



Fuel Cycle & Waste Management Division

Fall 2003 Newsletter

Welcome

It has been a long time since we have issued a newsletter, so we would like to welcome all the new members of FCWMD who have recently joined as well as our existing members for their continued interest in and support of FCWMD.

This year we celebrate the Fiftieth anniversary of the American Nuclear Society as well as the fiftieth anniversary of the Atoms for Peace program initiated by President Eisenhower to spread the beneficial civilian uses of Atomic Energy to the rest of the world. We have come a long way, but I daresay we have probably not gone anywhere the drivers of this program intended. Although nuclear power has established itself as a significant contributor to world electricity generation, we have yet to close the nuclear fuel cycle. This is the challenge for our industry for the next 10-20 years.

One of the reasons for sending you this message is to make you aware of the many and varied areas currently being addressed by FCWMD and the opportunities for you to get involved. The more we make use of the talents of our members, the more progress we will make as an industry in the next decades.

I would like to invite all of you to become active in your division in some way. I know travel budgets are being squeezed everywhere, but there are many opportunities to get involved that do not involve travel. With the advent of e-mail, we can conduct 90% of our business from our home or office. If you are fortunate enough to attend an ANS meeting, you have a standing invitation to attend the FCWM Executive and Program Committee meetings. We don't bite, and we may even feed you lunch!

You can find the e-mail addresses of the members of the FCWMD Executive and Program Committees on the FCWMD web-site at <http://fcwmd.ans.org>. Please feel free to send us your comments and suggestions as well.

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting as many of you as possible in my tenure as FCWM Division Chair. john.dewes@srs.gov

Top Ten Ways to Get Involved!

There are many ways our members can get involved in Division activities. While some do involve attendance at National meetings, many do not. In fact, by far the most work of the Division occurs by e-mail, and unlike the Boy Scouts, when we say it takes an hour a week, we're exaggerating!

Getting involved is easiest when you have interest in a topic. We have a wide variety of issues floating around! Pick a topic and jump in!

1. **Policy Statements** – ANS prepares position statements to define our consensus position on topics of interest to public officials, interested groups, and the public. Although we have spiffed up several papers in recent years, we have some that are in dire need of an update. You can find the current Position Statements at www.ans.org/pi/ps. Some of the Statements currently under revision:

- a. Plutonium Disposition
- b. Recycling (Reprocessing)
- c. Low Level Waste Disposal

Contact a member of the Exec Committee if you would like to develop or review one of these Position Statements.

Time Commitment: 5-20 hrs/year

2. **Standards** – With the cessation of nuclear plant construction, our standards have been slowly slipping away! Vital standards will be essential for the success of the revitalization of nuclear power. How can you help? Find a standard that suits your expertise and interest, and volunteer to be a member of a Working Group. This requires no travel, and can be done completely via e-mail!

If you would like to see what standards are under revision or in need of Working Group members, see the Standards website at www.ans.org/standards/involved/.

Time Commitment: 40-80 hrs/year



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3. **National Meetings** – The bread and butter of our Society! Submitting a paper is a win-win proposition for any professional! While furthering your own career, papers provide a way for all our members to broaden their horizon and interests. These meetings are also a great place to meet your peers throughout the industry and exchange information on how others have dealt with similar problems.

Time Commitment: 20-40 hrs

If you do plan on attend a national meeting; consider serving as a Session Organizer. Pick a topic of interest to your boss, and find out who around the complex has either solved the problem or is struggling with the same problem, and put a session together! You just might make your boss look good, and then he'll be sure to send you to the next meeting! Our Program Chair, Emory Collins, can help you form such a session.

Time Commitment: 10-20 hrs/session

4. **Program Committee** – The Program Committee (PC) is the heart and soul of the Division – this is where we determine what topics are covered and what meetings are supported. The Program Committee meets at noon on Sunday prior to each ANS meeting.

In order to best serve our membership, we need your input! We need to know what topics are of interest to your business or study. Again, contact Emory Collins or any member of the Executive or Program Committees.

Time Commitment: 1-10 hrs/year

5. **Scholarship Committee** – The FCWM Division is fortunate to have endowed a scholarship for a worthy student in the nuclear field. The scholarship currently pays a \$3000 stipend each year.

Time Commitment: 2-5 hrs/year

6. **Topical Meetings** – Serving on the Organizing Committee (OC) of an ANS Topical, although involving more time than most options, provides a benefit commensurate with

the effort. In addition to building your network of professional contacts throughout the nuclear industry, running a meeting is a great exercise in developing personnel management, time management, negotiation, and organizational skills!

Start out by volunteering for a topical in your local area or one you already plan on attending. The ANS website normally contains contact information on each OC.

Time Commitment: 80-200 hrs

7. **Honors & Awards Committee** – Saying thanks for a job well done is crucial to our industry! By nominating candidates for ANS Fellow or honorary awards, we recognizing those whose contribution to the Society and Division has been above and beyond the norm. If you know someone who has contributed to our industry in a significant way and deserves recognition, contact a member of the Executive Committee.

Time Commitment: 1-5 hrs

8. **Teacher Workshops / Public Information** Our Division has a long history of supporting the dissemination of basic knowledge – it's one of the cornerstones of our Society! If you think your local area would benefit from a Teacher Workshop or other form of Public Information, our Division can help with the finances! Contact Sharon Kerrick (skerrick@ans.org) of the ANS Outreach office for further information.

Time Commitment: 20-40 hrs

9. **Local Section Meetings** – Involvement in your local section is a great way to start small – the time commitment is completely variable, as you can attend meetings that suit your schedule. Being cognizant of local section affairs can also help identify public involvement opportunities for our Division.

