

Minutes of the 27 May 1998 (Seventh) LLRW Committee Meeting

The meeting was held at the Campus Inn, Ann Arbor, MI, on May 27, 1998 from ~7:00 to 9:00 PM in conjunction with the Eleventh Central US IIS Meeting and Second Symposium on Mixed Waste Treatment and Disposal. In attendance were Phil Williams of the National Tritium Labelling Facility (NTLF, Chairman), Jim Hicks of Warner Lambert/Parke Davis (Past Chairman), Gary Rotert (Secretary) of Abbott Laboratories, Hiromi Morimoto of the NTLF, Larry Weaner of R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute, and Ken O'Brien of NEN Life Science Products. Ken said that Louis Todisco (also of NEN) had expressed interest in joining the Committee, but was unable to attend. Alexander Susan of IICH, Inc., was absent. The topics discussed were as follows:

1) Mission Statement for the LLRW Committee:

Several members expressed disappointment with the failure of the joint Board of Trustees/Advisory Committee to adopt the draft statement at the Philadelphia Symposium and the lack of movement toward developing an alternative since then. We agreed that the main reason for this is that the European situation is not as difficult with regard to LLRW disposal as in the US. Larry said that we needed to address the European objections to the draft so that it might be possible to resolve this at the Dresden Symposium. Phil agreed to redraft the statement.

2) Update on the Relationship with Organizations United for Responsible Low-Level Radioactive Waste Solutions (OU):

Jim said that Tracy Cooper from OU was attending this Symposium and that our relationship with them had thus far been reasonably fruitful. There was a discussion about what and how much OU literature should be sent to the IIS membership (or possibly others, as well) and whether to send it to the European members or not. The Committee agreed that it was not feasible or useful to send out all or most of it. We agreed that it would probably be best to send out an introductory item, e.g., the booklet "Organizations United- Membership and Background" to our North American membership. Jim said that they had a newsletter that we might want to send to our membership from time to time, as well. Larry said that probably not everyone in this list would be interested in the issue, but that we could eventually narrow it down to those that are. Phil and Ken felt that this should help to overcome the mostly negative publicity generated in the past. The only major misgiving expressed about the OU relationship was that because of its heavy advocacy of and support by the nuclear power industry, we would tend to be very inaccurately viewed in a similar way by the general public.

3) Publicity/Educational efforts:

The members agreed that the response to the technical session and workshop on LLRW in Philadelphia had been disappointing. However, Jim said that there had been 44 paid registrations for the Ann Arbor LLRW Symposium which he felt indicated continued strong interest. Jim also suggested that we send out one large mailing to the IIS membership asking for feedback about the LLRW problem. Hiromi suggested that we send out a short newsletter on LLRW ~twice a year in addition to the IIS Newsletter and LLRW Committee meeting minutes. We

agreed that it would be good to develop hypertext links to information on LLRW on the IIS web page. Phil said that we were co-sponsors of two meetings on LLRW coming up in October '98 and updated us on the progress of the California and Texas waste compacts. Ken said that activities like these would help to fulfill the Committee's main mission which is to act as a clearing house for information on this subject.

4) Redraft of Letter Endorsing Tritium Recycling:

Phil said that the economics of recycling tritium mixed waste might not be favorable enough for it to be done. Gary said that some US companies appeared to be trying to develop this capability, but none actually had it yet or would very soon. Ontario Hydro is the only place currently offering this service. No redraft of the letters Gary had presented at the last meeting were presented or discussed. Gary was encouraged to redraft a letter of his own if he wanted to do so.

5) Current Concerns and/or Problems:

Phil asked if anyone wanted to discuss something that hadn't been covered so far. Larry expressed concern over the fact that so many places are storing so much LLRW in oftentimes poorly designed and secured temporary facilities which might lead to serious incidents. Also, he said that many of these may soon be forced to dispose of these by the regulatory authorities.

6) Closing and Future Meeting Schedule:

Phil thanked everyone for attending. The possibility of meeting in conjunction with the Eastern IIS Chapter Meeting in Princeton, NJ in October '98 was mentioned but not adopted. The members did agree to meet in conjunction with the IIS Central US Meeting in Kalamazoo, MI in mid-May '99. Also, mentioned as a possible site was the 3ICI/Canadian IIS meeting in Vancouver, BC in September '99, but no final decision was made.

Respectfully Submitted by Gary A. Rotert, Secretary