

NRRPT® NEWS

National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists

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Chairman's Greeting



Kelli Gallion

Seasons Greetings RRPT Members,

*On behalf of the NRRPT Board of
Directors and Panel of Examiners,*

*There is no time more fitting to say
"Thank you"*

*And to wish you a very
Happy Holiday Season
And a New Year
of Health, Happiness, and Prosperity.*

*Sincerely,
Kelli Gallion*

U.S. Secretary of Labor Announces \$2.3 Million Grant to University of Missouri to Prepare Workers for Careers in Nuclear Energy

U.S. Department of Labor, News Release, dated December 19, 2005

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao today announced a \$2.3 million grant to the University of Missouri to respond to the energy industry's need for well-trained radiation protection technicians. The grant is part of nearly \$27 million in investments made in support of the nation's energy workforce under the ***President's High Growth Job Training Initiative***, a strategic plan to prepare workers for jobs in expanding industries.

"The energy sector is facing a shortage of skilled workers," said Chao. "This \$2.3 million grant made possible by the ***President's High Growth Job Training Initiative*** will help workers acquire the necessary skills along with an associate degree that will pave the way for a career in the energy sector."

Radiation protection technicians play an essential role in keeping radiation levels safe inside nuclear power plants. Studies suggest that up to 57% of these technical workers will retire within the next five years.

The University of Missouri and its partners from the nuclear sector will establish a Center of Excellence for Radiation Protection Technology Education and Training. The center will develop an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nuclear Technology program that will be disseminated to a network of community colleges throughout the country.

"A pipeline of skilled radiation protection technicians will be crucial to the nuclear energy sector's growth," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Emily Stover DeRocco. "The program the University of Missouri is developing with its private sector partners will prepare up to 200 workers throughout the country for jobs in this critical field."

Through the ***President's High Growth Job Training Initiative***, the Department of Labor has been conducting executive forums with leaders of expanding industries to identify critical workforce gaps and issues. Solutions are chosen and are carried out in cooperation with employers, educational institutions and the public workforce system. For more information, visit www.doleta.gov/BRG/JobTrainInitiative/.

**** ONE MORE REMINDER ****

NRRPT Board of Directors and Panel of Examiners Mid-Year Meeting

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ON JANUARY 14, 2006 !

Please join us in Orlando, FL on January 14, 2006 for our 65th Board & Panel meetings. We will convene our meeting in conjunction with the EPRI Radiation Protection Conference/NATC ALARA Symposium, January 16-18, 2006. To register for the conference go to www.ToPlanAhead.com, click on register for meeting, type in username "tpa" and password "meeting". The conference will be held at the Hilton in the Walt Disney Resort. For hotel reservations call (407) 827-4000. The group rate is: \$150 per night. Additional rooms are available at the Hotel Royal Plaza, (407) 828-2828, rate is \$159 per night. Please contact David Miller at (217) 855-3238 for more information.

NRRPT PEP Course information is provided on pages 6 & 7. Hope to see many of our valued members in January!

Colorado State University Offers NRRPT Credit for MS, PhD Degrees

It is well known that folks who have passed the **NRRPT** examination have proven they are continually working to improve their position in the radiation protection profession. Colorado State University (CSU) recognizes that as well, and invites those who have **NRRPT** and a BS degree to apply to its graduate program. There are fellowships available to outstanding applicants and support through grants is typically available. There is also a one year Master of Science degree program, with no thesis required. Many potential graduate students who want to get an advanced degree hesitate because their undergraduate degree is not in health physics. The fact is most of our students do not have an undergraduate degree in health physics, and go on to be very successful students. CSU is "**NRRPT** friendly" - you may qualify for up to 3 hours of graduate school credit, with **NRRPT** and appropriate experience. CSU is located in beautiful Fort Collins (not far from the former Fort St. Vrain nuclear power plant and the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site) at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. All applications are held in confidence, so there is no downside to applying. The earlier you apply, the easier it is to arrange for support.

