

#### September 2021

Chairman's Message

### Greetings fellow RRPTs!

Greetings to all of my fellow **RRPTs!** I hope that as we start to turn towards fall that everyone had a very enjoyable summer. I would like to personally welcome the twenty-seven new RRPTs that passed the February 2021 exam bringing the Registry to 5727 members strong – it won't be long until we hit the 6000 milestone. Congratulations on your great achievement. As you read this the candidates that sat for the August 2021 exam have been sent their results and we will celebrate their success in the next newsletter.

After having the last two NRRPT Board of Director's meetings virtually we got to hold the summer 2021 live in Phoenix, AZ July 24 – 27. It was fantastic to see some of the NRRPT family again! Unfortunately we didn't get to see everyone as there were still some travel restrictions in place so we will hope to see more at the next meeting. As usual, the Exam Panel put in an incredible amount of work. The numerous committees, getting to meet in person for the first time in eighteen months, got right to work to make the Registry the best it can be. We celebrated all the hard work and getting to see each other again by going out for a meal facilitated by some wonderful NRRPT sponsors. There are pictures of the night out and the sponsors in the newsletter.

Speaking of the newsletter, I think the Newsletter committee did a great job with this edition. They changed up some things and put some emphasis on RRPTs that have been registered for twenty-five years or more. There is a list of RRPTs that passed the exam between 1976 and 1982. We will be

### Incorporated April 12, 1976

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## Contacts

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continuing the list for 1983 and up in future issues. There is a fantastic article from our very own Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors Michelle Kovach describing how passing the NRRPT has helped her during her rich and fulfilling career in radiation protection. I will bet that there are many more stories from you RRPTs out there about how passing the exam has helped you in your career. If you are willing to share your story please contact DeeDee at nrrpt@nrrpt.org. I would love to see those stories in future issues. There is also very good technical article on how naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) caused a little excitement at the Savanah River Site. The last thing that I would call to your to your attention but certainly not the last thing in the newsletter is the Rad Movie review. This may be your motivation for a little couch time to relax as the weather turns cooler.

I always enjoy hearing from you all so please feel free to give me a call at 505-667-7440 to chat or send me an email at rickras@lanl.gov.

Respectfully, Rick Rasmussen **NRRPT**, Chairman of the Board



# Welcome New NRRPT Members

Congratulations to the following individuals who successfully passed the NRRPT Examination on February 20, 2021:

Jared Brush Jeremy Byble Daniel Carter Eddie Coaly Coltan Davis Michael Drelich Brandon Hamilton Brian Harwood Jaime Herner John Hertz John Jeandrevin Christopher Korst Edward MacLennan Rion Marcinko Benjamin Morris John Oliver Mark Peterson Jason Reed Seth Schulte Averell Seyler Gerald Stoelb Andrew Straub-Walden David Tenney William Watson Jacob Weeks Cody Wohlschlegel Alexander Woods

# Greater than 25 Years as an RRPT has Helped My Confidence, My Career, and Introduced Me to Amazing People

### by Michelle Kovach

When it was discovered that I passed the NRRPT exam more than 25 years ago, I was asked if I could write something up about what NRRPT has done for me. As I pondered that question, it was difficult to pinpoint what it hasn't done for me in my career. These include helping me achieve confidence in test taking, to feeling confident in my occupational field, to enabling me to advance my career.

In 1994, I was working as a radiological shift supervisor. That is when I barely reached my five-year eligibility to take the NRRPT exam. I was just shy of 24 years old. I struggled with taking tests in school, college, and for work (a serious case of test anxiety). I also felt inferior to many others in my work group as they were often discussing some trivial tidbit of radiological information that I didn't know or remember. At the time, I did not realize these individuals were challenging me and were helping me grow. When they would bring up their tidbits, I used it as a challenge to look it up and learn something new. After taking a preparation course, studying every evening, studying some mornings prior to work, and over the weekends for two solid months (yes, I'm sure I met the >250 hours of study time that most require to pass the exam), I took the exam in November. I received a letter from NRRPT just before Christmas. I was going to Idaho and was sure I had failed it. I didn't want it to spoil my trip, so I didn't open it until I returned in January. It turned out it wouldn't have spoiled my trip as I passed the exam.

