Linsley, and Ken Keaton provided exceptional guidance and training for course attendees.

A special thanks to the USDOE/EM and Western Governors’ Association for their support of this course!
As a condition for renewal of dry cask storage system specific and general licenses, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is evaluating extended storage of spent nuclear fuel and has identified chloride induced stress corrosion cracking in marine environments as a degradation mechanism that warrants further research. Research conducted by the industry will inform the License Renewal Applications (LRAs) that Specific Licenses and Certificate of Compliance (CoC) holders must submit in order to renew these licenses.

As part of its aging management program and in preparation for the LRA to be submitted by NAC (Maine Yankee’s cask system supplier) to the NRC, Maine Yankee performed a cask lid lift in July to inspect this bolted joint which functions to keep weather and unwanted moisture from inside the cask system. On July 11, Maine Yankee removed a cask lid, as illustrated in the first photo, on one of the vertical concrete casks that housed the cut up internals of the reactor pressure vessel (referred to as Greater than Class C waste) to inspect the bolted joint.

In addition, a demonstration of a first of its kind robotic camera system for inspecting dry storage canisters was conducted by a team from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Robotic Technologies of Tennessee and General Electric. The Maine Yankee field demonstration drew considerable interest since it was the first time this demonstration was being conducted on an in-service canister. There were representatives from NAC International, the canister manufacturer, NRC Headquarters’ staff, the State of Maine, nuclear utility representatives from Duke Energy and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Structural Integrity Associates and Sandia National Laboratories.

The Maine Yankee demonstration used two cameras mounted on a small, four-wheeled robot as an inspection tool for future canister inspections. The second photo shows the miniaturized robot without the camera hook-up. The robot had magnetic wheels so it could adhere to the painted carbon steel liner of the cask itself. Prior to inserting the robotic camera assembly through an outlet vent as shown in the third photo, radiation surveys were performed inside the vents at arm’s length with the highest recorded reading at 3.5 mR/hr. In three of the top vents, the camera was inserted the full length (approximately 14 feet) of the canister. The camera video footage was recorded and pictures could be taken at
any time. Internal radiation surveys were also performed with the robot the full length of the canister from the same three top vents. The highest recorded reading was 89.54 R/hr in the north vent about four feet from the bottom. The robotic demonstration continued the next day with additional camera footage taken at two of the four inlet vents on the bottom of the cask. Hand surveys of the insides of the bottom vents measured as high as 110 mR/hr.

Surface salt testing was also performed by Maine Yankee and their consultant, Ransom Environmental of Portland, Maine. Field testing for surface salts used an Elcometer salt contamination meter and is shown on the fourth and fifth photos. Salt levels of 0.5 and 0.7 μg/cm² were reported on the shield plug underneath the cover. Salt levels of 0.0 - 0.2 μg/cm² were reported for the top outlet vents. Salt testing was also performed inside the inlet vents and was also performed on two spent fuel vertical concrete casks. The highest spent fuel cask reading with the Elcometer was 1.1 μg/cm². All salt levels appear to be very low. Additional samples were taken and sent for offsite laboratory analysis.

In the coming months, EPRI and Maine Yankee will be evaluating and reporting on the information collected by this effort which will add knowledge to government and industry alike on extending the licensed operating period of dry storage systems for spent nuclear fuel.

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WIPP Exercise and Outreach in the South

by Christopher U. Wells, (wells@sseb.org), Assistant Director, Nuclear Programs, Southern States Energy Board

Although the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) site in Carlsbad, New Mexico, has not received a shipment since the beginning of 2014, all signs point to a restart within the December 2016 - June 2017 timeframe. In the meanwhile, the Department has emphasized a culture of safety by continuing bolting operations, installing a new ventilation system, repairing and upgrading fire suppressions systems and adopting a revised Waste Acceptance Criteria. Another major improvement included the completed construction of a new Emergency Operations Center.

