

NRRPT® NEWS

National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists

Fall 2008 Edition

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chairman's Message	1
A Test for Light Links in Mylar Covered Scintillation Detectors (Part II)	3
Prescription for Success: UniTech Partners with SONGS To Reduce PCEs During Scheduled Outage	4
Welcome New Members	5
Changes to Neutron Reference Fields for Instrument Calibration for DOE	6
NR-1 to be Deactivated	8
NRRPT Board & Panel Meeting	9
HPS Midyear Meeting	10
Sponsors	11
Some of Our Available Merchandise	18
Merchandise Order Form	19

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Chairman's Message



Dave Biela

I want to welcome the candidates that passed the August exam: Robert H. Andrus, Jr., Joseph G. Archer, David K. Balmer, Gary W. Buckley, Harold K. Chacon, Nathan E. Chviek, James M. Coder, Robert J. Danforth, Karen O. Ely, Mark W. Fielding, Jason S. Foster, Collette M. Hall, George R. Hoffmeyer, Chin-Yuan G. Hwaung, James A. Lochotzki, Kelly B. Martin, Catherine M. Martin, Michael J. Mazzitello, Roderick J.

McIntyre, Bret D. McLean, David H. Mullins, Martin J. Naughton, Kyle J. Peltier, Jeffrey T. White, and Jason S. Woodard. Also, welcome to the 3 additional candidates who passed the February 2008 exam: Duane Boone, Bradley T. Pleasants, Jr., and Bennett L. Wallace. Congratulations, I know the hard work that goes into preparing for this exam. Remember to take the opportunity to thank those that may have helped prepare you for the **NRRPT** exam and in the future do what you can to help others prepare. Again, congratulations.

In the last newsletter, I wrote about the summer **NRRPT** meeting that was being held in conjunction with the HPS meeting in Pittsburgh PA. I feel the meeting was a big success. There are two items of interest I want to discuss. Mr. Ralph Anderson from the Nuclear Energy Institute gave a very interesting presentation on the manpower crisis that will be facing our industry. According to Mr. Anderson's data we will lose approximately 65% of our work force in the next 10 years. The estimated new comers into the field over the same 10 years are only 33% at best. It is not hard to see, that even based on current needs, the industry as a whole will be in trouble. Now if you add all the new

reactors coming on line and the staff that will be needed for them it is easy to see the problems ahead. Representatives from the **NRRPT** will be working with Mr. Anderson and others to begin addressing this problem. This leads to the HPS leadership meeting that I attended.

At the Leadership meeting there were officers from the HPS, AAHP and ABHP. This group also recognized the future manpower issues and we all realize that we have to work together on a solution. Nancy Kirner from the AAHP discussed work underway to develop career paths within the sciences starting from elementary school and progressing through college and certification. Besides the need for recruitment into the field other topics on what is being done were discussed. Ms. McBurney discussed the creation of an internet web site that would include all types of calculations and useful information for individuals in our field of work. While there are web sites with different pieces of helpful information, this would be an attempt to consolidate the information into one location. More information will be provided as it comes available. Other topics discussed included the attempt for formal recognition by state and federal legislation of the different organizations

Sincerely,
Dave Biela
NRRPT, Chairman of the Board

represented at this meeting and the protection of their trade marks and titles.

While I was writing this article, I received the following information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC is sponsoring a small (<20 people) meeting in Atlanta on February 10 and 11, 2009 to discuss ways to involve radiation professionals as volunteers in radiation emergency response. This includes health physicists, medical physicists, nuclear medicine professionals, technologists, and others. Our agenda is to share some success stories, discuss barriers, and identify ways we can promote involvement of radiation professionals in emergency response in a way that is tightly associated with the state public health and EMA organizations. We are also inviting AAPM, SNM, CRSO, CRCPD, and HPS to have a representative at the meeting. I would be very happy to explain more with a bit of history about this initiative and why **NRRPT** can be such a valuable partner. I am including this in the newsletter to show the respect that is out there for the NRRPT and our registrants.

Mark your calendar for the next **NRRPT** Board and Panel meeting that will be held in conjunction with the HPS winter meeting in San Antonio, TX from January 31 to February 3, 2009. Look for more data on the **NRRPT** web page (nrrpt.org) and on pages 9 and 10 of this issue.

