

Minutes of the 22 May 1997 (Fourth) LLRW Committee Meeting

The meeting was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Indianapolis, IN on May 22 from ~11:00 AM to 3:00 PM in conjunction with the Tenth IIS Central US Meeting. Jim Hicks (Chairman) of Warner Lambert/Parke Davis and Gary Rotert (Secretary) of Abbott Laboratories were able to attend. Since this didn't constitute a quorum, Jim decided to continue the meeting electronically afterwards. He received responses from Ken O'Brien of NEN Life Science Products, Larry Weaner of R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute, and Hiromi Morimoto of the National Tritium Labelling Facility. Alex Susan of I.I.C.H. Inc. did provide comments before the meeting and responded later. Kerry Burns formerly of AECL Research/Chalk River Laboratories who is moving to Switzerland has agreed to be our European member and did not respond. Bill Duncan (ex officio, comments not included) of Midwest Research Institute also responded. These minutes include descriptions of the Indianapolis meeting along with the electronic meetings and are organized by the agenda items covered at Indianapolis:

1) Revision of the proposed official position of the IIS on the matter of LLRW
The version to be submitted to the IIS Board for approval and, if approved, voted on by the IIS membership at the Philadelphia Symposium is as follows:

The International Isotope Society promotes the safe, effective use and management of radioactive materials. It supports the development of safe waste disposal methods and the establishment of permanent low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities world wide. It encourages the development of alternative technologies, such as recycling, intended to provide safe and environmentally sound solutions. It monitors low-level radioactive waste issues and serves as an information exchange for members and organizations. It encourages the communication of the benefits of radioactive materials and awareness of the need for long-term waste disposal sites.

The Committee members approved this version. Hiromi had some comments on this statement with regard to how the committee might translate it into useful action (please contact him directly for details).

2) Further discussion of an IIS brochure on LLRW for distribution outside the Society

The central issue of whether to produce an information folder about the uses of radioactive isotopes and waste disposal that is simple and inexpensive or glossy and more costly was discussed again. Gary priced the glossy version. The best estimate is that the layout work for a two-color 8 1/2 X 11 1/2 fold-over brochure would be ~\$2000- \$4000 (the use of computer technology for this has kept these costs relatively low in recent years). Printing and distribution costs would depend on the number of copies needed and how they will be sent out (roughly the same for either the glossy or cheap version). We may need to request funds from the IIS or solicit private money if we go with the glossy version (Alex

says that it should be possible to get private money).

Ken, Gary and Alex favor the glossy version, Larry doesn't, Hiromi thinks we might just use a similar one produced by Organizations United and Jim agrees with Hiromi. Action was tabled until the next meeting.

3) Interaction/relationship with outside organizations involved in the LLRW problem.

Jim provided the following summary for committee review and/or comments:

Over the past 6 months we have had communication with the Council on Radionuclides and Radiopharmaceuticals, Inc. (CORAR), Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PhRMA) and Organizations United for Responsible Low-level Radioactive Waste Solutions (OU) concerning their lobbying organizations or they requesting information about ours. Jim attended a meeting of the OU board on June 26, 1997. [They have an executive director Ms. Tracy Cooper, tel. 202-739-8042, FAX 202-785-4113]. They are interested in having us join them. There is no cost to us expected over the next three years. They could possibly provide us with printed matter such as we are talking about above in both plain and glossy form. They would keep us informed of political issues concerning LLRW and ask us to respond as a society or as individual members to lobbying needs as they arise. CORAR and PhRMA are members of OU. I recommended that we ask the board of directors of the IIS to approve the Society as a member of OU. Let me know what you think of that idea. If you want more information about OU I can mail it to you.

The committee was unanimous in ratifying Jim's recommendation that we ask the IIS Board to approve OU membership. Hiromi felt that we should use OU as our political arm and not try to duplicate it.

4) Recycling of LLRW

Gary mentioned that he had received a request from Ontario Hydro for a letter of support of our committee for the value of tritium recycling efforts and asked the Committee's approval for drafting and sending it. No one on the committee objected to this except Hiromi who subsequently approved it after a discussion with Gary who explained that this was to be a letter of support for tritium recycling in general, not just at Ontario Hydro.

5) Plans for the Philadelphia Symposium

The next official live meeting of the LLRW committee will be held in Philadelphia on Sunday, September 14, 1997 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

Jim provided the final program for the session on LLRW:

International Isotope Society International Symposium, Handling Isotopes: Safety/Regulatory/Social/Political Dimensions Monday, September 15, 1997 4:30-6:00 PM, Chairman: Jim Hicks.

There will also be a session on Monday Evening, September 15 from 7:30-9:00 PM chaired by Kathleen Asbell, of Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, staff Engineer for the National Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Program entitled:

Will Decisions About Low-Level Radioactive Waste Affect Your Research? For anyone interested in the details of the program, she can be contacted at 208-526-8330.

6) The Question of Continuing the LLRW Committee beyond the September IIS Symposium

Jim asked the committee members the following questions: Do you think the committee should continue to function? Do you plan to continue on the committee? The responses were as follows:

Gary, Ken, Larry, Hiromi, Alex and Jim all said yes to both questions.

Jim also said that he was not willing to continue as the Chairman. Hiromi said that he would be willing to serve for one more year.

Phil Williams of the National Tritium Labelling Facility would like to join us and is willing to serve as the next chairman. Thus, along with Kerry, everyone wants to both continue the committee and serve on it.

Respectfully Submitted by Gary A. Rotert, Secretary