As we draw nearer to the reopening of the site and subsequent re-initiation of the WIPP campaign, SSEB’s TRU corridor states have remained in a stance of preparedness. Officials in Texas are presently planning a WIPPTREX in the city of Big Spring, which is located along the I-20 corridor in the central western part of the state, to simulate an accident involving a TRU shipment and test the capabilities of their responders. Local agencies participating in the exercise began holding planning meetings in April 2016 and were very receptive and eager to support the drill. These agencies have started developing objectives and a draft scenario outlining goals to be achieved during the exercise. In addition, they have requested training from the DOE-Carlsbad Field Office (DOE-CBFO) for their hospitals and public information officers. The current schedule included a previous Tabletop WIPPTREX held on October 5, 2016, and the Full-Scale WIPPTREX to be held on November 9, 2016.

Finally, as a precursor to the resumption of shipments, SSEB is currently coordinating with its member states and DOE-CBFO to conduct a southern corridor roadshow in the first quarter of 2017. This event would involve the WIPP truck and transportation packages traversing the region and stopping in each corridor state to offer presentations/displays,
mock inspections, briefings to the general public and/or public officials and discuss training. This public outreach effort will allow interested parties to learn more about the project and how SSEB coordinates with the states to create a successful transportation program.

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The Midwest Co-Hosts DOE Transportation Core Group Meeting in Chicago

by Katelyn Tye, (ktye@csg.org), Policy Analyst, The Council of State Governments Midwest

On August 17-18, 2016 the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (MRMTC) co-chairs and staff co-hosted the DOE Transportation Core Group meeting in Chicago.

Meeting attendees took part in a variety of business sessions and heard updates on the Nuclear Fuels Storage & Transportation Planning Project.

The business-related discussion largely centered on the activities that will take place under new cooperative agreements between DOE and the state regional groups (SRGs) and the Tribal Caucus. Under the agreements, SRG and Tribal Caucus activities will fall under one of two categories: principal program tasks (DOE-directed) and targeted program tasks (proposed by states/Tribes). The targeted program tasks proposed by the Midwest, which will take place over the five-year cooperative agreement period, include:

- Updating the 2005 route identification report, using routes to two proposed, privately-owned disposal sites in west Texas (Waste Control Specialists) and southeast New Mexico (Holtec/AREVA/Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance);
- Organizing a trip to tour WIPP once operations resume and tours are available;
- Tracking of state and federal legislation; and
- Providing staff support to NTSF ad hoc working groups.

During other meeting sessions, DOE staff shared plans to develop new public communications materials related to the consent-based siting initiative and transportation of spent nuclear fuel. The development process will include a much-appreciated step for DOE to gather input from NTSF participants on draft communication materials.

An exciting announcement related to consent-based siting was that a submission by MRMTC co-chair Kelly Horn inspired the title for the Department's summary report on public input received on the consent-based siting initiative, thus far. A draft of the report, entitled, "Designing a Consent-Based Siting Process: Summary of Public Input," has been released in conjunction with a meeting held last September 15, 2016. During the meeting, DOE officials summarized the comments received and discussed next steps in designing a consent-based siting process.

One action item that came out of the Transportation Core Group meeting was for the SRGs and Tribal Caucus to review the draft consultation and cooperation paper that was recently completed by the State and Tribal Transportation Consultation Working Group (a subgroup of the Transportation Core Group). In the works for many months, the paper lays out a mutually agreeable approach to "consultation and cooperation" between DOE, Tribes, and states for DOE's commercial spent fuel transportation program. Ken Niles (Oregon) and Lisa Janairo were the SRG representatives on the working group. Comments on the paper were due at the end of September.

The Transportation Core Group’s next meeting will take place early next March in Washington, D.C.
Tribal Caucus Updates: Canadian Repatriation Campaign Faces Opposition of High-Level Nuclear Waste Shipments

by Katie Meehan (katie.meehan@ncsl.org), Research Analyst, National Conference of State Legislatures
Contributions by Anthony Memmo (Anthony.memmo@sni.org), Incident Management, Seneca Nations of Indians

Recently, the focus for Western New York is the Canadian Repatriation Campaign. The Campaign seeks to ship high-level nuclear waste from the Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario to the Savannah River Nuclear Site in South Carolina. The shipments, scheduled to begin this September, were initially delayed due to protests by local politicians and environmental coalitions.