**** Write an Article for the NRRPT Newsletter ****

You'll receive an **NRRPT** logo shirt if your article is published

in the **NRRPT**® News

A Test for Light Leaks in Mylar Covered Scintillation Detectors (Part II)

By Jim Rolph, RRPT

In the previous newsletter I submitted an article suggesting a method to test Mylar® covered scintillation detectors for light leaks before going outdoors. As fate would have it and shortly after submitting the article my colleague and I discovered a recently purchased strobe light always failed the light leak test. It turned out the light intensity of the American DJ model S-81 mini strobe light was so intense the light would make it through the Mylar® even though the instrument would function perfectly outdoors.

We examined a few different possible solutions to overcome the problem. Our repair shop ended up trying four different window tinting films until one got the intensity to match the outdoor lighting conditions of a clear day. With this in mind, if you purchase a higher quality strobe light you may have to take a similar approach to make the strobe work for you.

Dave Lettau also provided additional tips learned over the past couple of years in the repair shop. Here are some of his tips:

- The strobe method for detecting light leaks doesn't work well if the probe background is greater than 500 cpm.
- Set the strobe to its fastest setting, the faster the better for detecting light leaks.
- Use the instrument's speaker listening for the rhythm of the strobe. If you don't have a speaker this method doesn't work.
- Digital instruments, where the clicks are NOT produced "real-time," may not work well.
- Ignore perceived extra clicks, or changes in background rate. Just listen for the strobe rhythm above background.
- If there isn't a constant click per flash, there isn't a light leak that matters.

This method works well for him on alpha/beta scintillation probes at approximately one (1) inch distance. For alpha only scintillation probes a one (1) foot distance works well.

Dave uses the strobe to isolate probe case grounding problems as well. He places the strobe in contact to the non-window side of the probe and if he gets a good rhythm response, he checks the case resistance and often finds he needs to improve the probe grounding by removing some paint from the detector probe housing or some other related grounding problem. Dave and I haven't tried, but I suspect this type of test would work well with other scintillation type detectors such for NaI detectors to locate poor detector grounds.

Dave and I hope others will find this tool useful in their repair of scintillation alpha and/or beta detectors and that your detectors become more dependable, and you will save some time and money.



Prescription for Success: UniTech Partners with SONGS To Reduce PCEs During Scheduled Outage



Located on 84 acres along the Pacific coast of California, the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) provides nearly 20% of the electrical power used by residents of Southern California. Jointly owned by Southern California Edison (SCE), San Diego Gas & Electric and the cities of Riverside and Anaheim, the station brings power to more than 15 million people – enough to serve 2.75 million households.

Just months away from a scheduled refueling outage, SONGS lowered its goal to be consistent with high industry standards for personnel contamination events (PCEs). “To meet the goal, SONGS tried quickly to identify how to minimize personnel contamination events,” said Dick Downard, Technical Accounts Manager, UniTech Services Group. Initially, SONGS looked to disposable protective clothing, in hopes that it would help reduce PCEs, but protective clothing was just one of the issues they were facing. During the fall 2006 outage, SONGS set a goal of having no more than 125 PCEs. At the end, it was faced with 227. Following that outage, SONGS staff committed themselves to addressing three key areas of improvement: worker behavior, work processes and protective clothing.

At this point, UniTech became involved. In January 2007, SONGS teamed up with UniTech to develop a customized program that would help SONGS staff address their goals for the next scheduled outage. “Our program had to go beyond just protective clothing,” said Downard. The new program was designed to be a true partnership in which UniTech helped SONGS achieve long-term success. And, according to Downard, “SONGS was very open to new ways of doing things.”

“First, we were able to share some of what we had learned from other plants’ successes,” said Tanya French, Assistant Technical Accounts Manager, UniTech Services Group. Since worker behavior was earmarked as an area for improvement, UniTech worked alongside SONGS to help develop a protective clothing prescription program. This included pre-outage training sessions, posters and broadcast e-mails to all employees that outlined proper ways to use UniTech garments.

“For example, we needed to communicate to employees that if you are going to be in a wet environment, you need to wear ProTech Plus coveralls and a CASI suit,” said Downard. “Ultimately, we needed to empower the

employees to take ownership of the program." The SONGS prescription included ProTech Plus coveralls, hoods, shoe covers, and rubber gloves. ProTech Plus is a lightweight synthetic garment with outstanding strength and barrier performance.

