

Minutes of the 24 October 1996 (Third) LLRW Committee Meeting

The Committee met in the Mooring Restaurant at the Mystic Hilton in Mystic, CT at 5:45 PM on October 24, 1996 in conjunction with the Symposium on Mixed Waste Treatment and Disposal and Fifteenth IIS Northeast US Meeting. In attendance were Gary Rotert (Secretary and Acting Chairman) of Abbott Laboratories, 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. Four members were unable to attend: Jim Hicks (Chairman) of Warner Lambert/Parke Davis, Kerry Burns of AECL Research/Chalk River Laboratories, Alex Susan of I.I.C.H. Inc., and Bill Duncan (ex officio) of Midwest Research Institute.

The agenda for the meeting included:

- I. Discussion of the Symposium and what implications there might be for future committee action.
 - A) General LLRW problem
 - B) Tritium waste recycling
- II. Drafting of an IIS brochure/position statement on LLRW.
- III. Discussion of the program for the 6th International IIS Symposium in Philadelphia in 1997.
 - A) Program schedule and content
 - B) Scheduling of the LLRW Committee Meeting to be held there
- IV. Report at the Friday technical meeting.

We agreed that the just-concluded Symposium was a very useful exploration of many of the issues associated with this problem. (A [summary](#) has since been prepared by Phil Williams and Larry Weaner and is available on the IIS Home Page). Perhaps the most useful result of this event was that it brought together the major parties needed to effectively deal with the problem: members of regulatory agencies, scientists describing possible technical approaches to solving parts of the problem and vendors offering waste treatment/disposal services. The most encouraging message was that commercial recycling of mixed tritium waste appears to be a real possibility in the near future. We agreed that the chief barrier to making recycling of radioactive waste a reality is regulatory and that the committee should encourage the regulatory authorities (principally the EPA) to facilitate this effort as much as possible since this may be a true solution to part of the problem. We should also encourage waste minimization wherever possible.

The committee agreed to a draft position statement for the Society which was excerpted and revised from the draft provided by Jim Hicks:

"The International Isotope Society (IIS) promotes the safe, effective use and management of radioactive materials and the waste generated. It supports the development of safe waste disposal methods and the establishment of permanent low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities world wide. It monitors low-level radioactive waste issues and serves as an information

exchange for members and organizations. It fosters and encourages the communication of the benefits of radioactive materials and awareness of the need for long-term waste disposal facilities. It encourages the development of technologies intended to develop safe and environmentally sound solutions (e.g., recycling)."

There was also general agreement that a position brochure for the Society which would be made available to the public as well as Society members should be developed. It was felt that the best approach leading to optimum results was to hire an outside firm to do this and use the remainder of the material that Jim Hicks put together (copies of this were distributed to the Committee members) as the basis for it. If the cost of it proved to be more than the Society was willing and/or able to pay, it would still be pursued by the committee, but this would likely take a lot longer. In this way, getting it ready for Board, then Society approval in time for the Philadelphia Symposium would be very difficult and lead to a poorer result.

The Committee's plans for the Philadelphia Symposium were discussed in detail. We agreed to meet there on Sunday, September 14, 1997 from 3:30 to 6:00 PM, just before the LLRW Session which is currently titled "Handling Isotopes: Safety/ Regulatory/ Political/ Social Dimensions" and will be held from 4:30-6:00 PM on September 15. There was agreement that this title should be changed to better reflect the actual content of the Session once the speakers are set. Alternative suggested titles were: "Radioactive Waste Disposal: Safety and Regulatory Concerns Around the World" (Larry Weaner) and "LLRW: Problems and Solutions" (Gary Rotert). Gary Rotert presented the preliminary schedule of speakers that Jim Hicks had sent: "Concerning the Philadelphia Symposium, I have decided at this time to divide the session on Handling Isotopes into four 20 minute sessions and end with 10 minutes on the LLRW Committee's activities. My emphasis for the session will be on LLRW. I received confirmation on two invited speakers. Mr. Paul Genoa, the Staff Director of Organizations United for Responsible Low-Level Radioactive Waste Solutions has given me the tentative title of his talk as "Responsible LLW Solutions. What You Can Do to Help". Dr. Walter Shmayda of Ontario Hydro is the other speaker. He is in Europe for the month and did not give me a title at this time. I asked him to report on their research in tritium recycling or waste handling. I would like to add a speaker from Europe with a perspective on LLRW there. I have asked people for a couple of suggestions but have not heard any reply. Dick Heys suggested Prof. T.R. Lee from St. Andrews University in Scotland. The last slot on the program I will leave open for a contributed paper." Larry Weaner said and we agreed that it would be a good idea to suggest as many speakers as possible and then decide who should be kept in the final program. He thought that Syd Gilman from the FDA might be a good addition. We agreed that it would be good to try to recruit a European Co-Chair for the Session. There were no other specific suggestions for speakers or other aspects of the Session.

The Committee agreed to have its next meeting in conjunction with the IIS Central US Chapter Meeting in Indianapolis, IN, May 22-23 1997. This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. Gary Rotert gave a brief report on the

Mixed waste Symposium and LLRW Committee meeting at the Northeast US
HIS technical meeting the next day.

The Committee encourages any Society member who might have a
comment/suggestion on the draft position statement or any other point in the
minutes should contact a committee member (preferably our chairman, Jim
Hicks at hicksj@aa.wl.com or 313-996-7509).

Respectfully submitted by Gary A. Rotert, Secretary