Within a month after passing the exam, I moved up to a day shift first line manager for the group I was working and eventually became the Deputy Radiological Control Manager. I was informed that since I didn't have a four-year degree, the NRRPT is what edged me out over other applicants.

In 1997, I took the voluntary reduction of force from the company in which I was working. I went to work for a different company at the Hanford site within three weeks. The requirement on position description was a non-negotiable requirement to have the NRRPT registration. This was for a Senior Radiological Control Technician. At that company, I almost immediately

moved into a lead technician position and then a Radiological Control Supervisor. A year after becoming a supervisor, I was requested to apply for a radiological engineering position for the parent company. I was awarded the position. I was informed that not only due to my work history but being a RRPT is what allowed me to meet the equivalent education and experience requirements I lacked due to not having a bachelor's degree. In any of these positions, I did not have to take an entrance exam nor take the annual DOE core exam as I was a RRPT.

In 2001, an opportunity arose for me to work at Rocky Flats as a Radiological Engineer. When I was considering it, I discussed it with one of the senior managers in radiological protection. He told me that if I was ever going to get Rocky Flats experience, that would be the time to do it. He told me that Hanford would still be around, and he'd hire me when Rocky Flats was finished. Again, I didn't meet the education and experience requirements as the position description listed a bachelor's degree. Upon verification with DeeDee that I was a RRPT, I was offered the position for more than what I anticipated and even better, it included per diem.

When Rocky Flats closed, I went to the Idaho Cleanup Project. At the Idaho Cleanup Project and later, Idaho National Laboratory, being a RRPT was what I needed to continue being a radiological engineer. Once again, NRRPT helped me. As a side note, when I worked at Idaho National Laboratory, the Radiation Protection Director was able to acquire a significant hourly rate increase for those RCTs that are and maintain their RRPT registration

After raising my daughter, I moved back to Hanford. Due to my experience and being RRPT, I was hired on as a senior health physicist. This year, I became a project radiological control manager. Being RRPT is what helped me acquire my position since I still do not have my bachelor's degree.

NRRPT has helped me become more confident in taking tests, more confident in my occupational capabilities, and has helped me in my progression.

Being a member of the Board of Directors and Panel of Examiners, I continue to learn and maintain my proficiency since I no longer take the DOE Core examination (and have not needed to take it since becoming a RRPT). This group of people are people I might not have ever met had I not passed the exam. These individuals have not only become friends but are what I consider members of my family. Now NRRPT will help me once again as I complete my bachelor's degree. A significant amount of credit toward my degree is awarded for having the registration.

Editor's comment: We on the NRRPT Board and Panel greatly appreciate all of the work that Michelle has performed since the day she joined our group. Michelle is very obviously a Radiation Protection professional, regardless of not having a baccalaureate degree. She is also clearly confident, which she demonstrated on her first day in our group; she jumped headfirst into every committee she could join.

On a personal note: Michelle, complete your BS degree! Once you have that, you could add many letters behind your name. It's a great way to be a sought-out consultant every day for the rest of your life!

# Please contact the Executive Secretary if you have a "Greater than 25 Years as an RRPT" story to share!

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Executive Secretary—DeeDee McNeill—nrrpt@nrrpt.org



# 25 Years + as an NRRPT

### The following members were registered 1976—1982

1976 AUBREY, RICHARD F. **BAKEVICH, GEORGE J.** BARDECKER, JERALD E. BOURQUIN, MARTIN W. BROWN, JEFFREY M. BROWN, ROBERT J. BURBAGE, WOODROW R. BUTLER, ALFRED C. CARGILL, EDWIN M. CHRISTENOT, RODNEY L. COSTA, CHARLES F. COUCH, ERNEST E. CRAIG, DAVID E. CROSBY, JR., ELI H. DAVIS, JOHNNY JOE, CHP DEIGL, HERBERT J. EICHHORN, JR., CARROLL E. ERICKSON, VICTOR FANTACCI, CHARLES L. GARDINER, DENNIS E. HARRISON, JR., JOHN D. HARVEY, PAUL W. HATCHER, LARRY W. HELVIE, JR., JAMES D. HODGES, WILLIAM R. HORMAN, R. LEON HUMM, JR., ARTHUR F. JAKUBOWSKI, FRANK M. JOHNSON, JOSEPH R. JOHNSON, RICHARD D. KITTS, RONNIE J. KLOVER, WILLIAM J. KOBAYASHI, RICHARD S. KOEPPEN, L. DON LAMSON, III, MILES L. LOE, RONALD H. LUM, JESSE D. LUNSFORD, MARVIN C. MACKLIET, DAN L. MADDEN, TIMOTHY MAGYAR, GEORGE MARSHALL, DON W. MAY, BRICE J. MCCARTHY, MARVIN J.