The partnership is a complete lease and launder program in which UniTech works on-site to ensure that supplies are fully stocked and laid out for worker use.

As part of its service contract with SONGS, UniTech arranged to have three UniTech staff members and a Mobile Safety Store on site throughout the scheduled outage. "This provided us with the ability to quickly change processes or respond to the dynamic needs of an outage," said French, who led the UniTech on-site team. During the outage, SONGS was faced with contamination issues in clean areas. "We were able to provide product recommendations, including the use of UniTech's UltraWipe, a decon wiper with high liquid and oil absorption capacity." This instant supply of new materials was one of the keys to SONGS' success.

The UniTech Mobile Safety Store was also instrumental in providing just-in-time delivery of items and avoiding overnight deliveries. "The SONGS procurement staff didn't have to think about protective clothing," said Downard. "But this wasn't just about protective clothing," added French. "We partnered with SONGS in every area in which they needed to make improvements."

The goal of the 2007 outage was to have no more than 75 PCEs. With the SONGS/UniTech partnership in place, SONGS successfully finished a 53-day outage with just 58 PCEs (with only 3 attributable to protective clothing). According to Downard, "Our SONGS experience is one of the best examples of how UniTech's hybrid programs can help solve a problem."

Welcome New Members

Congratulations to the following additional individuals who successfully passed the
NRRPT February 23, 2008 examination:

Duane Boone Bradley T. Pleasants, Jr. Bennett L. Wallace

Congratulations to the following individuals who successfully passed the
NRRPT August 2, 2008 examination:

Robert H. Andrus, Jr	James M. Coder	George R. Hoffmeyer	Roderick J. McIntyre
Joseph G. Archer	Robert J. Danforth	Chin-Yuan G. Hwaung	Bret D. McLean
David K. Balmer	Karen O. Ely	James A. Lochotzki	David H. Mullins
Gary W. Buckley	Mark W. Fielding	Kelly B. Martin	Martin J. Naughton
Harold K. Chacon	Jason S. Foster	Catherine M. Martin	Kyle J. Peltier
Nathan E. Chviek	Collette M. Hall	Michael J. Mazzitello	Jeffrey T. White
			Jason S. Woodard

New Members: If you do not have access to the "Members Only" portion of the website, please contact the Executive Secretary (nrrpt@nrrpt.org). Your email address must be on file in order for you to gain access.

Changes to Neutron Reference Fields for Instrument Calibration for DOE

By Jim Rolph, RRPT

The Department of Energy (DOE) published an amendment to 10 CFR 835 Occupational Radiation Protection on June 8, 2007. This amendment updated the dosimetric models and dose terms to be consistent with newer recommendations from the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). This amendment replaces the ICRP-26/30 (1977) models and dose terms with the ICRP-60/74 (1991) methodology. DOE Radiological Protection Programs are expected to implement the changes by 2010.

In radiation protection there are two types of measurement quantities defined for external radiation. They are protection quantities which are defined by the ICRP for dose quantities, and operational quantities which are defined by the International Commission on Radiation (ICRU) for calibrating reference fields for area and individual monitoring. One important concept is that protection quantities are not directly measurable, whereas the ICRU developed operational quantities for conducting measurements of external radiation fields can be measured or calculated. The ICRU uses quality factors to account for differences in radiation quality based on linear energy transfer in water. The operational dose-equivalent quantities defined by the ICRU for physical measurements of radiation fields are:

- Ambient dose equivalent, $H^*(d)$;
- Directional dose equivalent, $H'(d, \Omega)$; and
- Personal dose equivalent, $H_p(d)$.

ICRP Report 51 describes these operational quantities. For workplace monitoring the ambient dose equivalent is used and its unit is the sievert (Sv). The purpose of this quantity is to characterize the potential irradiation of individuals in terms of a single dose equivalent quantity that would exist in a phantom representing the human body. Measurement of ambient dose equivalent requires that the radiation field be uniform over the dimensions of the instrument and that the instrument have an isotropic response. In the past the regulations provided appropriate fluence to dose conversions to be used. This most recent change to the regulations omitted the dose conversions. Therefore another has to be referenced to obtain them.

The table below is taken from the ISO 8529-1: 2001 standard. This standard provides direction for the methods of producing and characterizing the neutron reference radiations for calibrating neutron measuring dose meters. The table provides the factors necessary to convert neutron fluence into the ambient dose equivalent recommended for radiation protection purposes.