Apply today on line at: <http://graduateschool.colostate.edu/index.asp?url=apply>

Or the homepage at: www.colostate.edu

Feel free to contact Dr. Thomas Johnson with any questions at: tj@colostate.edu

or via US mail: CSU/ERHS
1618 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins CO 80523
970-491-0563

Fall Newsletter Update

Status of Congressional Recognition of Radiation Protection Professionals and the CRCPD Declared National Radiation Protection Professionals Week

A Message from Keith H. Dinger, Congressional Liaison, Health Physics Society

The original tribute did not get into the Congressional record during the week of November 6 - 11. However, in a follow up with Senator Domenici's staff, this is the latest from our Washington Representative, David Connolly:

"I have been informed that Senator Domenici does not want to put the Statement in the Extension of Remarks section. Rather, he has sent it to the Legislative Counsel's office to be re-worked into a Senate Resolution, which he plans to introduce in the Senate after the Thanksgiving Recess."

If passed by the Senate, this is much more impressive than a piece in the Extension section so let's keep our fingers crossed!

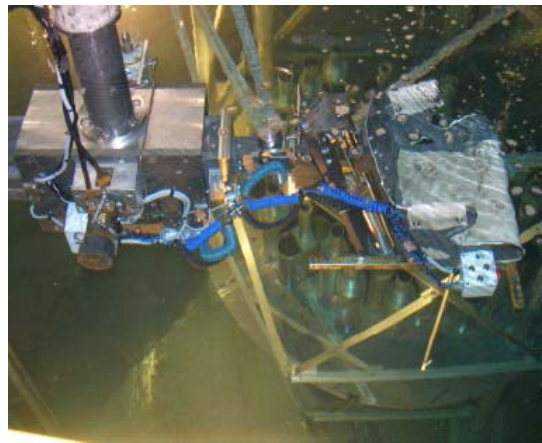
On December 16, 2005, Senator Domenici (R-NM) introduced Senate Resolution 335, which has the title "HONORING MEMBERS OF THE RADIATION PROTECTION PROFESSION BY DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6 THROUGH NOVEMBER 12, 2005, AS "NATIONAL RADIATION PROTECTION PROFESSIONALS WEEK." The resolution "encourages all citizens to recognize the valuable resource provided by professional scientific organizations, such as -" with a list of six professional organizations, including the **NRRPT**. The resolution has been referred to the Judiciary Committee for action.

ICI Thimble Replacement at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)

The In-Core Instrumentation (ICI) thimbles (55) will be replaced at SONGS during the U2 and U3 C14 Refueling Outages, which are scheduled for January 2006 and October 2006.

Fluence-induced growth of Zirconium is an anticipated phenomenon that must be accounted for in fuel and ICI thimble designs (CE Plants). Studies of this phenomenon have recognized that the original design assumptions for Zirconium growth substantially underestimated potential ICI thimble elongation. Thimble growth causes damage to the thimble and potential deformation to the thimble hub/quickloc assembly due to the lifting of the thimble support plate. SONGS' thimbles have experienced approximately 4 inches of growth.

The scope of this "First Time Evolution" Project will be to remove the existing thimbles and replace with new, shorter thimbles. The duration is approximately 2 weeks. The (ICI) detectors will be removed and cut up prior to moving the Upper Guide Structure (UGS) to the lower cavity. The Control Element Assembly (CEA) extension shafts will be placed in a storage rack in the lower cavity. Once the UGS is in its stand, the guide tubes will be cleaned from the temporary work platform using an egg-beater like tool and the debris will be vacuumed through a vendor supplied underwater dual tri-nuc filter system. With the use of Diver's, each approximate 24' length thimble will be cut into 2 sections. The first section will be the (upper) stainless steel end with ~ 20 inches of zircaloy for a total of ~11 feet. The second/lower section removed will be ~ 13' of all zircaloy. Divers (20) will be used to perform the following evolutions: pipe cut 3.5 inches below the thimble support plate (TSP), thimble remnant gripper installation, sliding disk cut of lower zirc section, thimble stub end prep/de-burring, gauging and installation of the new thimbles. The divers will be working approximately 15' below the water surface and will be performing their work from a chair referred to as "D.U.D.E.S." which stands for Diver Underwater Delivery & Extraction System (see photos below). DUDES will restrict their access while in the refueling cavity.



