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Waste Management Today

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Good morning and thanks for checking in with Waste Management Today. Here are the stories we're following:

President's Welcome: 41 Years of Achieving Results Through Technology and Innovation on A Global Scale

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 41st Annual Waste Management Conference, WM2015. As the premier international conference for the management of radioactive materials and related topics, WM2015 will convene at the Phoenix Convention Center (PCC) from March 15 - 19, 2015. With nearly 2,000 scientists, engineers, managers and students in attendance each year, we have made it our mission to build a conference that explores new technologies and describes best practices from around the world.

The technical program is comprehensive with over 500 papers and 137 technical sessions and panels which are complemented by an extensive exhibition. This year's conference promises to have several exciting topics. This year, we are especially proud to have **France as our featured country** to detail their recent developments and ambitious plans for the future.

In addition, there will be panel and paper sessions focused on the **US DOE featured programs at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) and the Lexington, Kentucky Office (Portsmouth & Paducah Sites)**.

On Thursday, March 19, WMS is proud to present a topical session entitled "**International Strategic and Operational Management of Used Nuclear Fuel**" followed by a closing reception that evening. This Thursday afternoon featured panel will focus upon long-term strategic planning for the storage and disposal of used nuclear fuel nationally and internationally. The panel will also address operational issues impacting the management of used nuclear fuel such as fuel pool management, storage cask design and storage pad management. Emerging issues such as high burn up fuel will be addressed and long-term permanent disposal solutions will be discussed.

On Friday March 20, the US NRC will conduct a public meeting immediately following the annual WM2015, Conference. The meeting will be held from 08:30 – 14:30 at the Marriott Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed Part 61 Rulemaking and the implementation of the Branch Technical Position on Concentration Averaging and Encapsulation (BTP). Both of these issues are of great interest to the radioactive waste industry and to stakeholders and both have involved substantial interaction with the public over the past few years. All are welcome to attend, including waste generators, processors, disposal facility operators, States, LLW Compacts, advocacy groups and members of the public.

I would like to thank the WM team for their efforts and our sponsors for their contributions that enhance what we can accomplish. Thanks also to our attendees and exhibitors who make the conference so exciting. The aim of the WM Board and the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) is to host an interesting, stimulating and informative program. If you have ideas on how to improve the conference, please let us know. We are a non-profit organization with the aim of promoting education and opportunity and your participation helps us to further these objectives. I hope you enjoy your time at WM2015.



James Fiore
President - WM Symposia

This Year's Featured Sites Include Savannah River, Nevada and Portsmouth/Paducah

This year's Waste Management Symposia includes three featured Department of Energy sites, with Tuesday highlighting the Savannah River Site, Wednesday focusing on the Nevada National Security Site and Thursday the Portsmouth and Paducah sites. On Tuesday three separate sessions will look closely at progress and challenges at Savannah River. The panels will feature discussion from DOE-SR Manager Dave Moody, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions President Carol Johnson, Savannah River Remediation President Stuart MacVean and Parsons' Salt Waste Processing Facility Project Manager Frank Sheppard, among other officials.

A few key questions for the SRS panels include: How can the site mitigate some of the delays in high level tank waste cleanup? What will be the future of the H-Canyon facility and planned new missions given budget cuts? How is the site addressing aging infrastructure and deferred maintenance? What is being done to improve conduct of operations issues at major projects and facilities?

On Wednesday, there will be three separate panels on NNSS looking at cooperation between the state and DOE, groundwater issues, and waste acceptance and disposal. The panels will feature discussions including Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Director Leo Drozdoff, DOE EM Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Waste Management Christine Gelles, DOE Nevada Field Office Assistant EM Manager Scott Wade and Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board Chair Donna Hruska.

Key questions for the Nevada panels include: What is the status of potential shipments of uranium-233 to NNSS for disposal? What is the future of the DOE-Nevada working group on the site and what are its impacts on waste acceptance? What will the outcomes be now that the new record of decision for NNSS has been published?