MCCLOSKY-DEBIS, MARY A. MCKNIGHT, CHARLES (BAMA) D. MILLER, LARRY O. MORGIN, R. L. NELLESEN, DONALD L. NELSON, JOHN D. PETERSON, HENRY K. PRINGLE, CHARLES D. **REYNOLDS, HAROLD W. RICHARDS, VANCORT R.** ROESLER, JAMES J. ROHER, DREW F. **ROSENBERRY, CHARLES E. ROTHMAN, LEON** SCHROTKE, SR., RONALD C. SHORE, REGINALD A. SUNDERLAND, NORMAN (NORM) R. SUNDRA, JOSEPH J. **TEAGUE, STEPHEN** TERPILAK, MICHAEL S. THOMAS, JAMES L. TURNER, DOUGLAS W. URNESS, DAVID A. VAN PATTEN, ALLYN F. VANNOY, TRACY WAGGONER, LARRY O. WEETMAN, RICHARD A. WILLIAMS, STEPHEN L. WILSON, ROSS L. WILSON, WILLIAM A. WRIGHT, MAYNARD R. YUHAS, GREGORY P. ZANTOPP, RUDOLF 1977 ACKER, STEPHEN E. BARTON, JOHN M. BOYD, ROBERT M. **BRANTER, M. KEITH** BURKE, LAWRENCE L. BURSTAD, DUANE R. CHRISTIAN, DANNY J. CONNER, MITCHELL L. DOAN. HAROLD R. **DUCEY, CHRIS** 

FISHENCORD, RAY E.

FONG, HENRY W. C. FOSTER, STEPHEN R. FRIEDRICHS, ROBERT E. **GILCHRIST, JAMES V.** GREEN, ROBERT E. HERRON, DAVID S. HOOKER, CLAUDE D. HORVATH, DENNIS A. HUNT, JERRY B. **IRVINE, DAN L.** JOHNSON, AL JONES, CHARLES C. KAULBACK, DONALD E. KROLL, O. B. LEE, DAVID W., CHP LINVILLE, JOHN T. LIPP, ROBERT D. LOESCH, ROBERT M. MERKLING, TERRY D. OLIVER, HARRY A. ORROCK, DONALD L. SAALMAN, JAMES E. SHULER, JAMES M. SLATEN, JOHN R. SMITH, KRIS A. SMITH, ROBERT L. TARPINIAN, JAMES E. WALLACE, JAMES E. WETTERAU, JR., LEONARD W. YERRY, HUGH P. 1978 **BROSEY, BARRY H.** COOK, JAMES P. DECKER, WILLIAM A. DIETRICH, JAMES G. DOWNARD, T. RICHARD FARQUHAR, D. STEWART FINERFROCK, DUANE L. **GERONIMO, THOMAS E. GIANUTSOS, PHILIP L.** GROSS. GARY P. HAMLEY, STEVEN A. HAYNES, C. G. (JERRY) JONES, CRAIG W. JORDAN, LARRY

