



Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, Inc.

NEWSBRIEF

www.crcpd.org

A Partnership Dedicated to Radiation Protection

April 2009

Message from Chairperson John P. Winston



This is the last time you'll have to look at my mug on the front of your *Newsbrief*. My time as Chairperson has gone incredibly fast and I am looking forward to supporting Adela Salame-Alfie throughout the coming year. Along with her knowledge and experience, Adela brings the strong leadership and organizational skills needed to oversee the balance of the broad spectrum of issues under CRCPD's watch.

Congrats to Mike Gilley (FL), your incoming Chair-Elect, and Mary Ann Spohrer (IL), your new Member-at-Large. Along with Terry Lindsey (OR), Patricia Gardner (NJ), and Karen Farris (MA), we had an outstanding group of candidates this year.

I had the privilege of providing a presentation on the impact of the renewed growth in nuclear power on the state radiation control programs at the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) 45th Annual Meeting, March 2-3, 2009. There are many challenges ahead with regard to strengthening our infrastructure, expanding current training and educational opportunities, and ensuring the continued health and safety aspects. It is encouraging to see us back to including nuclear power in our mix to address our expanding energy needs.

During the meeting, NCRP announced the publication of NCRP Report No. 160, Ionizing Radiation Exposure of the Population of the United States. The report revealed a sevenfold increase in exposure to ionizing radiation in the U.S. from the early 1980s to 2006. The

growth in medical diagnostic imaging, predominately CT and nuclear medicine, is the primary cause. The natural radiation exposure, which included radon, is now a smaller piece of the pie. This should not be interpreted to mean the radon exposure has gone down. The pie just got bigger.

Hopefully, [CRCPD's response](#) to the NCRP report now available on our

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Chairperson

Message

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website helps clarify this for anyone looking for more information. The state radiation control programs have a vital role in assuring operators are competent and the procedures and auxiliary equipment are designed to minimize patient and personnel exposure while providing the needed diagnostic information.

Along with Julia Schmitt, OAS Chairperson, I attended the NRC State of Nuclear Materials and Waste Safety Programs Briefing on March 16, 2009. It is reassuring to hear the Commissioners and Management stress the importance of stakeholder involvement and the materials training program for Agreement State personnel.

Have you seen the agenda for the Annual Meeting? We are very fortunate to have the challenge of finding time on the agenda for so many impressive papers and reports. Presentations from invited guests from IAEA, ICRP, and NCRP anchor what promises to be an exceptional conference.

The pilot CR/DR training course for inspectors at the Annual Conference is on course! There is no doubt CR/DR training is a top need for state programs, but all of us are feeling the pinch when it comes to travel restrictions. It shouldn't surprise you to learn we were concerned about the ability of applicants to get approval from their state program. After our meeting in Columbus, I hope we can work toward one or two regional CR/DR training courses and continue to meet the training needs of x-ray regulators.

My thanks to everyone for their support over the past year. I am very proud you gave me the opportunity to serve as Chairperson of this great organization. Hope to see you in Columbus.

A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.

Herm Albright



Greetings from Your Executive Director



Ruth E. McBurney, CHP

Hello, Columbus!

The OED is quite busy this time of year getting ready for the National Conference on Radiation Control in Columbus, Ohio, next month. This is always an exciting time when we network with colleagues from state and federal agencies and other medical and industrial representatives from the radiation protection community. This year, the theme will be Advancing Radiation Protection in the 21st Century. Many of the presentations not only address new technologies and their associated radiation protection challenges, but also look to future changes in radiation safety standards, environmental issues, and emergency preparedness. Several great training sessions are also being planned in conjunction with the conference, including CR/DR inspector training, one day of which is being presented by the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), and topical training in the EPA's Protective Action Guidance, proton therapy (AAPM), and internal dosimetry and bioassay (sponsored by the Health Physics Society).