On Thursday, a panel will cover DOE's Portsmouth and Paducah sites. Speakers include DOE PPPO Manager Bill Murphie, Fluor B&W Portsmouth Project Director Dennis Carr, Fluor Paducah Manager Mark Duff and B&W Conversion Services President John Woolery. Key questions for the PPPO panel include: What could the impacts of DOE's FY'16 budget be to D&D plans at the site and the Portsmouth workforce? With the new Paducah deactivation contractor at Paducah a few months into the job, what challenges have come up and what scope does the contractor hope to complete in the coming year? At DUF6, have the plants been successful in reaching the goal of 100 percent operational design plate capacity? What are the recompete plans for the DUF6 contract?

France WM '15's Featured Country

France will be this year's featured country, with sessions throughout the week addressing waste management issues in the country. Programming surrounding France's waste management strategies will be included in a plenary presentation from Virginie Schwarz, Director for Energy at the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy in France at 8:00 a.m. in room 301BCD on Monday. There will also be panels this week on the country's waste management strategies from officials within the government and the industry, including one Monday at 10:00 a.m. in room 105AB, one Monday at 1:30 p.m. in room 105AB, and another Monday at 3:15 p.m. in room 105AB. The panels plan to address major issues facing waste generators and processors, as well as providing updates to the country's attempts at building a geologic repository. Also, sure to come up in the sessions are the recent struggles of French nuclear giant AREVA and how they will affect the country's ability to manage the back-end material.



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2015 Hodes Award to Go to Utah DEQ and EnergySolutions

The Division of Radiation Control (DRC) of the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and EnergySolutions will

receive the 2015 Richard S. Hodes, M.D. Honor Lecture Award at 3:15 p.m. Monday, March 16, during Session 18 in Room 102A. The Hodes Award recognizes innovations in technology, policy, and practices of low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) management in the United States.

Rusty Lundberg, Director of DRC and Dan Shrum, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for EnergySolutions, will accept the award on behalf of the recipients. Both will deliver a lecture on the challenges and lessons learned in developing and implementing the Utah Sealed Source License Variance Initiative, which facilitated the collection and cost-effective disposal of certain sealed sources that did not have a commercial disposal pathway.

The DRC is the Utah program responsible for licensing and regulating the Clive, UT disposal facility. EnergySolutions is an international nuclear services company that operates the commercial LLRW disposal facility in Clive, Utah. Headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, the company provides recycling, processing, and disposal services to the nuclear industry.

“The Commission is recognizing Utah’s DRC and EnergySolutions for the significant role they played in working to solve LLRW management problems in the United States,” said Michael H. Mobley, Chairman of the Southeast Compact Commission. “The DRC and EnergySolutions worked together to improve radiation health, safety, and security throughout the nation by developing and implementing the Utah Sealed Source License Variance initiative. This creative and collaborative effort clearly exemplifies the spirit and commitment that the Hodes Award is intended to recognize.”

The Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management established the awards program to honor the memory of Dr. Richard S. Hodes, who served as chair of the Southeast Compact Commission from its inception in 1983 until his death in 2002. Nominations for the 2016 Hodes Honor Lecture Award are now being accepted. The deadline for submittal of nominations is June 30, 2015. Details are on the Commission website at www.secompact.org or you may contact Ted Buckner at 919/380-7780 or tedb@secompact.org.

Golf Tournament Winners Announced

The winners of yesterday’s Roy G. Post Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament are:

First Place Foursome

Mark Gradowski
Tom Brouns
John Allbery
Scott Hall

Second Place Foursome:

Daniel Antle
Mike Kramer
Joel Manship

Third Place Foursome:

Mark Frei
William Condon
Keith Klein
Keller Staley

Men's Longest Drive - Bill Condon

Women's Longest Drive - Jan Carlin

Men's Closest to the Pin - Steve McQueary

Women's Closest to the Pin - Jan Carlin

From the desk of:

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