LEE, FRANCIS W. LINES, HAROLD LINK, RICHARD A. LOVENDALE, PAUL C. MATHIASEN, GLENN O. MITCHELL, DONALD G. OTTLEY, DAVID B. SMITH, JR., H. PARLEY STRELECKI, JR., SAMUEL J. VYENIELO, MARTIN L. 1979 ALLRED, E. VANCE ALLRED, JOSEPH R. CLARK, HARRIS W. DROTTER, MICHAEL FANNING, GENERY S. GARCIA, RICHARD C. GIVENS, RONALD (MIKE) M. HARPER, JAMES T. HAYES. THOMAS M. HENSLEY, ERWIN L. HYATT, BILL D. **JAEGER, F. PETER KING, JAMES** LAMBIER, DARWIN D. LEWIS, JANIS MARSTON, RONALD R. MCILVAINE, EDWARD J. MOSELEY, THOMAS T. PATTERSON, DEAN E. PAVELEK, II, MICHAEL D. PHALEN, ROBERT E. POWERS, BRYCE A. QUAST, RAY H. SERABIAN, JR., JOHN A. SERRA, PAUL L. SPROUSE, SR., LELAND H. STALEY, ROGER P. SUMMERS, ARLO D. SUTER, EDWARD T. TANSKY, RICHARD R. TOMANY, WILLIAM D. TRINOSKEY, PAULA A. TRINOSKEY, VERNE L. YOUNG, KENNETH C.

#### 1980

ALLARD, DAVID J., CHP ANDERSON, VICTOR E. BARRINGER, RUSSELL G. **BEECHER, DAVID L.** BLACK, THOMAS J. BLAKE, MICHAEL S. BOHLENDER, DANNY G. **BOSTICK, HARRY B. BOSTICK, VERNON B.** BOYLE, MICHAEL J., CHP BRENENBORG, GARY C. BRESELL, RONALD R. BUA, MICHAEL J. BYRNE, CHRISTOPHER E. CHAMBERS, DENNIS R. CLARK, ROBERT B. COX, JACK W. DEBOCK, DONALD K. DONNELLY, TIMOTHY A. EPSTEIN, LARRY D. FARNSWORTH, PERRY E. FRIZZELL, TERRY O. GALAMBACK, JOHN E. GALLEGOS, ROBERT W. GARCIA, EMILIO GARDECKI, RICHARD J. **GOFF, THOMAS E., CHP GREENBAUM, PAUL** HARDY, BYRON L. HIGGINBOTHAM, GLENN E. HOLLE, CLAUDE J. HUGHES, III, JOHN H. JOHNSTONE, GREGG A. KAYE, JOEL T. **KEPHART, GARY S., CHP** KIRKHAM, HARRY L. KOCH, PHILIP N. LATHAM, RICHIE L. LIMBERT, JAMES M. LOW, RICKEY L. LOWRY, ROBERT C. METZLER, GEORGE H. MICHALKO, JERRY P. MINER, ELIZABETH MOREAU, THOMAS G. MORRILL, TERRY S. MURPHY, GEORGE M. NEWEY, JOHN M. NICOLLS, STEVEN A.

O'SHAUGHNESSY, MICHAEL D. PELTON, RICHARD M. PENTTILA, ARNE E. PERDUE, PHILIP T. PRICE, JAMES E. PRICE, MARK T. RANNELLS, PETER V. RAUCH, JOHN E. **REYNOLDS, KIM W.** ROGERS, WILLIAM B. SALMON, DAVID W. SHINGLETON, JOHN R. SKINNER, ROBERT L. SOLGE, JR., JOSEPH F. TESKE, JAMES H. THARNISH, DONALD C. TINDALL, ROGER J. **TSAKERES, FRANK S.** VERNIG, PETER G. WENTZEL, PAUL A. WILCOX, DAVID P. WYLIE, SCOTT W. 1981 ALACONIS, WALTER C. ALFORD, JOSEPH R. ATWATER, JAMES E. AUMAN, LAURENCE E., CHP **BACON, W. FRANK BEAULIEU, ADRIAN A.** BELL, JR., MARK R. **BELLMORE, JAMES R.** BELNAP, G. TYRONE BONNETT, MICHAEL L. BOWEN, RONALD E. BRANN, JEFFREY A. BYARD, DONALD R. **CAVAIANI, CHARLES** CHILTON, MILTON W., CHP CLONTZ, WILLIAM N. COLLINS, DAVID J. CONRAD, J. ALLEN COOK, RICHARD F. COPPES, KEVIN M. CORBETT, DAVID A. CROWDER, JOHN F. DALE, ROBERT C. DALLAS, LEWIS E. D'ANGELO, JAY J. DAVIS, LARRY J.

DAVISON, MICHAEL J.

