

NRRPT® NEWS

National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists

Spring 2012 Edition

Incorporated April 12, 1976

Editor's Message

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Our Chairman and Vice-Chairman are both otherwise occupied at the time of publication so as a substitute I will attempt to fill in the void. We have put both of their pictures on milk cartons and expect to have them back in time for the next issue.

All joking aside, as Radiation Protection Technologists we are coming into interesting times. As the commercial nuclear industry is struggling with a resurrection, the industry is faced with the harsh reality of how to staff those critical positions that are absolutely necessary to monitor the safe operation of these facilities and to develop and maintain the public confidence.

That's where we come in. Regardless of the specific role you have in this nuclear industry, (medical, industrial, power generation, research, the list goes on and on) it is you who will be called on to monitor and provide reliable and accurate assessments of current radiological conditions during operations and maintenance as well as realistic predictions of radiological conditions anticipated during future activities involving exposure to ionizing radiation.

All of that being said, we are all under very close scrutiny. Everyone that we interface with, management to laborer will use first impressions to decide whether or not we may be professionally trusted. That professional trusted is earned, not given and we earn it by demonstrating professionalism every moment of every day. We earn this trust by responding professionally to every task assigned, every question that is asked no matter how obvious we may think the answer is, and treating everyone with respect and courtesy.

As Radiation Protection Technologists we are expected to be the go to person for questions related to radiation protection. We build trust by responding professionally to these questions without regard to the source of the questions. We may be at work questioned by anyone from a laborer with General Public access and knowledge of radiation to Senior Management with detailed knowledge of facility operations,

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a neighbor, relative or casual acquaintance. All of them trust us to some degree to provide professional insight to radiation and nuclear safety.

So, in summary, answer each question related to nuclear and radiation safety in a professional manner. If you don't have the answer readily available, commit to the questioner that you will get the answer, or direct them to a reference that will provide the answer, and NEVER wing it!

Remember, we are approaching the nuclear renaissance and it is fragile ground that must be protected and a casual or flip response to an honest query could be damaging.

Sincerely,
Dwaine Brown
NRRPT, Newsletter Editor

2012 NRRPT Sustaining Dues

**Ask your fellow registered member --
have you paid your 2012 dues?**

If you haven't paid yet, please submit to the Executive Secretary's office as soon as possible!

Registration Maintenance Change

Effective February 7, 2012, points toward the maintenance of registration with the NRRPT will no longer be given for the submittal of questions for the examination bank. There are several reasons for this decision and based on historical Registration Maintenance performance the impact will be minimal if not non-existent.

The logistics of maintaining a database to track the submittal and acceptance of questions for the examination bank are onerous. The reason that I say this is that of the questions received each question must be evaluated to determine the following:

- Is the submitted question duplicated within the examination bank already?
- Is the context of the question of such quality that it meets the examination criteria?
- Is the question supported by a currently available reference that the candidate could realistically obtain or have access to the reference?

Following this evaluation, notification must then be provided to the submitter as to acceptability of the question, whether accepted for credit points or rejected and documentation of the results forwarded to the submitter. One thing to keep in mind is that any mechanism that the Registry allows for the maintenance of registration must be auditable and maintained available for review by auditors both internal to the NRRPT and external to maintain our position and authority as a registration body.

This position and authority is the quality of our program that prospective employers, educational institutions as well as regulatory bodies will use to assure themselves of your qualifications as a Registered Radiation Protection Technologist in good standing.

Dwaine Brown
Editor



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Blog: <http://public-blog.nrc-gateway.gov>

NRC ISSUES \$13,500 FINE AND CONFIRMATORY ORDER TO ACCURATE NDE & INSPECTION; BARS INDIVIDUAL FROM LICENSED ACTIVITIES FOR ONE YEAR

Accurate NDE & Inspection of Broussard, La., has agreed to make changes to its training and record-keeping programs under an agreement with the NRC that includes a \$13,500 civil penalty. The company uses radioactive materials for non-destructive testing and inspection activities.

The NRC conducted an inspection of the company's licensed activities in response to an event that occurred on March 15, 2010, when a company employee using an x-ray camera attempted to retrieve a sealed capsule containing a small quantity of radioactive Iridium-192 that detached from a metal cable on an offshore oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico. The small capsule is attached to a metal cable that is unwound and used to take X-ray photographs for inspection purposes.

The employee attempted to retrieve the disconnected capsule without notifying the radiation safety officer as required by NRC and State of Louisiana regulations. As a result, the capsule fell into the Gulf of Mexico where it was lost.

The NRC identified five apparent violations of NRC requirements documented in a July 28, 2011 inspection report. The company chose to resolve the matter using the agency's alternative dispute resolution process in which a neutral mediator assists parties in reaching an agreement.

As a result, the company has agreed to pay a \$13,500 civil penalty; establish a comprehensive training program designed to deter future willful violations of NRC regulations; and use an independent third party to verify the effectiveness of its training programs for new and existing employees.