Preparing for a major radiological emergency has become even more important in the past few years, not only for states with nuclear power plants, but also for all states in preparing for a major radiological incident involving a malevolent act using radioactive or nuclear material. At this year's annual conference, several of the presentations will focus on this aspect of emergency preparedness, and one of the Special Interest Meetings, entitled "Enhancing States' Emergency Preparedness Capabilities," will provide a format to have interactive discussions on how states can stretch their resources in radiological emergency preparedness. In the last few months, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hosted workshops on development of radiation volunteer corps and on coordination of radiation control programs and state and local public health professionals in order to enhance preparedness efforts. The results of these workshops and their impact on state radiation control programs will be discussed. In addition, changes and opportunities at the federal level are being presented in the general sessions, and this special interest meeting will give an opportunity for attendees to discuss these in more detail.

So, I encourage you to go to www.crcpd.org for more information on the meeting (program, hotel information, social events, registration, etc.). While you are there, check out the new website! The OED staff members have been working on the new site and on greater web capabilities for some time, and it is finally up. Soon, you will be sent an identification number and an opportunity to

Executive Director's Message

[Continued]

use the Members Only section of the site for member directories, and for the state and local government members, access to regulatory information that was located in the "Regulatory Forum" section of the previous site. During the annual meeting, Bruce Hirschler from the OED will be available to demonstrate the new and improved capabilities of the web site.

I hope to see many of you in Columbus. It's shaping up to be a great meeting with many opportunities for interaction, training, and gathering new information on advances in radiation protection.



Qualified Medical Physicist Registry

By Debbie B. Gilley (FL)

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), the American College of Medical Physics (ACMP) and the CRCPD board have been discussing the need to have one location where state regulators and human resource officers can validate the qualifications of those practicing medical physics. This registry would complement AAPM's and ACMP's efforts to increase the number of states that license medical physicists. We recognize that the number of qualified medical physicists in some states is just too low to support a licensure law. The registry is a concept that once initiated would allow those states to benefit from a single source to verify qualified medical physicists in their state. This registry would fill the gaps for those states.

In an effort to predict the future, these organizations believe that the healthcare revolution will look to improving quality of healthcare as well as cost reduction activities. If the future reforms require qualification of healthcare workers for reimbursement, the registry could be used to meet that requirement. We would work towards Joint Commission and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services acknowledgement of the registry to verify board certification.

The concept for the registry is for CRCPD to purchase the current medical physicist boards' certification list and the state licensure lists for medical physicists. Each year CRCPD would again purchase the list of new board certified medical physicists and update the list. The initial start up and maintenance costs would be paid by AAPM through a contract with CRCPD. The Registry would be the property of CRCPD and accessible through our web site (which you all have bookmarked).

Physicist Registry

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This is the initial concept for the registry, as we see the potential to expand and provide additional data to the list as our needs increase. For example, we may be able to add MQSA continuing education documentations to the registry or identify qualified medical physicists to support the radiation response volunteer corps.

The CRCPD Board will provide additional information at the business meeting on Sunday, May 17. But if you have other questions or concerns or will not be able to attend the meeting, please contact Debbie Gilley at debbie_gilley@doh.state.fl.us or Ruth McBurney at ruth.mcburney@CRCPD.org.



Election Results

By Sue Smith (OED)
Executive Office Manager

OED is pleased to announce the officers who will assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting 2009:



Chairperson-Elect
N. Michael Gilley (FL)



Member-at-Large
Mary Ann Spohrer (IL)

On behalf of the CRCPD Board of Directors, members and staff, we wish to express our appreciation to Terry Lindsey (OR), Patricia Gardner (NJ), and Karen Farris (MA). We hope they will agree to run again in the future as the Board truly believes they will make good Board members.



CRCPD Working Group & Liaison Activities



G-61 International Outreach Relations Committee

By Edgar D. Bailey, Chair

It has been some time since G-61 has had an article in the *Newsbrief* but that does not mean that CRCPD members have been idle with regard to involvement in international radiation control activities. Below are summaries from two members of their international efforts that occurred in the last quarter of 2008. Gary Robertson reports on his participation in the

G-61 Committee

[Continued]

International Conference on Sustainable Management of Disused Sealed Sources in Thailand, and I give a summary of my participation in a Regional Training Course on Radiation Sources for Regulators in Tanzania. These two efforts have at least three things in common – the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), lots of people, and elephants.