DIAS, THOMAS J. DOOLEY, LAWRENCE M. DOPPE, WILLIAM J. DOUGLAS, P. ROBERT **DUBE, LAWRENCE** ELDREDGE, BRUCE E. FELICE, PATRICK E. FERGUSON, WILLIAM L. FLAHARDY, DONALD T. FOLEY, RAY D. FUNKE, ANTHONY L. GERBIG, ROGER H. GODDARD, CLAIR S. **GRAFTON, RUSSELL H. GRAHAM, RICHARD V. GRANBERG, RICHARD D., CHP GRUBE, MICHAEL L.** HUNT, HIRAM M. HUNTZINGER, CALVIN J. JOHANSEN, JENNY M. JOHNSON, WILLIAM K. JONES, ROGER A. KANE, JAMES A. (JIM) **KELLOGG, JR., E. HOWARD** KING, ANDREW C. KNOELL, C, LEE KONZEM, KEVIN LAMBSON, MARSHALL K. LANGE, EDWARD J. LEWIS, GARY L. LORING, WALTER S. LUNN, BRIAN P. MAYHEW, RICHARD B. MCCLELLAN, JOHN J. MCKINNEY, MICHAEL E. **MESKANICK, JOHN A.** MILLER, BURT H., CHP MILLER, JOY A. MITCHELL, DAVID L. MITCHELL, ELDRED T. MOLNER, JOHN J. MONTONDO, GEORGE A. O'CONOR, JOSEPH G. O'DONOGHUE, E. JOHN O'DOU, THOMAS J., CHP PEDERSON, GREGORY A. POLCHOW, JAY R. POUDRIER, MARK R. RICHARD, ALFRED A. **RIDGEL, JERRY A.** 

**ROBSON, WILLIAM G.** RUBEN, RICHARD D. **RUYTER, DAVID S.** SAVELY, WILLIAM (BILL) A. SCOTT, JOHN W. SELMAN, RALPH L. SHAW, JOHN L. SHULTZ, PHILLIP A., CHP SMITH, SAMUEL G. SPIERS, FRANK C. STEFAN, ROBERT L. STINSON, STUART L. STRAUB, DUANE P. STRICKLAND, PETER S. STROUD, EDWARD D. TACHE, PETER TAYLOR, RALPH A. THOMPSON, ROGER L. TRUDEAU, A. R. (DICK) WADE, MARSHAL A. WAGNER, DAVID S. WELLS, ARLIE D. WHITEHEAD, JEFFREY L. WISE, RUSSELL WISHAU, ROGER J. WOHLERS, CARY L. 1982 ARAGON, DAVID A. ASHBES, DAVID E. BALDWIN, DAVID A. BENNETT, EDWARD J. **BENNETT, JAMES D.** BINGHAM, RALPH E. BLACK, DAVID M. BORDERS, REX J. BOSTROM, CARL T. BOWSER, JOHN F. BOWSER, RITA W. **BROOKS, KENNETH L. BROWN, CHRISTOPHER O. BUMP, STEPHEN L. BURROWS, JOANNE C.** CAITHNESS, WALTER G. CLARK, BRIAN F. CLARK, CHARLES S. CLARKE, GEORGE W. COUNTISS (WADDELL), SANDRA SUE CRUICKSHANK, JAMES W. DALSON, RICHARD V.

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If you'd like to join the Panel of Examiners please contact one of the following:

Exam Panel Chairman—Dave Wirkus—wirkdl63@gmail.com

Executive Secretary—DeeDee McNeill—nrrpt@nrrpt.org

# Scaler Energy Nano Card Incident at Savannah River Site

By Michael Ratliff and Dennis Hadlock

### **Initiating Event**

A Savannah River Site (SRS) radiological worker was being surveyed on an ARGOS Personnel Contamination Monitor<sup>A</sup> (PCM) to exit a Radiological Buffer Area. The ARGOS unit alarmed, and the Radiation Protection Department (RPD) personnel responding identified radioactivity on the worker's right thigh. Their pancake probe instruments showed 8K-10K dpm beta-gamma /100cm<sup>2</sup>. The Radiological Controls Inspector (RCI) taped down that area on the worker, then escorted the worker to the facility's decontamination room for further surveys.