During the transfer of the thimble remnants to the trash container, the divers will be required to be out of the water due to very high dose rates on the zircaloy sections of the thimbles. Surface workers will transfer the thimble remnants underwater to the trashcan stand using the gripper lines. The four trashcans will be stored in the spent fuel pools. A restrictor tool will be used and is designed to keep the highly irradiated thimble a minimum of 6 feet below the waters surface to prevent inadvertent removal from the pool.

After all of the thimble remnants have been stored in the trashcans, the divers will prepare the 3.5 inch stub end for installation of the new thimbles. The new thimbles will be lowered down to the diver. A "magazine" with 8 thimbles will be suspended from the polar crane during delivery.



Figure 1. Mock-Up of Thimble Magazine

The new thimble will be connected to the stub with a newly installed nut and ferrule. Prior to crimping the nut, surface workers will insert a “ball gauge” through the thimble guide tube down to the new connection to ensure the path is free of debris. The Diver will torque the mechanical connection to a specified value, and will then crimp the connection. Lastly, from the surface, workers will perform length measurements of the thimble to establish a baseline for future thimble growth. Lastly, from the surface, workers will perform length measurements of the new thimble to establish a baseline for future thimble growth.

For more information, please contact:

Kelli Gallion
SONGS HP ALARA Planning
949-368-6994
GALLIOK@SONGS.SCE.COM

BEIR VII Report on Biological Effects of Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation

The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine released the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR VII) report in June, 2005. The report concludes that current scientific evidence continues to support the hypothesis that for any amount of radiation exposure there is a small increase in cancer risk.

The report states that at low doses, the number of radiation-induced cancers will be small. For example, the BEIR VII lifetime risk model demonstrates that one person in 100 would be expected to develop cancer from a dose of 10 Rem, while the 42 individuals in the remaining group of 99 would be expected to develop solid cancer or leukemia from other causes.

The BEIR VII reports that 79% of the artificially produced radiation to which a person is annually exposed comes from medical X rays and nuclear medicine. The entire nuclear power industry (nuclear fuel cycle) contributes roughly 1% of the total annual dose from artificially produced radiation.

The BEIR committee revisited the effects of low level radiation which was last evaluated in 1990 in the BEIR V report. The authors note that more scientific data had been accumulated in the past 15 years and the precision of measurement of very low doses was greater during this period. Much of the BEIR VII data was drawn from epidemiological studies of survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in 1945. BEIR VII authors note that future research needs on this topic could focus on epidemiology studies of the former Soviet Union nuclear industry workers and persons exposed to the aftermath of the Chernobyl-4 accident in 1986.

The BEIR VII report did not find scientific studies that support the potential beneficial effects of low level radiation dose (hormesis). The reports states that the preponderance of scientific evidence indicates that there is some risk from low doses, although it is small. The authors do support future research to identify any beneficial effects to low level radiation exposure.

PEP Courses To be provided by the NRRPT

At the 2006 EPRI - ISOE/International ALARA Symposium, the NRRPT will provide two PEP courses for your enrichment.

PEP #1 – A Straight-Forward Approach to Radioactive Material Shipping

The International Atomic Energy Agency estimates that between 18 and 38 million packages containing radioactive materials are transported each year throughout the world. This material may be radioactive waste, medical isotopes, industrial radiography sources, well logging sources, research materials, and of course nuclear fuel cycle materials. These shipments are made by land transport, air, or by sea.