Further delays are now expected because of additional protests. Several environmental organizations recently filed a lawsuit claiming the Department of Energy (DOE) failed to provide adequate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents required by law and did not implement the necessary public notification and comment period. Among those in opposition is Representative Brian Higgins (D-Buffalo), who sponsored H.R. 3350, a Congressional Resolution requiring a “terror threat assessment” prior to the transportation of hazardous materials. The resolution passed the House last year, but remains stalled in a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

DOE completed a supplemental analysis of the proposed transportation plan, providing emergency responders in all affected areas are trained to deal with radiological accidents. However, those in opposition see the shipments to be a threat to the environment, to public safety, and to national security.

For additional information on the current state of affairs, view this recent Buffalo News article.

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Federal Updates, Notices, and Announcements

NEW IMPROVED PHMSA Hazardous Materials Transportation Training Modules

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (PHMSA/DOT) has announce that the NEW IMPROVED PHMSA Hazardous Materials Transportation Training Modules are now live, at the following URL:

http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/outreach-training/training-modules

The new, online system includes a username/password log-in that allows for the tracking of progress through the nine hazardous materials training modules. Users will be able to retrieve certificates of completion for each module and provide them to their hazmat employer to satisfy the requirement for general awareness and familiarization training per 49 C.F.R. § 172.704. Note that the hazmat employer determines the acceptable passing score for their employees for each module.

PHMSA/DOT encourages everyone to take a look at the modules and pass this information along to any interested stakeholders. This program is currently in Phase 1, and in the near future they plan to add functionality enhancements, and more training resources to further assist the regulated community.

Finally, PHMSA/DOT has advised to be aware that these modules will replace the former PowerPoint downloads previously available, and offline versions can be made available by request only. Student workbooks are also available on the training site.

Please send any questions, comments, or report bugs or errors that you find to: Training@dot.gov

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The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board met in Washington, D.C., on August 24, 2016, to review U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) activities related to managing commercial and defense spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and defense high-level radioactive waste (HLW). The main focus of the meeting was on DOE’s efforts to integrate its programs for managing and transporting a variety of canisters for SNF and HLW from their current storage locations to an interim storage site and/or a deep geologic repository. Specific topics included descriptions of various canisters for storing and transporting SNF and HLW; nuclear industry perspectives on DOE’s efforts to develop standardized canisters for commercial SNF; and a discussion of the experience of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program in transporting naval SNF. DOE’s early planning for the development of a separate repository for defense wastes was also briefly discussed.

Featured speakers included Mr. John Kotek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, and Mr. Mark Whitney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management.

The meeting notice, agenda, and presentations, and a video recording of the meeting webcast are available on the Board’s web site: http://www.nwtrb.gov/meetings/meetings.html.


Editor’s Note: This year’s REG CON will now take place on Wednesday & Thursday, December 7 – 8, 2016. For updates on this year’s REG CON you can visit their public website at http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/dsfm.html.
The new structure, finalized in late July, is expected to address inefficiencies such as duplicative processes; disproportionate senior leadership reporting ratios; and a critical lack of clarity in roles, responsibilities and lines of authority.

“The recent reorganization of EM headquarters is intended to place field operations at the center of our organizational structure. This will help further improve our ability to aid the field, where our mission execution occurs,” EM Assistant Secretary Monica Regalbuto said.

The core of the reorganization is the consolidation of EM headquarters’ previous set of seven mission units and mission support offices into three new offices led by a new set of Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretaries.

“These new positions are critical to our plans for clarifying roles and responsibilities and establishing clear lines of authority and accountability,” EM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney said.

The new Field Operations Office, led by Stacy Charboneau, oversees the various EM field offices, as well as EM’s technology development efforts; analysis and engineering for major capital projects; and safety, security, and quality assurance programs. Charboneau last served as the Manager of the Richland Operations Office at Hanford, and has more than 20 years of experience managing projects involving nuclear operations, construction, environmental remediation and deactivation and demolition.

The new Regulatory and Policy Affairs Office, led by Frank Marcinowski, supports complex-wide infrastructure management and disposition issues; waste and materials management; and regulatory and stakeholder engagement. Marcinowski last held the positions of acting Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management in the previous EM headquarters organization. He has more than 27 years of experience ensuring the safe use, management and oversight of radioactive and nuclear materials, and has extensive expertise in environmental policy development and governmental affairs on a national, regional and local level.

The new Corporate Services Office, led by Candice Trummell, oversees acquisition and project management; budget and planning activities; workforce management, information technology and communications. Trummell last served as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Deputy Secretary of Energy, and has nearly 15 years of experience managing critical business functions, communications, stakeholder engagement and Congressional relations.