### **Facility Response**

The area on the worker's thigh was probed again, over the tape, in the facility's decontamination room with a maximum reading of 16K dpm beta-gamma, and no detectable (ND) alpha/100cm<sup>2</sup>. The worker mentioned that he remembered having something in the pocket of his jeans, underneath the coveralls he was wearing. The worker was instructed to take the item out of his pocket. The item was sized and shaped like a credit card and is shown in the pictures below. The RCI, still wearing gloves, took the card from the worker. The RCI surveyed with a pancake probe first, showing a reading between 120K and 160K dpm beta-gamma/100cm<sup>2</sup>, and with an AC-3 alpha scintillation probe, showing ND alpha/100cm<sup>2</sup>. Disc smears taken of the entire surface area were counted in a portable scaler and indicated <20 dpm alpha, and <200 dpm beta -gamma. These values indicate the smears are less than the clean limits for transferrable contamination at the SRS.



Front

Back

The RCI instructed the worker to enter an ARGOS monitor again without the card. The worker cleared successfully two successive times, which is the SRS requirement to pass the PCM after alarming it once. At this point, the RCI brought the events to the attention of their RPD First Line Manager (FLM). The RCI and FLM looked up the website shown on the card but found no indication of what radioisotope would be in the card. The worker claimed the card was given to him by one of his co-workers, who was also present in the RPD office. The second worker had 2 more cards of the same kind, inside the soles of his boots. This worker had not set off the PCM upon exiting the Radiological Buffer Area. The second worker then gave his two cards to RPD for further contamination and dose rate surveys prior to packaging. Dose rate surveys were conducted with an RO-20 ionization chamber instrument<sup>B</sup>. The first card read 3.2 mR/hr Extremity, ND mR/hr Skin, and ND mR/hr Whole Body. The three cards packaged together read 4.8 mR/hr Extremity, ND mR/hr Skin, ND mR/hr Whole Body. All 3 cards disc smeared <20 dpm alpha and <200 dpm beta-gamma. The 3 cards were placed in a sealable bag, and a radioactive material tag was affixed to the bag stating the maximum dose rate at contact, <20 dpm Alpha, <200 dpm beta-gamma transferable contamination levels. Proper notifications were made to RPD management and the facility's Shift Operations Manager.

### Laboratory Analysis

The facility's RPD brought all three cards to the Health Physics Services (HPS) Technical Laboratory, and communicated the directprobe readings, as well as clarified that they all show no signs of transferrable contamination. HPS stacked all three cards, measured their thickness, and created a detector efficiency model for their shape and size to apply In-Situ Object Counting System (ISOCS)<sup>C</sup> geometry-based efficiency corrections to convert the peak size into a quantity of microcuries. The cards were counted together to increase the overall count rate in the detector, prioritizing the desire to know how the cards compared to 10 CFR 835<sup>D</sup> Appendix E values for labeling and posting requirements for whatever radionuclides might be present.

Gamma spectroscopy measurements were taken with a High Purity Germanium (HPGe) detector that is enclosed in a 4" thick lead (Pb) shield lined with copper. This heavy shielding drastically reduces the radiation background that is picked up by the detector. This ended up being very important to the analysis results, as the gamma analysis indicated radioisotopes that are also present in typical radiation backgrounds.



The shielded detector system used for counting was a Canberra (now Mirion Technologies) Broad Energy Germanium (BEGe) 3825 detector with a carbon composite entrance window mounted inside a Model 747<sup>E</sup> Lead Shield.

Spectral results indicated Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) from two naturally occurring alpha decay chains (see decay diagrams below). The first decay chain is the Th-232 decay chain, with observations of Th-232, Ra-228, Ac-228, Th-228, Ra-224, Rn-220, Po-216, Pb-212, Bi-212, and TI-208. Each of these radionuclides were present in radioactivities of 0.01 µCi or less. HPS's assessment was that these species are in the equilibrium expected to be seen from naturally occurring Th-232 that has not undergone recent chemical purification to remove daughter products. It takes time on the order of 25 years for the equilibrium to be established from a purified sample of Th-232.







