

Final Foreign Travel Trip Report

Subject: Final Foreign Travel Trip Report for travel to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada to attend the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Pressure Vessels and Piping Conference July 24 through July 26, 2006.

Travel Dates: July 23 – July 27, 2006

Location: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Organization/Committee: American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME)

Desired Outcome: To participate in successful informational exchanges and discussions with industry and national laboratory experts in the area of transportation, storage, and disposal of radioactive materials.

Results Achieved: Participated in technical sessions on the transportation, storage, and disposal of radioactive materials, including a panel entitled: “Regulatory Issues: Past and Present” in which the Agency position on current interpretations of the International Atomic Energy Agency Transport Regulations regarding hypothetical accident condition drop, puncture, and fire evaluations was discussed.

Summary of Trip: The Plenary Session entitled “Pressure Vessel Technologies for the Global Community” featured two speakers: David F. Torgerson, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, who spoke on “Advances in Nuclear power Technology,” and John R. Woolsey, Vice President and General Manager, Nuclear Equipment Division, BWX Technologies, who spoke on “The Future of Nuclear Power: A BWXT Perspective.” Notably absent from the Plenary Session, (and from the conference, in general) was the Agency perspective on the future of nuclear energy in the United States, and issues of regulatory concern regarding the licensing and regulation of future nuclear facilities. Other than the traveler, there were no NRC attendees at the conference.

Thirty-two papers were presented in 8 sessions entitled, “Transportation Storage and Disposal of Radioactive Materials,” sponsored by the Operations, Applications, and Components Committee of the Pressure Vessels and Piping Division of ASME. The papers included a wide range of topics within the radioactive waste storage, transportation, and disposal arena.

Representatives from private industry, universities, international regulatory bodies, and Department of Energy (DOE) laboratories were present and presentations were given by staff from Argonne National Laboratory, Savannah River National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Idaho National Laboratory as

well as the World Nuclear Transport Institute, University of Nevada, Reno, and BWXT.

Some of the presented papers included: "Industry Commitment to Global Safety Standards", "Drop Simulation of 6M Drum with Locking-Ring Closure and Liquid Contents", "Fire Durations of Concern for a Modern Legal Weight Truck Cask", "Corrosion-Resistant Iron-Based Amorphous-Metal Coatings", "A New Ni-Cr-Mo-Based Gadolinium Structural Alloy for Neutron Absorption Application in Radioactive Material Packages" and "Introduction to the Department of Energy Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility Design/Engineering."

Valuable exchange of technical information transpired among many experts in the field of transportation, storage and disposal of radioactive waste. Proceedings for the conference are available on CD from the traveler.

Next Steps: The Agency should seek to engage the Pressure Vessels and Piping Division of ASME to facilitate further information exchanges in all areas of nuclear technology.

Policy Issues: None

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