Other significant changes at EM headquarters as a result of the reorganization include:

• The creation of a new Chief Engineer Office, which is responsible for providing technical engineering support to sites across the EM complex and guidance on major construction and commissioning activities.

• Strengthened alignment of the procurement and project management activities of EM headquarters and EM Consolidated Business Center (EMCBC) personnel by integrating contracting and project management support. Ralph Holland will serve as both the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Project Management and Director of EMCBC. Holland was named EMCBC Director in August 2015, and has served in various contracting, supervisory, and management positions within DOE over the last 20 years.

• The creation of a new Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL) Policy Office, led by Mark Gilbertson. This office is responsible for the development of EM policies related to the management and operation of SRNL. Gilbertson previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Restoration in the previous EM headquarters organization, and has previously held a variety of senior-level positions at EM headquarters.

*Editor-in-Chief’s Notes: The organizational flowchart pictured above can be found at the following link: http://energy.gov/em/about-us/office-environmental-management-em-organization-chart
PHMSA 22-16: DOT Announces over $20 Million in Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grants to States, Territories, and Tribes

Contact: Artealia Gilliard, Tel.: (202) 366-4831

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) today announced it is issuing $20.4 million in Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants to states, territories, and Native American tribes to enhance their ability to respond to hazardous materials transportation incidents. The grants allow emergency response personnel to maintain the safety of themselves and the public when responding to hazardous materials related emergencies.

The HMEP grant program is part of DOT's comprehensive approach to improving the safe transportation of crude oil and other hazardous material across the country. PHMSA's HMEP grants program allows recipients to design and implement planning and training programs according to their specific needs. The complete story including individual tribal and state grants can be found at http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/phmsa-awards-20m-in-hazmat-emergency-preparedness-grants-to-states-territories-and-tribes.

Who We Are: OST, Office of Secure Transportation, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)

by John Bobst (john.bobst@nnsa.doe.gov), Office of Secure Transportation, Liaison Operations Program Manager, NNSA

Who we are:
The Office of Secure Transportation (OST) is managed by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The OST mission is to provide safe and secure transportation of nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons components, and special nuclear material in support of the national security of the United States of America.

What we do:
Nuclear cargo is transported in highly modified secure tractor-trailers and escorted by armed Federal Agents who provide security and function within the National Incident Management Systems / Incident Command System in the event of a transportation accident emergency.

How does this affect you?:
OST and its Federal Agents have been safely and securely transporting materials over the open highways since 1975, but we haven’t been doing it alone. Both OST and YOU are essential to ensuring the safety and security of radiological material; this is critical to understand. Given the potential scope of a transportation accident emergency, it is essential that we continue to work with and understand each other’s roles and responsibilities when mitigating the response to an emergency involving OST cargo.

So, what can you expect in the future?:
OST has developed a process for conducting outreach to response organizations for education and awareness of OST operations.

- A new and up to date OST awareness brief. This brief will increase awareness through transparency of OST operations by creating awareness on who OST is, what OST does and more importantly, identify when OST and YOU will need to work together to solve the transportation accident problem involving OST cargo.
• Web-Based Training (WBT). The WBT will provide interactive learning modules which is supplemental to a face to face briefing. Through the OST Liaison website, first responders and interested stakeholders can get access to training modules which then can be used for in-service training credits.

• **OST Liaison Website** which will increase accessibility to persons that want to know who and what OST does. This website is under production and is due to go live in the second quarter of FY17.

• OST information integrated into the DOE Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program (TEPP), Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) courses taught at the Defense Nuclear Weapons School (DNWS), as well as other cooperating agencies that have the need to include OST training as a part of their existing curriculum.

If you are interested in more information about OST, contact the Liaison Operations Program Manager at John.bobst@nnsa.doe.gov

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**The 2016 National Cleanup Workshop: Hosted by the U.S. DOE & the Energy Facility Contractors Group**

The 2016 National Cleanup Workshop was held on Sept. 14-15, 2016, at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, Virginia. Approximately 600 people attended the workshop. The workshop was hosted by the Energy Communities Alliance, with the US Department of Energy and the Energy Facility Contractors Group having served as cooperating organizations for the event. Please click [here](#) to link to all of the presentations and supportive documentation.