Uranium-238 Decay Series Diagram

The second decay chain observed is the U-238 decay chain, with observations of Th-234, Pa-234m, U-234, Th-230, Ra-226, Rn-222, Pb-214, Bi-214, and Pb-210. Each of these radionuclides were estimated to have activities of 0.03 uCi or less. HPS's assessment is that these species are in the equilibrium expected to be seen from naturally occurring U-238 that has not recently undergone chemical purification to remove daughter products. It takes time on the order of hundreds of thousands of years for this equilibrium to be established from a purified sample of U-238. Also observed is U-235, estimated at 0.0018 uCi. This quantity is reasonably close to the ratio of activity expected from natural uranium between the U-238 and U-235, indicating this material is likely natural (not enriched or depleted) uranium. Further evidence to this conclusion is the presence of the decay daughters, which would be removed as part of the chemical conversion processing to prepare uranium materials for enrichment.

### Gamma Ray Spectra

Selections of the gamma-ray spectrum have been labeled and included to demonstrate the complexity of the gamma-ray spectrum that was collected. The final analysis had 173 Regions of Interest (ROI's) classified as identifiable gamma-ray peaks.



Detail Views of Gamma-Ray Spectrum Measured from the Nano Cards







After spectroscopy measurements were completed, the cards were also scanned with a pancake probe over the face of the cards, with and without a metal plate with a hot particle shield with a 1cm diameter hole (right), and it was assessed that the activity is evenly distributed across the whole area of the card. Static 1-minute readings with a dual alpha-beta scintillation probe<sup>F</sup> also showed approximately equal radioactivity readings for both sides of all three cards.



**Pancake Probe and Shield** 

### Technical Position on the Radioactive Contents of the Cards

For the species identified in each decay chain, 10 CFR 835 Appendix E values are 10 uCi at the lowest, with some being higher. Based on the measured radioactivity levels, it was determined that the three cards together are well below the Appendix E values and qualify for the exception to labeling requirements as defined in 10 CFR 835.606(a)(2). Further counting of individual cards was not conducted once this determination had been made.

### What Is Nano Energy or Scaler Energy, Anyway ?

The notion of *nano energy, scaler energy, negative ion technology*, or *quantum energy* having healing properties has been around for quite some time. In general, the claimed benefits of this mysterious energy source vary from pain relief, to faster healing of injuries, to protection from electromagnetic fields. These sorts of claims are popular in various goods marketed towards consumers seeking non-traditional medicine. At the beginning of nuclear science, people were encouraged to drink water that had been enriched with radium, by persons extolling the health benefits<sup>G</sup>. It seems these sorts of products still exist, in the form of monazite mattresses<sup>H</sup>, negative ion bracelets<sup>J</sup>, and scalar energy pendants and cards<sup>I</sup> However, the seller's descriptions of these products appear to leave out the fact that the cards release ionizing radiation, and any sort of warnings about ionizing radiation are conspicuously absent. The hazard of contamination or intake from these alpha and beta emitting isotopes is also to be considered, as these products do not appear to be manufactured to the same standards as a sealed radioactive source.

### Nano Cards Current Status at SRS

A site-wide bulletin was distributed to employees to be wary of bringing similar products into areas that would require radiological monitoring to exit. The two workers who originally possessed the cards indicated that they did not wish to keep them, so the facility planned to dispose of them. With the permission of the facility's Health and Safety Manager, HPS retained possession of the cards.

- A https://www.mirion.com/products/argos-ab-family-of-gas-flow-whole-body-contamination-monitors
- <sup>B</sup> https://www.thermofisher.com/order/catalog/product/RO20?us&en#/RO20?us&en
- <sup>c</sup> https://www.mirion.com/products/s573-isocs-calibration-software
- D Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 835 "Occupational Radiation Protection"
- <sup>E</sup> https://www.mirion.com/products/747-747e-lead-shield
- F https://www.thermofisher.com/order/catalog/product/DP6AD#/DP6AD
- <sup>G</sup> https://www.popsci.com/scitech/article/2004-08/healthy-glow-drink-radiation/
- <sup>H</sup> https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6446066/
- https://news.yahoo.com/bad-news-those-popular-magnet-200800867.html
- J https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Radiation/RadiationTopics/RadioactiveConsumerProducts



# **Exam Achievement Award** By Kelli Gallion-Sholler, Awards Committee Chairman

The **NRRPT** Exam Achievement Award is given to the individual with the highest score on each scheduled **NRRPT** examination for becoming a Registered Radiation Protection Technologist. In addition to a letter of recognition, the individual receives a complimentary "high scorer" membership plaque and is featured in an article in the **NRRPT** Newsletter. It is a great accomplishment to pass the exam and even a greater feat to achieve the highest score. Congratulations to our high scorers!