If anyone else has participated in an international activity recently, the G-61 Committee would love to hear from you and give you an opportunity to share your experiences with the rest of the members of CRCPD.

Kingdom of Thailand

By Gary L. Robertson (WA)

I was asked by the IAEA to take part in a workshop called “Sustainable Management of Disused Sealed Sources – Working Toward Disposal.” The meeting was jointly sponsored by the IAEA and the Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN) and was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, during the week of January 12, 2009. I gave a presentation on the regulatory review and authorization requirements for the disposal of disused sealed radioactive sources (DSRS) in boreholes.

The management of DSRS remains a challenge for many countries, mainly because most countries have no final disposal options. Although a number of temporary storage facilities have been recently built, it is still only an intermediate step to final disposal. The lack of licensed disposal facilities is a worldwide issue, and there is a serious need for more flexible disposal options to address a multitude of differing worldwide disposal conditions.

In an effort to highlight these issues and promote the safe and secure management of DSRS, the Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (TINT) hosted the international workshop, and over 80 managers and experts from 23 countries attended the workshop, representing national programs, regulatory bodies, and international projects. The life cycle of disused sources was discussed, with a special focus on long-term management aspects, namely storage and disposal. Other discussions included international cooperation, national policies, and strategies for source management, storage and disposal, and associated regulatory aspects.

The workshop covered “cradle to grave” DSRS management, emphasizing storage and disposal. All countries that participated in the workshop are currently facing issues regarding the management of their disused sealed radioactive sources, and

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Kingdom of Thailand *(Continued)*

how best to deal responsibly with the life cycle or “cradle to grave” concept.

The workshop had six themes:

- International programs.
- National policies and strategies.
- Storage.
- Current status of DSRS disposal in Member States.
- The borehole disposal of sealed sources (BOSS) concept for DSRS disposal.
- Regulatory aspects of DSRS disposal.

In addition to the above, there were several panel discussions and a session for participants to work in small groups on selected topics.

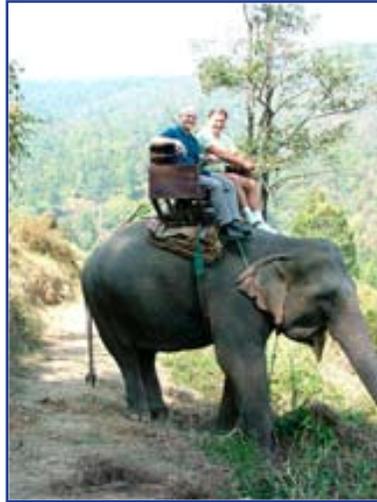
In the end, workshop participants agreed to the following outcomes:

- The participants acknowledged the IAEA’s efforts to strengthen the safety and security of DSRS and to support the upgrading of DSRS management infrastructure in Member States.
- While storage is a necessary intermediate step, disposal is generally recognized to provide a safer and more secure solution for all types of radioactive sources, although very short-lived sources are suitable for decay storage.
- Unanimously recognized that the BOSS borehole disposal system has become a mature concept and is ready for implementation in candidate Member States, in particular those where disused sources are prevailing in radioactive waste inventories.
- Acknowledged BOSS to be a simple, flexible, and cost-effective solution that provides for safety and security for all types of DSRS.
- Unanimous support was extended to broader and better coordinated international efforts for implementing complete and integrated systems for “cradle to grave” management of DSRS (i.e., including disposal). In this respect, the workshop participants encouraged the IAEA to play a leading role coordinating efforts through the use of

G-61 Committee

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Kingdom of Thailand *(Continued)*



international instruments, such as the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources, the Import/Export Guidance, and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

As you will see from the photograph, it was not all work and no play. The combination of a short meeting on the last day of the conference and a red eye flight home allowed me time to see some of the unique beauty of Thailand. I was also able to visit the Maesa Elephant Camp, which is

known for its artistic elephants and was even able to take a long ride through the jungle on one!!

United Republic of Tanzania

By Edgar D. Bailey

In November 2008, I was privileged to participate in the IAEA Regional Training Course on Radiation Sources for Regulators as the U.S. observer at the course. The course was a four week course for radiation control program staff members from the English speaking nations of Africa.

