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Newsletter



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

Volume XXXXII No. 3
January 2006

Visit our web site at www.nechps.org.

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Volunteers needed for the 2006 HPS Meeting in Providence!

*ATTEND THE PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT
PROGRAM (PEP) AND EARN CONTINUING
EDUCATION CREDITS FOR FREE!*

Simply volunteer to be an assistant proctor for the PEPs this summer in Providence. We need at least ten secondary proctors on Sunday and six secondary proctors per day during the week. We will provide all the training needed for you to assist the primary proctor.

INTERESTED? Contact John Salladay at
207-438-2273 *OR* by e-mail at
SalladayJL@mail.ports.navy.mil.

Visit the NECHPS website (www.nechps.org) for more details about the annual meeting.

Chernobyl May Become Nuclear Burial Ground

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko is ready to consider the issue of burying spent nuclear fuel from other countries in the Chernobyl region and make a political decision, subject to approval by experts and scientists, and after debating the problem publicly, he said at a news conference in Chernobyl on Thursday.

Yushchenko said such proposals could be discussed after a thorough examination of all stages of the project, his press service told RBC. "This is a long-term project, and it must be approved by the public," the Ukrainian head-of-state said, stressing that he would never make such decisions without public approval, however economically feasible they might be.

The second spent nuclear storage facility of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant would come on stream in 2010, Yushchenko said. The construction project is being examined by international experts. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) pointed to the effective performance of a Swiss auditing firm, the Ukrainian

President said.

He expressed hope that the auditors would finish their work by the end of this year, and funds would be allocated for the final stage of the construction of the storage facility.

The technologically complicated construction problem was being solved consistently, Yushchenko added.

The second spent nuclear storage facility of the Chernobyl power plant is designed to provide a long-term safe storage of the whole of the power plant's spent nuclear fuel. It was supposed to be put into use back in 2003, but the construction was suspended by the Chernobyl plant in April 2003 due to significant defects.

The contractor, the French company Framatome ANP, says it would take it about four years and a half to complete construction, which is financed by the EBRD.

Membership Dues

Members are reminded that you should pay your dues *as soon as possible* to ensure that your membership status remains in good standing. Dues are \$10.00 per year, however, a payment of \$40.00 will earn you 5 years of Chapter membership.

ADDRESSES NEEDED

Our addresses and contact information are outdated for the people whose names are listed below. If you know any of them, please pass along the word that we need current listings.

Members can visit the New England Chapter website (www.nechps.org) at any time to update their info.

Khaled Aljarrah
Jeonsoom Kim
Gregory Wood

Joseph Bakanauskas
Brian Krejca

PFS Loses Support of Two Members for Nuke Dump

AP – Two members of a company seeking to build a temporary nuclear waste facility in Skull Valley, Utah, say they are suspending their financial support, causing some to question the future of the project.

Southern Nuclear Operating Co. and Xcel Energy say they are committed to a permanent waste repository planned for Nevada's Yucca Mountain and that the Utah site no longer meets their needs.

The companies are two of the eight members of Private Fuel Storage, a group of utilities that applied for a license to build the nuclear waste dump on the Skull Valley Goshute Indian Reservation about 45 miles southwest of Salt Lake City.

Both said in letters released Thursday by Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch that while Yucca is a viable option, they will not support PFS.

"It's become clear PFS will not be open in time to allow Southern Nuclear to be able to use the facility," Steve Higginbottom, spokesman for Alabama-based Southern Nuclear, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Making Yucca Mountain a success will require our full attention and resources, and that's where we're going to focus our resources."

Hatch said their decision means the plan is all but dead. In 2002, six companies -- including Southern Nuclear -- pledged in a letter to Hatch and Utah Sen. Bob Bennett they would not fund the PFS facility past the licensing phase.

"This marks the first nail in the coffin for PFS," Hatch said in a statement. "The PFS plan has been on life support for some time, and we're removing the feeding tubes."

But John Parkin, chairman of the PFS board and the company's chief executive officer, said Hatch's assessment is inaccurate.

Parkin said neither letter indicates that Xcel or Southern will never bring waste to Utah once the PFS site opens, just that present time the timetable for

opening does not meet their needs.

Even if Xcel and Southern ultimately opt out of the Utah site, Parkin said, "there are still a lot of other utilities out there that have pressing needs."

In September PFS won federal approval for a license to build the storage site, despite objections from the state of Utah. Private Fuel Storage wants to store 44,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel aboveground in 4,000 steel casks.

The company has more regulatory hurdles to jump through before construction can begin, and Utah officials are trying to prevent PFS from getting any further.

Parkin said that PFS stands by its promise of being a temporary facility and says PFS agrees that a permanent site must be built whether at Yucca Mountain or elsewhere.

[If you'd like to contribute a piece, or even an idea for an article, contact the editor at dlamay@mit.edu. Submissions can be accepted electronically or as hard copy.]

Volunteers Needed for the NECHPS Directory Committee!

INTERESTED? Contact Ron Thurlow at 603-773-7438 OR by e-mail at ronald_thurlow@fpl.com.

New Members

If you know anyone who wants to join NECHPS, tell him/her to visit the website (www.nechps.org) or contact Tara Medich at 617-724-4578. As a benefit, student membership is free!

Upcoming Meetings

Visit the NECHPS website at www.nechps.org for information about other local professional society meetings that are scheduled for the coming months.

January Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 26th, 2006

Location: Papa Razzi Restaurant, 16 Washington St. (Route 16), Wellesley, MA

Topics: *Low Dose Radiation Biological Response and Health Effects: Science vs. Non-Science and the BEIR VII Report*

Speaker: Jim Muckerhide, President - Radiation, Science, and Health, Inc.

Time: 5:00 PM Registration / Cash Bar
6:00 PM Dinner Buffet (includes salad, entrees, dessert, coffee, tea, and soda)
7:00 PM Guest Speaker

Cost: \$30.00 Members, \$40.00 Guests, and \$10.00 Students

To Register:

Mail registration to:

Mike Whalen, Jr.
10 MacLarnon Road
Salem, NH 03079

OR call **(617) 427-2944 x2020**
OR e-mail michael.whelen@state.ma.us

Please note, you can make payment up to and including the night of the event (pay “at the door”); however, no matter when you make payment, you must register by 1/20/06 AND you are responsible for payment if you register but do not attend.

Directions:

From I-95 S: take the RT-16 WEST exit (21A), towards WELLESLEY.

From I-95 N: take the RT-16 exit (21B), towards NEWTON/WELLESLEY. Turn RIGHT onto WASHINGTON ST.

Head west for about 0.6 miles, the restaurant will be on your left.

There is parking (usually full) alongside the restaurant. Drive through the Pappa Razzi parking lot for additional municipal metered parking. Additionally, there is a vacant Grossman's lot diagonally across Washington Street on the westbound side.

For additional information about Papa Razzi please call: (781) 235-4747.