### High Scorer—August 1, 2020 Examination



### **Travis Murrell**

I began studying for the exam as soon as I had received approval to sit for it and put together a formal study plan about 2 months before the exam date. I used a mix of resources including the *Problem Solving in Preparation for the NRRPT Exam* book, the *Los Alamos Radiation Monitoring Notebook*, and the DataChem *Radiation Protection Technologist* program. *Introduction to Health Physics* was also very helpful to have on hand. The DataChem question bank was probably the most helpful in preparation for the types of questions and overall content covered by the exam and I made sure to run through all of those questions at least once.

### High Scorer—December 7, 2020 Canadian Examination

### Adam Kinmond



Adam Kinmond is a Health Physics Trainer at Ontario Power Generation. Starting out as a Radiation protection technician, Adam moved into the training role 6 years ago. Passing the exam did not come easy for Adam, with no formal education in the nuclear industry, all knowledge gained was through work experience with some help from an exam prep course.



# Watch for the sustaining dues notice for 2022 They will be mailed in October!

# **NRRPT Night-Out in Phoenix**

# \*\*\* Thank you to our generous NRRPT Night-Out sponsors \*\*\*

Tom Hansen (Ameriphysics, LLC), Laura Davidson (Envirachem), Danny McClung (pictured left to right) Rick McCormick (Master-Lee Decon Services) and Gregg Johnstone (UniTech)







# RAD MOVIE REVIEWS!

Fantastic Voyage (1966) and the CMDF! Yeah, awesome - the "Combined Miniature Defense Forces"



The lead-in to the best movie quote: "We can miniaturize anything – we can put a whole army is a shoebox and deliver it anywhere." Really now, what does this have to do with a rad review?

Here's the gist of the story: a government scientist with brain damage from an injury and no way to operate on him. Here's the fix: miniaturize a "rad material powered" submarine to send a doctor inside the brain with a laser to do the lifesaving operation.

Yep – power for the whole sub comes as a "spec" of radioactive material. They weren't

specific on the isotope. Part of the crew (2 men) carried the "spec" of radioactive material in a coffee cup-sized lead container.

(movie poster)

Remember how we can "miniaturize anything?" Apparently not radioactive

material serving as fuel for a submarine big enough for a 5 man crew. So, once the crew and sub are miniaturized, the size of the "spec" of radioactive material remains constant and can power the miniature submarine.

I didn't promise the movie would be logical.

As for the rest of the movie – the saboteur dies, of course. Our heroic crew loses the sub to the body's anti-bodies (I wonder if the "spec" causes massive damage on its own?). Rescue comes through the eye just before time runs out and the crew magically resizes to normal.

Best redeeming quality of the movie? 26-year-old Raquel Welch in a form-fitting body suit – especially when they have to tear off the anti-bodies that attack her.

Peter Darnell, RRPT, CHP, amateur movie critic



Riding along the blood stream (video screen grab)



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- The Accelerated Retrieval Project, which is retrieving targeted transuranic and hazardous waste from 5.69 acres of an unlined, Cold War-era landfill, processing the waste, and dispositioning it offsite.
- Managing spent nuclear fuel including transferring it from wet to dry storage.
- The Calcine Retrieval Project, responsible for developing a retrieval technology to remove 4,400 cubic meters of a dry, granular radioactive waste from six storage bins.
- The Integrated Waste Treatment Unit Project, which is commissioning and operating a steam reforming facility to convert 900,000 gallons of liquid radioactive
  waste to a dry, granular solid.
- The Environmental Restoration Program, which is responsible for ongoing institutional controls such as air and groundwater monitoring, groundwater treatment, and other environmental protection measures.

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