There are various agencies that regulate the commercial movement of radioactive materials and with minor variations primarily related to how a shipment is documented. The requirements are consistent for the control of exposure to radiation between the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as implemented through the International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as implemented through the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code, and specific country regulations that address the ground transportation of radioactive materials such as the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT).

Each agency has adopted requirements for the control of package contents and external radiation levels based on the criteria presented in IAEA Safety Standards Series, Requirements, No. TS-R-1 (ST-1 Revised) and it is the basis of these Regulations that will be discussed in this document.

Prior to 1959 the United States Interstate Commerce Commission regulations served as the basis for the various national and international controls for the transport of radioactive materials. The rapid growth of the nuclear industry made the development of controls for the transport of all types and quantities of radioactive materials the highest priority of the IAEA shortly after its formation.

This session will address:

- » Properly identify the material to be shipped
- » Properly classify a package containing radioactive material
- » Properly label and mark a radioactive materials package for shipment
- » Properly prepare shipping documentation

Dwaine Brown, RRPT, Lead Radiation Safety Office for Halliburton Energy Services, will present this session

PEP #2 – Basic Shielding Calculations and Understanding Field Applications

The course will take the student through basic gamma, beta, and neutron shield calculation with and without build-up. We will also look at shielding for some of the most common medical isotopes and how the student can reduce weight in shielding for high energy beta emitters. The student will also learn basic half and tenth value calculations for point sources as well as field calculations for line and plane sources.

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This course is designed to provide a working level knowledge of shield calculations for ALARA personnel, field radiation protection technicians, and provide some basics for individuals preparing for the **NRRPT** exam.

Bob Wills, RRPT, Manager of Nuclear Industry Programs at General Engineering Laboratories, will present this session.

Each course costs \$40.00 if advanced registration is received prior to January 2, 2006. After that time the cost will be \$50.00. Questions about each course should be directed to:

Tim Kirkham
Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant
410-495-6885

Send Registration to:

NRRPT
P.O. Box 6974
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-736-5400

PEP Course Registration Form

Name: _____ Company/Affiliation: _____

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PEP #1 _____ PEP #2 _____

Total Cost \$ _____ (to pay by credit card, please call the **NRRPT** office at the number listed above)

Message from NATC

The Information System on Occupational Exposure (ISOE) is sponsored by the IAEA as one of its programs for member states. NATC ISOE has supported the Winter **NRRPT** Board of Directors meetings since 1997 by having the **NRRPT** meetings held in the same hotel as the International ISOE ALARA Symposia. On December 11, 2005, the International Atomic Energy Agency and its Director General received the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize for striving for peaceful uses of atomic energy. On behalf of the NATC Board of Directors, NATC would like to thank the **NRRPT** for making one of the IAEA program an important information exchange forum for countries with nuclear programs throughout the world.

Bartlett Nuclear, Inc.

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Southern California Edison

Bob Corbett, RPM
P.O. Box 128
San Clemente, CA 92672
(949) 368-9645
corbetrt@songs.sce.com

San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station is proud to have over 60 registered **NRRPT** members in our Health Physics, Training, Chemistry, Engineering, Operations, Oversight, and Maintenance organizations. We are especially proud that Kelli Gallion of our HP Planning group was a member of the Panel of Examiners, Board of Directors, and is currently the **NRRPT** Chairman.

San Onofre is a three unit site with two operating 1170 MWe Combustion Engineering reactors and one early Westinghouse unit in decommissioning. The station is located in Southern California on the Pacific Ocean and midway between San Diego and Los Angeles.

STP Nuclear Operating Company

Bill Bullard, RPM
P.O. Box 289
Wadsworth, TX 77843
(361) 972-7130
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More than fifty registered Radiation Protection Technologists are proud to work at the South Texas Project's two nuclear power plants. These plants, some of the world's newest, produce more than 2500 megawatts of electricity. The plants, and the team that operates them, set industry standards in safety, reliability and efficiency.