The NRC also issued an Order barring the individual involved in this incident from any NRC-licensed activities for a period of one year. An NRC investigation found he had engaged in deliberate misconduct by attempting to retrieve the capsule without making the required notifications.

Copies of the Orders will be posted on the NRC's web site.

News releases are available through a free Listserv subscription or by clicking on the EMAIL UPDATES link on the NRC homepage (www.nrc.gov). E-mail notifications are sent to subscribers when news releases are posted to NRC's website. For the latest news, follow the NRC on www.twitter.com/NRCgov.

2012 Officers



Chairman of the Board, Kelly Neal; Vice-Chairman of the Board, Dave Tucker;
Secretary/Treasurer, Chris Whitener

New Exam Panel Chairman



Rick Rasmussen

Rick has been a member of the NRRPT Board and Panel since 2000 and has served as Vice-Chairman of the Exam Panel since 2009.

Welcome New Members

Congratulations to the following individuals who successfully passed the NRRPT examination on February 25, 2021:

Daniel J. Bowman
Nestor Calero
Nicholas T. Christiansen
Chester A. Douglas
Christopher E. Echterling
Kevin C. Funke
Dustin A. Gills

Timothy L. Johnson
Scott B. Mallory
Kenneth J. Moran
Ricky G. Pounders
Boris G. Tsenov
Joseph K. Webster
Eric C. Zack

New Members: If you do not have access to the "Members Only" portion of the website, please contact the Executive Secretary (nrrpt@nrrpt.org). Your email address must be on file in order for you to gain access.

NRRPT Exam Panel Positions Available

If you're interested in joining the NRRPT Panel of Examiners, please contact Exam Panel Chairman, Rick Rasmussen at rickras@lanl.gov



Panel Members hard at work during the Dallas, TX meeting

NRRPT Night-Out in Dallas, TX

The NRRPT "Night-Out" has become a tradition for Board & Panel members and family & friends of the Registry. Over 35 people attended the Super Bowl/Night-Out in Dallas, TX. This tradition continues due to the generous contributions of our "Night-Out" sponsors and supporters. Many, many thanks to them!!



Panel Member and Night-Out Sponsor Ken Baugh from B&B Environmental Safety celebrates his birthday

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Board of Directors Chairman, Kelly Neal thanks the Night-Out sponsors



The "Crowd"

Protect Your Reputation

By David Biela

"An American court has convicted a former employee at Entergy's Fitzpatrick nuclear power plant of falsifying safety equipment test records. A radiation protection technician was charged with felony violation of the US Atomic Energy Act after falsifying records of qualitative fit tests on personnel respirators, documenting the successful completion of tests which had not in fact been carried out. The technician was fired from his job at the plant, was sentenced to one year of probation and a \$1,000.00 fine after pleading guilty to the charge. Personal respirators are a common piece of safety equipment used not only in nuclear plants but in many settings where hazardous fumes may be present during an emergency. They must fit snugly to be effective, and employers are therefore required to check the fit of their workers' respirators regularly to ensure that the respirator makes a proper seal. The falsified records related to 32 power plant workers but the US Department of Justice noted that no known injuries had occurred as a result of the falsified tests."

The above newspaper article along with several others about employees falsifying time records was in a company newspaper a few weeks ago. Since individuals were convicted, their names appeared in the articles, but I chose to remove them. The reason I wanted to include this in this newsletter is to remind everyone of the importance of protecting your reputation. Whenever you sign your name on a document make sure that the information that you are attesting, to the best of your knowledge, is true. We work in a relatively small industry where you are probably less than two degrees of separation from your next potential boss.

You own your reputation, so take pride in it and protect it.

2012 USA NRRPT Exam Date

August 4, 2012

Deadline for application: June 8, 2012

** Exam applications may be
downloaded
from our web page **

www.NRRPT.org

Newsletter Committee Meeting Report

By Todd Davidson

The Newsletter Editor Committee met on February 5, 2012. DeeDee McNeill DeGrooth, Rick Rasmussen, and Todd Davidson attended the meeting. Since the Newsletter Committee Chair "Dwaine Brown" was absent from the meeting, Todd Davidson acted on his behalf.

The committee discussed the fact that four issues of the Newsletter went out in 2011. Because the Committee intends to issue four Newsletter Issues again in 2012, funding requests were commensurate with that projected output in mind.

It was discussed that, aside from the work that is performed by the new "Regulations and Standards" committee for the NRRPT, the registry needs information of the changes to regulations and standards, even after the change occurs.

The committee has several open items to complete. The first is to identify subject matter experts to review technical newsletter articles for accuracy and acceptability. Even though the committee believes that most of this help needs to come from the NRRPT Board of Directors and NRRPT Examination Panel, we also need help from our membership at large. Also, the Newsletter needs an article which describes the NRRPT Cabrera Scholarship. Expect to see that article soon. Finally, the Newsletter needs an article which acts as an open call for members for the NRRPT Examination Panel. Again, expect to see that article in the Newsletter soon (i.e. this issue - see page 5).