The first three weeks of the course were held at the New Safari Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania, and the fourth week was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. I was able to participate in the first three weeks of the course.

In Arusha the course was presented in the format of formal lectures based upon standardized Power Point presentations prepared by IAEA. The final week involved actual field work conducting inspections at radiation user facilities in the Dar es Salaam area.

Arusha is a city of about 400,000 people located in the northern part of Tanzania near Mount Kilimanjaro (the highest mountain in Africa) and the border of Kenya. It is the center of the safari industry in Tanzania, with many tourists going from Arusha to Mount Kilimanjaro, Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area, Olduvai Gorge, and Tarangire National Park.

G-61 Committee [Continued]

United Republic of Tanzania *(Continued)*

Arusha is also the headquarters of the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC), which hosted the training course.

I was not the first CRCPD member to travel to Arusha, Tanzania. Debbie Gilley (Florida) was a member of the IAEA team that conducted a country appraisal of the TAEC in July 2006.



conducted a country appraisal of the TAEC in July 2006.

The course was attended by 27 students from 15 African nations. Instructors for the course came from Ireland, the United Kingdom, Ghana, Ethiopia, the Czech

Republic, and the U.S. Tom Essig, who is now retired from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), was an observer during the first week of the course and a lecturer for the second and third weeks.

The first week of the course was devoted to the Organization and Implementation of a National Regulatory Program for the Control of Radiation Sources. The lectures during this week included detailed instruction on the topics of Organizational Responsibility, Legislation, Regulations, Authorization, Inspection, and Enforcement.

During the second and third weeks of the course, the course and students were divided into two sections. One group covered Medical Applications that included modules on Radiology, Radiotherapy, and Nuclear Medicine.

The second group of students and lecturers covered Industrial Applications. Tom Essig was one of the two lecturers during this two week portion of the course. Tom did a great job as an instructor of the class. The Industrial Applications track of the course included modules on Industrial Radiography, Gauges, Well Logging, Irradiators, and Research Uses.

As Gary mentioned in his description of his trip to Thailand, not all the time was spent working. The TAEC hosted the course and made sure that there were social events, facility tours, and safaris

G-61 Committee [Continued]

United Republic of Tanzania *(Continued)*

in which the students and faculty could participate. During the first and third weeks of the course, the TAEC hosted a “reception” in the evening. These were really more like feasts than receptions and were complete with food, drink, and local bands that provided music and the opportunity for dancing.

During the third week of the course, the class was taken on a field trip to the new Tanzanian radioactive waste management and storage facility located a few miles from downtown Arusha. This TAEC facility is designed as a centralized site to receive, condition, and store radioactive waste from users in Tanzania.

In addition, the TEAC is also storing some radioactive sources from neighboring countries that do not yet have a central storage facility for disused sources. This waste facility is located in what is to be a park-like complex devoted to headquartering the TEAC and its laboratories.

Nearby, the waste facility, a multistory building, was under construction that will house TAEC offices and laboratories when it is completed. The area is also planned to be used in the future for some radiation research facilities.

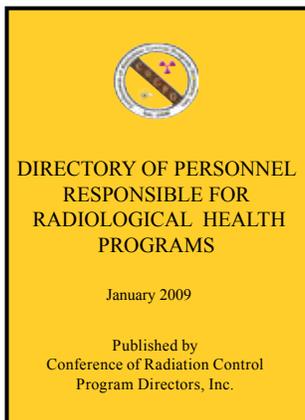
On another afternoon, we toured the present TAEC offices and laboratories. It was very interesting to find out that in addition to providing the radiation regulatory services/functions for Tanzania, the TAEC also provides a variety of other services including:

- Personnel Monitoring Services
- Leak Test Services
- Instrument Repair and Servicing
- Training Courses in Instrument Repair
- Instrument Calibration Services
- Minerals Analysis
- Analysis and Certification of Food Shipments to Nations in the European Union (this certification is required under Tanzanian law)
- Computer and Networking Services and Training

The TAEC also made arrangements and provided the opportunity (including transportation) for students and faculty to visit nearby national parks and scenic areas on the weekends. We were

