

## **Minutes of the 18 September, 2003 (13th) LLRW Committee Meeting, Chesterfield (St. Louis)**

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The meeting was held at the Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center in Chesterfield, MO on September 18, 2003 from ~7:00-7:30 PM in conjunction with the Central US *IIS* Meeting. In attendance were:

**Brad Keck** (Chairman, succeeding outgoing Chairman, Phil Williams) of the Proctor and Gamble Company

**Gary Rotert** (Secretary) of Abbott Laboratories

**Alexander Susan** of the International Isotopes Clearing House (IICH)

**Brad Maxwell** of Pfizer, Inc.

The topics discussed were as follows:

### 1) Old business:

Brad K. called the meeting to order and asked "What more do we need to do about the issue of mixed waste"? The prevailing opinion was that there was probably more to do, but no one was sure of exactly what was needed. Brad K. agreed to ask Phil for information about this.

### 2) New Business:

- **A)** Brad K. asked if either we as a committee, or perhaps the *IIS* as a whole, should support the new NRC proposal, "Rulemaking on Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials: Scoping Process for Environmental Issues and Notice of Workshop; Federal Register, February 28, 2003". One part of this proposal is the segregation of solid materials that contain very small amounts of radioactive material and disposal in EPA regulated landfills rather than at NRC/Agreement State licensed low-level waste (LLW) disposal sites. There was general agreement that this would be favorable to research work with radioactive isotopes and likely decrease the pressure as well as associated costs of solid radioactive waste disposal. Brad K. said that he would draft a letter about this issue and send it to the *IIS* membership for comments.

- **B)** There was discussion about what the current radioactive waste disposal situation is in Europe. Alex and Gary agreed to find out more about this since they were attending the Central European Division *IIS* Meeting the following week. They were only able to get limited information. Ewald Bannwart of RC Tritec AG in Switzerland gave a talk at that meeting about their situation with respect to high-level tritium waste. He discussed sending their waste to be recycled at NSSI in the US. Albert Zeller of Tritec described their methods of storing tritium waste in a memo sent to Gary after the meeting. Ulrich Pleiss of Bayer gave a detailed talk about their tritium laboratory, which featured a very fine system for containment and control of emissions. Overall, the waste disposal situation in Europe appears to not be as difficult as in the US, but is becoming a greater problem.

- **C)** There was a brief discussion of our affiliation with Organizations United for Responsible Low-Level Radioactive Waste Solutions (OU). We agreed that this has become less important recently because of less activity by OU, but that we would continue to ask Ken O'Brien of PerkinElmer to maintain contact and, if possible, attend OU meetings in the Washington, D. C. area.
- **D)** The committee agreed to have its next meeting in conjunction with the Central US *IIS* Meeting hosted by Pfizer in Kalamazoo, MI on June 10 or 11, 2004 as well as an LLRW Symposium.

Personal Comment by GAR: I think that we as both a committee and society owe much to Phil Williams for his excellent work as Chairman of the *IIS* LLRW Committee. Among his accomplishments were his co-organization of several very successful LLRW symposia and major work resulting in the recent approval by the EPA of LBNL's delisting petition for the treatment of radioactive mixed waste by catalytic chemical oxidation.

Respectfully Submitted by

Gary A. Rotert,  
Secretary