

**Institute of Nuclear Materials Management**  
Accredited Standards Committee N15 (ASC N15)  
Annual Report to the Executive Committee  
July 2010

This report covers the period July 2009 to July 2010. This report is suitable for all readers.

**Changes in Leadership**

Effective July 2010, Carrie Mathews will step down as Chair of the N15 Committee to take a job at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria. Melanie May will move from Vice Chair to Chair, and Lynne Preston will move from Secretary to Vice Chair. The Secretary position is vacant, and the N15 Board of Officers requests interested individuals to submit their applications by email. A separate memo has been circulated by the INMM headquarters regarding the application process, and other opportunities within the N15 Committee for leadership.

As part of the INMM's strategic realignment, N15 now falls within the MC&A Technical Division. N15's leadership team will participate in the MC&A meeting on Sunday during the Annual Conference to keep the members apprised of its work, and recruit volunteers to support Committee undertakings.

**INMM Support for N15 Activities**

The participation of Dr. Al Liebetau in a recent meeting of the ISO TC-85 Subcommittee was supported using funds from INMM, under the approved procedure for supporting retired individuals to engage in standards activities. Dr. Liebetau attended a meeting in Cheju, South Korea, where the committee began the process of revising or reaffirming the ISO standard on tank volume calibration. The revision process is necessary because the first of this six volume series was published five years ago, and the standard must be revised or reaffirmed every five years. N15 thanks the INMM for supporting his attendance.

**Status of Standards:**

**N15.8 “Methods of Nuclear Material Control at Nuclear Power Plants”**

This standard is now published. It can be purchased from [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org).

**N15.19 “Tank Volume Calibration Methods”**

All six parts of this ISO standard (18213-1 through 18213-6) have been published. N15 will begin the process of adopting it as an American National Standard, to supersede the N15.19 document, after N15.36 revision process is concluded. (Summer of 2010)

**N15.28 “Training and Qualification of Safeguards Personnel”**

The writing group is in need of a new Chair. N15 has asked Debbie Dickman, in her capacity as leader of the INMM Education and Training Committee, to identify a leader for this Writing Group.

### **N15.36 “Measurement Control for Nondestructive Assay Measurements”**

The revised standard was resubmitted for ballot vote in May 2010. All comments from the original vote were addressed. If approved by ballot, the standard will be made available for public comment this summer. After public review, ANSI will review N15 comment and ballot procedures to determine whether N15.36 should be issued as an American National Standard.

### **N15.41 “General Principles of Nuclear Material Measurement Control Programs”**

The writing group is currently reviewing the revised standard to ensure new language regarding expression of uncertainty, and new references to ISO quality standards, are clear and accurate. Writing team chairs expect to forward the revision to the writing team for additional input prior to the Annual Meeting in July 2010. In January, the NDA Users Group held a workshop to determine the key differences between NDA and DA measurement control and expression of uncertainty. Saleem Salaymeh of SRNL will present a paper on the results of the workshop at the INMM meeting in Baltimore. N15 encourages this Writing Group and the Hold Up Writing Group to coordinate their efforts and share lessons learned regarding estimating and expressing NDA uncertainty.

### **N15.51 “Measurement Control Principles for Destructive Assay Laboratories”**

This standard will be revised to include new language guiding the expression of uncertainty. A PINS form was submitted in October 2008 for this action. Charles Pietri will lead the Writing Group for the revision. The N15.51 standard will use the same language as is approved for N15.41. N15.51 is currently an active standard available at [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org).

**Scrap Classification:** N15 has two inactive standards – ANSI N15.10-1987 “*Unirradiated Plutonium Scrap – Classification*” and ANSI N15.1-1970, *Classification of Unirradiated Uranium Scrap*, which are under review to determine whether they should be updated and reissued.

**Nuclear Material Hold-Up Standard:** A rough draft of this new standard has been written, and is being circulated for review and input. The Writing Group will meet during the INMM Annual Meeting at Baltimore.

**Unique Identification of Items:** Discussions among the N15 and N14 industry and regulatory stakeholders are continuing. The topic was discussed both in a sidebar meeting at the Pacific Northwest International Conference on Global Nuclear Security in Portland, Oregon (April 2010) and at the NMMSS Users Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada (May 2010). A leader is needed to move this effort forward.

### **ASC N15 Compliance with ANSI Essential Requirements**

In spring 2010 ANSI confirmed ASC N15’s compliance with the 2010 ANSI Essential Requirements, the procedural guidelines for operating as a Standards Development Organization under ANSI. This compliance action is reviewed and confirmed each year. No changes were necessary for the 2009 ASC N15 Operating Procedures, which will remain in affect as approved by ANSI (in January 2009) and upon which re-accreditation is based.

## **Coordination with Standards Developers**

ASC N15 Chair Carrie Mathews presented a paper describing the history, function and current activities of ASC N15 at the 2009 Annual INMM meeting.

N15 participates in the Nuclear Energy Standards Coordination Collaborative (NESCC), formed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), NRC, DOE and other Standards Developing Organizations (SDOs) to promote collaboration and cooperation in standards development activities. Melanie May represented the INMM at a meeting of the NESCC on December 15, 2009. N15 was represented by both Melanie May and by Lynne Preston at a second meeting of the NESCC on May 26, 2010.

Lynne Preston attended this year's annual NMMSS meeting (Las Vegas, May 2010) and gave a presentation on N15 activities.

ASC N15 is developing a standard for measurement of nuclear material in holdup in cooperation with ASC N16, which is developing a standard on the use of nondestructive assay measurements for nuclear safety.

The NDA Users Group meeting will take place at INMM in Baltimore on Sunday morning from 10:00am to noon. A main topic at this meeting will be training and qualification of NDA measurement experts. This document will be issued as T-1490, an ASTM standard practice guide for NDA professionals' training and qualification. Due to the relevance to N15.28, it is hoped that Debbie Dickman can coordinate with Saleem to ensure the two documents are consistent. Also, ASTM is pursuing a standard on NDA expression of uncertainty. This may be best prepared as a joint ANSI-ASTM standard; at the least, it will need to be consistent with N15.41 and N15.36. Dr. Salaymeh is working to coordinate the efforts.

## **Outreach and Upcoming Meetings**

All members of INMM, the nuclear industry, vendors, licensees, and regulators, have an important role to play in developing and maintaining N15 voluntary consensus standards. Any interested individuals are invited to contact one of N15's officers to discuss participation. The annual meeting of the ASC N15 will take place in Baltimore, MD at the INMM Annual Meeting, on Wednesday from 12 – 2pm, and is open to participation of everyone interested in the matters of N15. The announcement on its location can be found in the conference program. A teleconference line will be available for those who will not be at the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Mathews, Past Chair (carrie.mathews@pnl.gov)

Melanie May, Chair (melanie.may@hq.doe.gov)

Lynne Preston, Vice Chair (lynne.preston@hq.doe.gov)