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ANS Urges EPA to Rewrite Its Radiation Protection Standards

Current radiation standards date back to 1977

Erik Rancatore | August 4, 2014, 8:10am CDT

The American Nuclear Society (ANS) has submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency urging a comprehensive rewrite of its environmental radiation protection standards for nuclear power plants. "The current EPA radiation standards date back to 1977, nearly four decades ago," said Michael Brady Raap, President of ANS. "Since then, the global scientific community made substantial advances in understanding the health effects of ionizing radiation and has collected a large body of epidemiological data related to low level radiation exposure."

In addition, the larger environmental and health context in which EPA's radiation standards are used has changed. There is now a fairly robust scientific consensus that climate change could pose significant potential risks to the general public.

There is nearly global consensus that the continuation and expansion of nuclear energy is a necessary component to any meaningful strategy to reduce CO2 emissions as a means of mitigating those potential risks. ANS has offered comments on six issue areas, including the dose limit calculations intended to protect individuals.

In a statement to the EPA, the American Nuclear Society urged the EPA to refrain from over-estimating the likelihood of dose contributions from multiple radiation sources, or from applying protective factors that have already been accounted for in the dose constraint. Both of these practices, ANS believes, result in dose limits that are overly restrictive without appreciable improvement in safety.

Other issues focused on by the Society include updated dose methodology (dosimetry), radionuclide release limits, water resource protection, spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste storage, and new nuclear technologies.

**Joint Meeting of the
New England Chapter of the Health Physics Society
Connecticut Chapter of the Health Physics Society**

Present

An Evening with the President-Elect of the HPS

Speaker

Nancy Kirner CHP

"Ten most important things I have learned about Health Physics"

Date:

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Times:

3:30pm to 5:00pm, Board Meeting with Ms. Kirner
5:00pm Cocktails, 6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Presentation

New England Buffet

Publick House Bakery Basket

Seasonal Mixed Green Salad, Grilled Asparagus and Wild Mushroom Salad

Roast Native Turkey and Pan Seared Salmon

Chef's Choice of Potato and Seasonal Vegetables

Pecan Sweet Roll Bread Pudding and Peach Cobbler

Cost:

\$50.00 Member, \$60 Non-Members, \$20 Students

Reservations:

RSVP by September 17, 2014 to Haneef Sahabdeen at

hms@ehs.umass.edu or 413-545-5131

Payment accepted on the website after 8/20

Location:

Publick House

227 Main St. (Route 131)

Sturbridge, MA 01566

800-PUBLICK

NERHC / NECHPS Joint Meeting

The New England Radiation Health Council (NERHC) has agreed to have the NECHPS jointly sponsor a one day session on at their week long meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Warwick, RI. While the NECHPS is co-sponsoring the Tuesday session, NECHPS members are welcome to attend any of the meeting sessions that run from Monday, October 27, 2014 through noon on Friday, October 31, 2014.

Please visit the NECHPS website as information becomes available regarding registration information, room costs, directions and other news about this event.

Massive 11.75T MRI On The Way

(As Reported by Health Imaging July 3, 2014 Publication)

And you thought 7T MRIs were powerful. Gizmodo recently ran a story about the INUMAC (Imaging of Neuro disease Using high-field MR And Contrastophores) project, a \$270 million machine that clocks in at 11.75 Tesla.

While INUMAC will be able to use its power to image an area of just 0.1 square millimeters at a rate of 10 images per second, the writers at Gizmodo highlighted a different example of the MRI's power—at full strength, it can generate a magnetic field capable of suspending a 60-ton tank.



CONGRATS To UML Students on their 3rd Place Finish at the Inaugural 2014 HPS Quiz Bowl Competition at the Baltimore meeting.

Election Results

Please reach out and congratulate the following colleagues for agreeing to serve on the NECHPS Executive Council. Volunteers like these, as well as those who take time to assist them, ensure that the NECHPS upholds a vibrant and active local presence in the field of Health Physics. Thanks Again!

Officers for 2014 - 2105

President: Steven Snay
 President-Elect: Haneef Sahabdeen
 Secretary: Jennifer Collins
 Treasurer: Vincent Chase

Board of Directors

New Members:

Fred Staccia
 Karen Farris
 Jim Cherniak

Returning Members:

Steven Marsh
 Michael Talmadge
 Dave Meissner

Executive Council Discussions

At an Executive Council meeting held via teleconference on August 13, 2014, there were discussions that included, but were not limited to, the following issues

Over the past few years, the Executive Council has used money from the NECHPS Treasury help subsidize meetings, training courses and publication. By utilizing funds from the Treasury, student participations have been subsidized, the cost of regular meetings has not been over \$40 and dues are capped at \$10 per year. To help offset operating costs, the Executive Council discussed raising dues to \$20 per year and eliminating the 5-year membership.

There has been a drain on the Treasury over the past 5 years mainly coming from the NECHPS subsidizing the DOT training sessions, the annual meeting and the membership directory. The Treasurer reported that the Chapter broke close to even for the cost of the last annual meeting. There was a discussion concerning the publication of the membership directory and the expectation of the Affiliates that their dues pay for advertising in the directory.

With the costs of individual meeting on the rise, the President-Elect is finding it hard to keep individual meeting costs at \$40 per meeting. The membership should expect an increase in the cost of meetings.

The Chapter's 501(c)(3) status was revoked by the IRS for failure to file tax returns. Tax returns are now current and our accountant filed the forms to reinstate our 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, required to renew our Mass Tax Exempt status expiring in June 2015.

There was a discussion of inviting a student member join the Board.

The Webmaster is looking at changing domain hosting services to reduce costs. The change requires the notarized signature of the current owner, who is a member of the chapter and the Webmaster is working to get the documents executed.

PayPal Coming to NECHPS

President Steve Snay and Treasurer Vince Chase are working to install PayPal on the NECHPS website as a method to electronically pay for NECHPS meeting registrations via credit card with the click of a button.

Vince Chase took control of all Treasurer documents and bank accounts in August 2014, They are working to get the PayPal account live before the joint NECHPS/CCHPS meeting in Sturbridge, MA.

Return Address:**Steven G. Marsh, MS, DABMP**

Sr. Medical Physicist

Baystate Health

2 Medical Center Drive, Suite 108

Springfield, MA 01199

To:



New England Chapter
of the
Health Physics Society

NEWSLETTER
September 2014