Remember.....

Job openings can be placed on the "Private Side" of the **NRRPT** website
Go to www.nrrpt.org, click on Members Section then Job Openings



Panel Members meet in Dallas, TX

The Challenge –

Finding useful waste processing facilities on a decommissioning site

- Useful facilities are often removed during decommissioning
- Remaining facilities are seldom configured for efficient processing
- Often available facilities have inoperable equipment
- This is not a unique problem



The start of the solution –

Understanding what it is you need to process and how it needs to be processed

- Waste Types & Forms
- Dose Rates & Contamination Levels
- Inspection
- Sorting & Prohibited Item Removal
- Size Reduction
- Special Packaging Requirements



Understanding the waste processing requirements of your waste material – What do we have to do to this waste based on the waste type and waste form

- LLW, TRU, etc., how is it managed
- Final package type and size
- Required documentation (paperwork, photos, audio/video, etc.)
- Invasive or non-invasive processing
- If invasive, how invasive
- Acceptable processing techniques



Evaluating facility capabilities – What can each facility handle as is, with modification, or not at all

- Available facilities, even non-processing facilities
- What size containers can facility handle
- What dose rates can facility handle
- What contamination levels can facility handle
- What processing activities can facility support



Remote handled waste – Really?

- Remote handled waste > 200 mR/hr on contact
- Does this require remote equipment to process
- Not if you want to maximize your production
- Utilize portable shielding instead when possible
- Shielding, distance, and remote tooling in a non-remote facility



Utilize a fully contained work cell with dedicated ventilation system to manage high contamination waste – Do we have to?

- Temporary containment and portable ventilation units (PVUs)
- Inspections, adding absorbent, removing items, etc.
- Utilize when safe and efficient
- Often allows working parallel paths
- Highly efficient under the right circumstances



Facility repairs and upgrades – Do we have the time and money for these

- Consider budget and schedule
- Buy vs. Repair
- Repair equipment to make it useful
- Install upgrades as needed
- Determine items providing best return



Learning from others is not cheating, it makes good sense – What are other companies/sites best practices

- “We do it this way because...”
- We have for 20 years
- Way procedures are written
- How we were trained
- ??? (We could list several more)



The earlier these evaluations are started the better – Waiting could cost you the opportunity to utilize a facility forever

- Consider every facility viable until demolished
- Cold & dark facilities can use temporary utilities
- Keep options open until no longer options
- Early planning provides greatest flexibility



Continued on page 19

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San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station is proud to have over 30 registered NRRPT members in our Health Physics, Training, Chemistry, Engineering, Operations, Oversight, and Maintenance organizations. We are especially proud that Kelli Gallion, our Emergency Planning Supervisor, was a member of the Panel of Examiners, Board of Directors, elected Chairman of the Board, and served as the Executive Committee Chairman. Kelli was (again) elected to the Board of Directors and will begin her term January 1, 2012.

San Onofre is a three unit site with two operating 1170 MWe Combustion Engineering reactors and one early Westinghouse unit in decommissioning. The station is located in Southern California on the Pacific Ocean and midway between San Diego and Los Angeles.

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HI-Q Environmental Products Co. is ready to help with your stack sampling requirements: State and Federal nuclear regulatory agencies require a stack discharge sampling program as part of the licensing process. Radionuclides discharged to the air in the form of particulate and volatile compounds must be assayed. Therefore, nuclear facilities are required to follow standard protocol for sampling their effluent. Possible emission of radionuclides to the general public has to be monitored in a systematic and acceptable manner. In the U.S., the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the authority over such matters, and the current requirements and guidelines for sampling in nuclear stacks and ducts are laid down in ANSI N13.1 1999. Contact: Marc Held (858) 549-2820

Server Solutions

Server Solutions, Inc. has been developing and hosting web-based applications since 1996. SSI specializes in applications using database back ends, allowing input and retrieval of data using a web browser. Technologies used include Windows 2000/2003 Servers, ColdFusion MX, MySQL and Microsoft Access databases. SSI's content management system provides a means for users to update web content without having to learn HTML or other web languages. Standard web page hosting and email services are also offered. Contact: Vince Bishop (850) 899-4242

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Conclusions

- Understand your waste processing requirements early
- Evaluate all facilities capabilities
- Evaluate upgrades which could increase capabilities.
- Be open to ideas you may not normally consider.
- Do not fall into the trap of "This is how we have always done this in the past." Because, during decommissioning, your facility is changing and your approach to waste processing and management will need to, as well.

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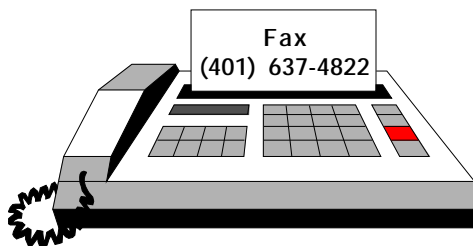
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