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**Tributes and Salutes- Honoring Those Who Have Gone Before Us, and Those Among Us**

**Tribute to Willie Preacher: Artist, Friend, Director**

*by Larae Bill, ([lbill@sbtribes.com](mailto:lbill@sbtribes.com)), Cultural Resources Technician, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes*

Willie Preacher was a kind-hearted person. He got along well with everyone. He was very open with his staff and always informed them of the meetings he attended, inviting them to attend meetings if they were available. He developed a special bond with his staff as a boss and friend.

Willie was a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and lived his young life in a cabin down in what we call the Bottoms on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. He had to walk for a few miles to catch the school bus every morning. He attended school in Blackfoot, Idaho and attended the University of Idaho. While in high school he became interested in drawing. This is where his love for art evolved. Willie was an accomplished artist using various forms of media. He also loved to play pool, golf and basketball.

Willie worked on the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory for many years and often talked about working at the old Chem Plant. Later he worked for the contractor, Lockheed. In 2002, he started working for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal DOE Program (T/DOE). He was hired as the Director of the program in 2003 and worked in this position up until his death. While he was the T/DOE Director, Willie was involved in many committees representing the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. He was the Co-Chair of the State and Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG), the Co-Chair of the Idaho Citizen’s Advisory Board (CAB), the Idaho Line Commission, and the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF).
Willie was very knowledgeable about DOE operations and the nuclear processing and storage, thus making him an asset to the Tribes. He often explained to the Fort Hall Business Council as well as his staff so that everyone had a better understanding of the process.

Willie was always willing to assist with donations whenever a tribal or community function needed a door prize for an event. He always donated one of his prints, which was one of the most desired prize people hoped to win.

Editor’s Note: Thank you to contributing writers from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Tribal Staff, Ronnie Johnson, Christina Cutler, & Stacy Timbana.

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Tribute to Jon Schwarz: Bidding Farewell to a Friend

by Katelyn Tye, (ktye@csg.org), Policy Analyst, The Council of State Governments Midwest

It is with the heaviest of hearts that we share news of the untimely passing of Jon Schwarz, long-time Nebraska appointee to the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee. According to his obituary, he was 63 when he died on Wednesday, July 6, in his hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Jon spent 19 years in the Technical Hazards Section at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and also served his country for 25 years as a Master Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician and Team Leader in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Most recently reappointed by Governor Pete Ricketts in February 2015, Jon first joined the committee as a member in 2008. Previously, he participated frequently in committee meetings dating back to 1998. In 2003, Jon was instrumental in recruiting then-Governor Mike Johanns to give the "Welcome to Nebraska" at the committee's fall meeting in Lincoln -- the only time a governor has made an appearance at a committee meeting in the Midwest (and quite likely in any other region).

Jon was very active on the committee, representing the Midwest on the NTSF's TEPP Training Ad Hoc Working Group and serving on the committee's own work groups that reviewed the Greater-than-Class C environmental impact statement and catalogued state experiences with DOE funding. He had planned to represent the committee at DOE's final consent-based siting meeting in Minneapolis over the summer.

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Tribute to Jon Schwarz

by Tonya Ngotel, (tonya.ngotel@nebraska.gov), Technical Hazardous Section Manager (Acting), Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

It’s with a heavy heart that we share the sad news of the untimely passing of Jon Schwarz, technical hazards manager at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Jon joined NEMA in 1996, after a 23-year career in the United States Marines. In his more than 20 years as leader of NEMA’s radiological emergency preparedness staff, Jon was meticulous in his planning efforts, making sure every contingency was covered. NEMA was consistently graded positively during Federal Emergency Management Agency exercises at the state’s nuclear power plants.
Jon was also a member of the Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project, and a participant in the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum, and the WIEB High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee.

Jon died on July 6, 2016 age 63, after suffering a stroke. Jon cared a great deal about his section and NEMA. He was an expert in his field and a good friend to NEMA staff, local emergency managers, state agency colleagues and nuclear power plant staff. We will miss his smile, his jokes and his kindness as well as his expertise in radiological emergency preparedness and other technical hazards.

Signed Jon’s co-worker, staff and friend;

Tonya Ngotel, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

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