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Contact: Bob Farnam (573) 676-8784

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Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant

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Contact: Steve Sanders (410) 495-3574

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Catawba Nuclear Station

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Contact: Mark Helton (803) 831-3777

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Contact: L. Biacchi (888) 437-1714

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Contact: John O'Neil (877) 382-2124

Harvard School of Public Health

Harvard School of Public Health, Center for Continuing Professional Education's upcoming programs: **Occupational and Environmental Radiation Protection – Basic Principles in Safety, April 24-27, 2006; Radiation Safety Officer Training for Laboratory Professionals, spring 2006; Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene - Practical Applications of Basic Principles, June 19 – 23, 2006; Radiological Emergency Planning: Terrorism, Security and Communication, August 8 – 11, 2006.** For more information or to register, please visit our website at www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe or call us at 617-384-8692.

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HI-Q Environmental Products Co. is ready to help with your stack sampling requirements: State and Federal nuclear regulatory agencies require a stack discharge sampling program as part of the licensing process. Radionuclides discharged to the air in the form of particulate and volatile compounds must be assayed. Therefore, nuclear facilities are required to follow standard protocol for sampling their effluent. Possible emission of radionuclides to the general public has to be monitored in a systematic and acceptable manner. In the U.S., the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the authority over such matters, and the current requirements and guidelines for sampling in nuclear stacks and ducts are laid down in ANSI N13.1 1999. Contact: Marc Held (858) 549-2820

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RAD-Ware, Inc.

RAD-Ware, Inc., a woman-owned small business, is a professional consultancy, providing safe, quality, *Radiation Protection* - training (ABHP & ABIH approved), software, and services - for individuals, medical facilities, universities, commercial and government agencies. On-site training & project quotes available upon request. Our services are available, both nationally and internationally. Our CHP has more than 15 years in field operations, with more than 50 years combined experience, and we are proud of what we do!
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Bartlett Nuclear 2005 Scholarship Awards

Linn State Technical College, in collaboration with the University of Missouri Nuclear Science Engineering Institute (NSEI), Missouri University Research Reactor (MURR), AmerenUE Callaway Nuclear Plant and Bartlett Nuclear, Inc. developed a Nuclear Technology Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree program.

Ten students and their instructor, Mr. Bruce Meffert, participated in the program's first-ever internship here at AmerenUE's Callaway Nuclear Plant during Refuel 14.

These students are blazing a trail for future classes and are commended for their effort, ambition, and dedication to their future in Nuclear Technology.

Of this impressive class, Nicole Weimer and Derek Willey are worthy of special recognition. Both Nicole and Derek have consistently demonstrated the highest level of professionalism and effort. As such, Bartlett Nuclear, Inc. awarded them each a \$500 scholarship.

The Linn State Technical College AAS program offers a unique opportunity to obtain state-of-the-art education and training that will make graduates prime candidates for Radiation Protection/Nuclear Technician positions. Students study and gain hands-on experience in radiation physics, radioactive testing and analysis, radiological instrumentation, reactor operations, safety and handling procedures, and various industrial applications and safeguards.

The courses are offered at the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) located in Mexico, Missouri. The Advanced Technology Center (ATC) is a cooperative effort among the City of Mexico, Linn State Technical College, Moberly Area Community College and the University of Missouri Outreach and Extension.

To find out more about this degree program, visit the Linn State Technical College website (www.linstate.edu), the Advanced Technology Center website (www.atc.org) or call 573-897-5000.

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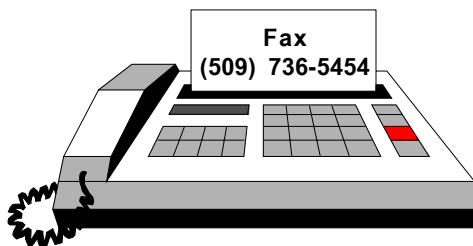
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