Time Commitment: 4-80 hrs/yr

10. **WebMaster** – Our Division website is pretty bare bones – We need someone with editing skills to help feed the machine! No Internet skills beyond e-mail are required, as ANS has a very capable webmaster who handles the uploads.

Time Commitment: 20-40 hrs/yr



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Know of a Worthy Cause?

Our Division has a long history of sponsoring successful Topical Meetings, as well as being one of the largest Divisions in ANS. As such, we have a fairly healthy income each year. Finding appropriate uses for our hard-earned money is not always easy. The focus of our philanthropy is education. We support an endowed academic scholarship; we support both student travel to national meetings as well as the national Student Conferences each year. We have also supported Teacher Workshops and other Public Information programs in various places around the country.

If you have an idea that has merit but lacks funds, let us know. We consider all requests for support (either at the national meetings or via e-mail between meetings) in a prompt manner.

Upcoming FCWM Topical Meetings

The largest activity of the Fuel Cycle and Waste Management Division is sponsoring a series of recurrent topical meetings. Currently all five FCWMD topical meetings are on the ANS base calendar of events, i.e., they have a long-standing successful history. We also co-sponsor two recurring topical meetings with other divisions.

GLOBAL 2003

New Orleans, LA, November 10-13, 2003

Location: rotates among North American, Asian and European sites

The GLOBAL series of international conferences covers future nuclear energy systems with emphasis on their associated advanced fuel cycles. The conferences encourage submission of papers on new nuclear systems that are in various stages of conceptualization, research, development, demonstration and early application. Reviews and discussion of significant national decisions and policies affecting the future of nuclear energy comprise a recurring theme.

International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference

Las Vegas, NV, 2005

The International High-Level Radioactive Waste Management Conference has been a geologic repository meeting with a focus on the Yucca Mountain Project. The emphasis of the meeting has been changed recently to gain a more international perspective. The technical scope includes high-level waste characterization, packaging, modeling and performance as well as repository modeling and performance.

SPECTRUM 2004

Atlanta, GA, August 22-26, 2004

The SPECTRUM series of meetings focuses on low-level, transuranic and mixed waste from the nuclear fuel cycle and legacy defense production activities. Papers on spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste are discouraged, although there have been a limited number of sessions on these topics if they have particular local interest. The DOE Office of Environmental Management is the principal customer for the meeting. Technology development for waste management has been emphasized.

International Conference on LWR Fuel Performance

Orlando, FL, September 19-24, 2004

This conference focuses on the latest developments in LWR fuel performance, including improved fuel designs and in-core management schemes. The meeting now alternates with the European Top Fuel conference, which is held in odd-numbered years.

7th International Meeting on Facilities Operations - Safeguards Interface

Charleston, South Carolina, Feb. 29–Mar. 4, 2004

The purpose of the conference is to foster a better understanding of the relationship of operations in nuclear facilities and the application of safeguards under national and international regimes. The conference will be timely in considering the current activities to strengthen the international safeguards regime.



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FCWMD-RRTD Cooperation Continues

This year, cooperation has continued between the FCWMD and the Reprocessing and Recycle Technology Division (RRTD) of the Atomic Energy Society of Japan (AESJ). When the RRTD was formed in 2001 with the objective to promote technical advancement on reprocessing and fuel cycle technology, FCWMD and RRTD formed an agreement for information exchange and collaboration. The cooperative efforts primarily owe their success to Osamu Amano, Secretary General of RRTD, Tadashi Inoue of the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI), and Harold McFarlane of FCWMD.

This year, the cooperation continued with presentations and discussions at various meetings in Japan at seminars and AESJ meetings. In March, Harold and Steve Turner of FCWMD attended a workshop in Aomori prefecture where Harold presented an update of the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative (AFCI) and both Steve and Harold were on a special panel to discuss public involvement and outreach, a relatively new area for AESJ and RRTD. At the AESJ Spring Meeting in Sasebo, Harold presented a Special Lecture on AFCI and Steve presented a paper on the areas for potential cost reductions in the Japan nuclear fuel cycle.

In June at the FCWMD Executive Committee meeting in San Diego, Mr. Amano presented a summary of the collaboration and also discussed

the near-term outlook for nuclear energy initiatives in Japan, including closing the fuel cycle and the use of MOX fuel.

In September, Steve presented several lectures that continued the sharing of mutually beneficial ideas. He gave a special lecture to summarize the AFCI to the AESJ Foreign Professional Societies Coordinating Committee. He also presented a paper at the AESJ Fall meeting in Shizuoka on reducing costs in all areas of nuclear power in preparation to compete in the de-regulated electricity market now being implemented in Japan. He also discussed the history of the nuclear power development in the US and the resurgence of the nuclear option as a cost-effective energy source at the AESJ Atoms for Peace Seminar in Tokyo.



RRTD Secretary-General Amano made a special presentation to promote future cooperation to the Executive Committee of FCWMD Division. Members attending included (left to right) Robert Moyer, Karen Howden, Mel Buckner, Mark Williamson, Mike Goff (Vice Chair), Bob Benedict, Jeff Brault, Harold McFarlane, Stephen Turner, Dan Bullen (Past Chair), Gale Voyles, Ruth Weiner (Secretary/Treasurer), John Dewes (Chair), Emory Collins (Program Committee Chair).

Future FCWMD/RRTD cooperation will continue discussions on the methods that the US has used to improve nuclear generating costs such as the risk-informed approach, which Japan is just beginning to implement.

RRTD will share their experiences in the closing of the fuel cycle with the commissioning

and operation of the Rokkasho reprocessing plant and the Japan MOX fuel fabrication facility known as JMOX. FCWMD staff are also cooperating with /RRTD to plan and use lessons learned from the Global 2003 meeting for the planning of Global 2005 to be held in Tskuba, Japan with lead sponsorship by the AESJ RRTD.

-Steve Turner