The standard points out that the source should be supplied with a certificate of its isotopic composition, and the source strength is to be calibrated by a reference laboratory such as National Institute of Standards and Technology before use.

The source strength is to be corrected for radioactive decay on a day-to-day basis and the sources should be recalibrated every five years.

The size of the room the source is used in will directly contribute to the magnitude of the correction required for room and air scattered neutrons. These effects are to be corrected and the uncertainty that results is required to be known.

ISO 8529-1:2001 Table 1-Reference neutron source for calibrating instruments

Source	T1/2 (years)	Fluence-average-energy (MeV)	Dose-equivalent-average-energy (MeV)	Specific Source Strength (s ⁻¹ kg ⁻¹)	Ratio of photon to neutron dose equivalent rates	Spectrum averaged fluence-to-dose equivalent conversion coefficient (pSv·cm ²)
(D ₂ O moderated) ²⁵² Cf	2.65	0.55	2.1	2.1E15	0.18	105
(bare) ²⁵² Cf	2.65	2.13	2.3	2.4E15	0.05	385

Calculated on the basis of the neutron spectra given in Annex A and the conversion coefficients given in ICRU Report 57.

The conversion coefficients from neutron to ambient dose equivalent for calibrating neutron survey meters for area and individual neutron monitoring is taken from the ISO 8529-3: 1998 standard. The conversion coefficient in the table below compares these values with the value current used at least at one national laboratory. The resulting change is also provided showing a 16-17 percent increase in the reported dose.

Spectrum average fluence to dose equivalent conversion (pSv·cm²)

Spectrum	Current (ICRP 26), NBS 633	Revised (ICRP 74, ISO 8529-3 Table 2)	Ratio
Moderated ²⁵² Cf	90	105	1.17
Bare ²⁵² Cf	333	383	1.16

The Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG) RP Subgroup formed a Neutron Quality Factor Task Team shortly after the rule was published. This team hopes to have a recommendation document out in the near future. Preliminary information is that this document may name tables from ICRP 74 and ICRU 57 as being allowable for deriving fluence to dose conversions. No changes in how photons instruments are being calibrated using the common use of R units is anticipated. We will have to wait for the publication of this document to see the actual recommendations and the overall effect. Refer to the following link to see what happens: http://efcog.org/wg/esh_rp/index.htm One thing is certain the reporting of neutron doses referenced to the above listed energies will increase. This awaited document will be important reading for many of us.

Other thoughts and considerations we need to be mindful of. NRC licensed facilities will be reporting lower doses compared to DOE. Radioactive shipments documents may read differently depending on whether the calibration of the instrument was done under the NRC or DOE rules. When NRC licensed facilities send their instruments to a National Laboratory for calibration, they may have to specify the calibration reference desired for their rules. For a radiation protection technologist this information may prove to be useful. To learn more refer to the referenced documents.

Continued on page 8

NR-1 (NUCLEAR RESEARCH SUBMARINE) TO BE DEACTIVATED

**** Attention NR-1 Current and Former Crew Members ****

The NR-1 is scheduled to be deactivated at the end of this year after almost 40 years of service. Current and former crew members as well as those who have worked directly on the NR-1 are holding a reunion in Mystic, CT (close to the area where she is home based) on November 21 - 23, 2008. If you worked on the NR-1, you're cordially invited to attend this event and "bid a fond farewell to a great lady".

There was a recent article in the Day, New London, CT newspaper about the deactivation and service this unique vessel has performed, calling her the "the little sub that could". She holds the distinction of being "the Navy's only nuclear-powered, deep-diving ocean engineering and research submarine.

Although most of her work in the ocean depths involve assignments that the Navy does not discuss, some of the NR-1's high profile missions include retrieving pieces of the space shuttle Challenger and the engines from the Egyptair Flight 990 when it crashed off the coast of New England in 1999. The NR-1 has searched for shipwrecks around the world, including an Israeli submarine that vanished in 1968.

With the ability to dive almost half a mile, this one-of-a-kind, 146 foot submarine also played an important role in oceanographic research.

For more information please e-mail degrooth@ct.metrocast.net. Your information will be forwarded to the Chief of the Boat and will be added to the master list for the reunion. Please specify whether or not you wish to receive a Reunion Invitation packet.