G-61 Committee [Continued]

New CRCPD Members & Classification Changes



United Republic of Tanzania *(Continued)*



able to take safaris to Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area and Tarangire National Park to take in the scenery, wildlife, and rural life style. Both of these preserves are home to a wide variety of African animals. Among other animals, we saw a large number of elephants in

Director Members

Cox, W. Lee (NC)
Tarlton, Steve (CO)

Associate Members

Britt, Christina (NC)
Cartoski, Travis (GA)
Christian, Shay (TX)
Gilbert, Andy (MN)
Grumbles, Anine (WA)
Hayes, Sean (GA)
Mims, Joel (GA)
Purrington, Teresa (MN)
Tinson, Quintena (GA)

Affiliate Members

Gainer, Chris (FL)
Nelson, Wayne (SC)
Reilley, Sean (CA)
Shams-Avari, Peter
Uzenoff, Robert (CT)
Wells-O'Dus, Dixie (NV)

Emeritus Member

Hall, Beverly (NC)
Hamrick, Barbara (CA)



Directory Changes

Page 37 -MD - Roland G. Fletcher – insert pager: 410/716-4825; remove voicemail phone number and off-duty number.

Eva Nair - remove acting from “Chief”;

James Adams - remove James and insert Jerry;

James Lewis - insert new title Program Manager I;

Directory changes

(Continued)

Page 37 – MD Michael D. Kurman - remove Regulations and Enforcement Coordination and insert Radiation Regulations POC.
(Continued)

Page 58 – NC Vacant - insert W. Lee Cox, Acting Chief, phone no: 919/571-4141, Ext. 232, e-mail: <lee.cox@ncmail.net>; off-duty no: 919/413-2506;

Remove Vacant; insert Bennifer Pate, Health Physicist, Enforcement Coordinator, phone no: 919/571-4141, Ext. 261, e-mail <bennifer.pate@ncmail.net>;

Insert Gerald Speight, MSPH, Health Physicist, Radioactive Material Licensing Coordinator, phone no: 919/571-414, Ext. 204, e-mail <gerald.speight@ncmail.net>;

Insert Sharn Jeffries, MSPH, Health Physicist, Radioactive Material Inspection Coordinator, phone no: 919/215-4174, e-mail <sharn.jeffries@ncmail.net>;

Insert Bonnie Poole, Health Physicist, Plan Review Coordinator, phone no: 919/571-4141, Ext. 225, e-mail: <bonnie.poole@ncmail.net>.



Larry Boschult Retires

By Terry Devine (OED)

Larry Boschult, Nevada Radiological Health, retired from the Nevada State Health Division. His last day was April 14, 2009.

He stated it was a pleasure working with CRCPD over the years in both Idaho and Nevada.



CRCPD Board of Directors

Board position	Name	State	Work Phone	E-mail address
Chairperson.....	John P. Winston	Pennsylvania	814/332-6412.....	jwinston@state.pa.us
Chairperson-Elect	Adela Salame-Alfie, Ph.D.....	New York	518/402-7501.....	asa01@health.state.ny.us
Past Chairperson	Debbie Gilley.....	Florida.....	850/245-4266.....	debbie_gilley@doh.state.fl.us
Treasurer.....	Jennifer Elee	Louisiana	318/362-5367.....	jennifer.elee@la.gov
Member-at-Large	James McNees, CHP	Alabama	334/206-5391.....	jmcnees@adph.state.al.us
Member-at-Large	Kim Steves	Kansas.....	785/296-4359.....	ksteves@kdheks.gov
Member-at-Large	Earl Fordham, CHP.....	Washington.....	509/946-0234.....	earl.fordham@doh.wa.gov

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The Newsbrief is written to address the needs of all radiation control program personnel. Readers are encouraged to contribute newsworthy or informative items for the Newsbrief, with neither charges nor stipends for the items that are selected. News of State radiation control programs is especially sought.

Articles should be sent to CRCPD, Attn: Curt Hopkins, 1030 Burlington Lane, Suite 4B, Frankfort, KY 40601 (fax: 502/227-7862; email: <chopkins@crcpd.org>. The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month before an issue is to be published.

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