Continued from page 7

References:

10 CFR 835 *Occupational Radiation Protection* dated June 8, 2007

ICRP Publication 60, 1990 *Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection*

ICRP Publication 74, *Conversion Coefficients for use in Radiological Protection against External Radiation*

ISO 8529-1: 2001, *Reference Neutron Radiations - Part 1 :Characteristics and Methods of Production*

ISO 8529-2: 2000, *Reference Neutron Radiations - Part 2: Calibration Fundamentals of Radiation Protection Devices related to the Basic Quantities Characterizing the Radiation Field*

ISO 8529-3: 1998, *Reference Neutron Radiations - Part 3: Calibration of Area and Personal Dosimeters and Determination of their Response as a Function of Neutron Energy and Angle of Incidence*

ICRU Report 51: 1993, *Quantities and Units in Radiation Protection Dosimetry*

NRRPT Board & Panel Meeting

The **NRRPT** Board and Panel Meeting will be held January 31 - February 3, 2009 in conjunction with the HPS Midyear Meeting in San Antonio, TX. All **NRRPT** members are welcome and encourage to attend. For more information regarding the **NRRPT** Board and Panel Meeting, please contact DeeDee McNeill at nrrpt@nrrpt.org or 509-582-3500.

The Health Physics Society has arranged a special rate of \$155 single or double at the LaQuinta Inn & Suites - San Antonio Convention Center, 303 Blum, San Antonio, Texas 78205. Please note that these rates do not include tax. Reserve your room by calling the LaQuinta central reservation service at 866-527-1498 or call the hotel directly at 210-222-9181. Make sure to mention the Health Physics Society meeting to get the group rate. Reserve early to ensure a room at the group rate. Once the block is sold out, rooms may not be available at the group rate. The cutoff date for reservations is 30 December 2008. Additional information can be downloaded from the HPS website located at www.hps.org.

See page 10 for the Preliminary Program information.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our new **NRRPT** Fellow members: Dwaine Brown, Tim Kirkham and Steve Lancaster were recommended to receive Fellow status by our Awards Committee.

Congratulations to our new **NRRPT** Emeritus member: George B Walker was recommended to receive Emeritus status by our Awards Committee.

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NRRPT Sustaining Dues

2009 sustaining dues have been mailed! Please submit to the Executive Secretary's office by October 31, 2008.

**42nd Annual Midyear Meeting of the
Health Physics Society
January 31 - February 3, 2009
San Antonio, TX**

**Recent Advances in Planning and Response to
Radiation Emergencies**

Preliminary Program - Session Listing

Sunday:

- 8:15 AM - 12:15 PM* Plenary Session
1:30 - 3:30 PM Medical Response Activities by Hospital and Emergency Medical Systems
1:30 - 5:30 PM Special Session: Nevada Test Site Contributions to Radiological Emergency Response and Homeland Security
4:00 - 5:00 Military Response to Catastrophic Domestic Incidents

Monday:

- 8:30 - 10:15 AM* Radiation Hazards From Radiological Dispersal Devices & INDS
8:15 AM - 12:15 PM Special Session: Radiological Emergency Planning and Public Health
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM Cleanup of Areas Affected by Nuclear Weapons or Dispersal Devices
2:00 - 5:15 PM Integration of Agencies and Resources & National Response Framework
2:00 - 5:00 PM Advances in Instrumentation
1:30 - 2:00 PM Poster Session

Tuesday:

- 8:30 AM - 12:15 PM* Training and Guidance for Professionals, First Responders, First Receivers and Members of the Public in Response to a Radiological Attack
8:15 AM - 12:15 PM Special Session: Recent Developments in Radiological Incident Planning and Response by Federal Agencies
1:30 - 2:45 PM Interdiction and Security of Radiological Materials and Border & Port Initiatives
1:30 - 2:45 PM Population Screening and Monitoring
3:15 - 4:15 PM Crisis Risk Communication
3:15 - 4:15 PM Special Session: Advancements in Emergency Preparedness Regulations and Guidance



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San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station is proud to have over 60 registered NRRT 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 NRRT 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.

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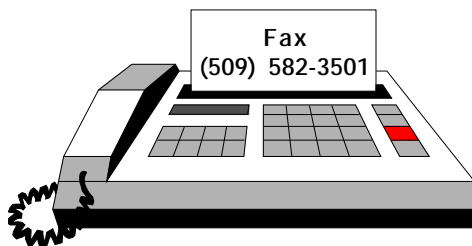
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