

Record of the 1st Joint Coordinating Committee for Radioactive and Mixed Waste Management (JCCRM) Meeting between the U.S. Department of Energy and the Argentina National Atomic Energy Commission.

The 1st meeting of the Joint Coordinating Committee for Radioactive and Mixed Waste Management was held in Miami, Florida from May 29-31, 1996. The Argentine delegation was led by Lic. Eduardo Santos, President of the Board of Directors, National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA). The U.S. delegation was led by Dr. Clyde Frank, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Science and Technology, DOE Office of Environmental Management (EM).

Argentine participants included: Dr. J. Pahissa Campa, Dr. M. De Pahissa, Lic A. Goldschmidt, Lic. T. Ramallo, and Lic. Diana Clein from CNEA. U.S. participants included: E. Flage, S. Lien and D. Mathes from DOE/EM; P. Jodoin from DOE/PO; J. Saltzman from DOE/RW; P. Hart and S. Bossert from the DOE Morgantown Energy Technology Center; J. Watson from Lockheed Martin Environmental Systems; J. Plodenic from Westinghouse Savannah River Corporation; A. Ebadian from Florida International University (FIU) Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology (HCET); R. Gilchrist from the Westinghouse Hanford Company; and M. Green from Science Applications International Corporation.

May 29, 1996

Administrative Framework

Dr. Frank introduced P. Jodoin as the DOE, Science and Technology Policy Officer for the Western Hemisphere. P. Jodoin was identified as the DOE Policy Office Point of Contact for the JCCRM. E. Flage was identified as the DOE Office of Science and Technology Point of Contact for the JCCRM. Dr. Frank emphasized the government-to-government nature of the Cooperative Agreement and that Argentine communication should go through the EM International Office and E. Flage. He expressed the hope that the parties expand the future scope of cooperation into other areas, including general environmental relations. He explained that once agreements are reached between the parties, the FIU Hemispheric Center for Environmental Technology (HCET) will act as the focal point for coordination of efforts by the private sector and universities. Both parties agreed that all cooperative activities will be mutually agreed upon by DOE and CNEA prior to implementation.

Lic. Santos asked that two clauses be added to the Framework. He proposed that projects should have a purpose, budget and timeline defined in advance, and that both governments support the private sector through the opening of markets. Dr. Frank agreed and said that the Record of Meeting (RoM) will reflect those changes.

Lic. Santos defined three main areas of potential cooperation which would be of interest to the Argentine delegation:

- Remediation of uranium mill tailings;
- Decontamination and decommissioning; and,
- Research and development in the field of ILW and HLW management

Dr. Frank agreed to discuss these topics at the two-day technical workshop. It was mutually agreed that Dr. Clyde Frank will be the Principal Coordinator for DOE and Dr. Jaime Pahissa Campa will be the Principal Coordinator for CNEA. It was further mutually agreed that E. Flage will be the Liaison Coordinator for DOE and Dra. M. de Pahissa for CNEA.

Introductions

Dr. Ebadian introduced and explained the functions of ECET and its projects for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM). Dr. Frank made opening remarks to the Committee and presented gifts on behalf of U.S. Secretary of Energy O'Leary to Lic. Santos and Dr. Jaime Pahissa Campa. Lic. Santos thanked Dr. Frank for the gifts and welcomed the delegation of the JCCRM. He gave a brief introduction of the Argentina nuclear program. This program includes a plan to open markets for the nuclear industry in the Far East and Middle East. P. Jodoin proposed and presented a revised version of the JCCRM Administrative Framework for the Argentine delegation to review. Item 4 was modified to incorporate provisions for project definitions including scope, schedules, budgets and deliverables. Item 9 was changed to incorporate provisions for promoting private sector involvement. The U.S. and Argentine Principal Coordinators agreed to the changes. It was agreed that the technical presentations would be given first by the Argentine delegation and then by the U.S. delegation. A question and answer session followed each presentation.

CNEA Presentations

Dr. J. Pahissa Campa presented a brief overview of the Argentina Nuclear Energy Program and nuclear facilities in Argentina. Dr. M. de Pahissa gave presentation of the specifics of the Argentina Radioactive Waste Program, wastes generated, and R + D in progress. Lic. T. Ramallo gave an overview of liquid and wet waste in Argentina and its conditioning.

Lic. A. Goldschmidt gave a presentation on the Argentine Radioactive Waste and Management activities, and an overview of the present and proposed Argentine repositories. Lic. Goldschmidt also described the projects either planned or under way for the future in the four main focus areas of the Argentine Nuclear Management Program. Lic. D. Clein gave a brief overview of the Argentine Uranium Mill Tailings Management Program. Dr. J. Pahissa Campa informed the group that a proposal for a fund has been created by the Parliament to carry out management of waste. These funds are coming from all who contribute to waste, including the Argentine government.

DOE Presentations

David Mathes provided an overview of the Uranium Mill Tailings and Remediation Action program, which addresses mill tailings remediation, but not mine remediation. J. Saltzman provided an overview of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management program. P. Hart and S. Bossert provided a brief overview of the Decontamination and Decommissioning Focus Area for the Office of Science and Technology. Dr. Frank further clarified the US DOE Focus Area structure, described in the presentations.

Dr. Frank welcomed the Argentine delegation and clarified the U.S. definition of HLW. J. Watson provided a brief overview of the U.S. DOE Separations Crosscutting. J. Plodenic gave a brief presentation on the U.S. DOE HLW Tanks Focus Area program and vitrification. Dr. Frank offered to supply the Argentine delegation with a copy of the Integrated Thermal Treatment Study. Dr. Frank explained the current status of DOE's effort to include societal and stakeholder concerns in technology deployment choices.

Break Out Groups

Decontamination and Decommissioning

The working group agreed to exchange information on the respective country's current activities, needs (e.g., alpha laboratories and radium sources), and technologies under development. It was further agreed that training and opportunities to develop decontamination and decommissioning expertise would be facilitated through a scientist exchange.

Separations/Vitrification

The separations/vitrification working group agreed to exchange information on the waste streams within Argentina and U.S. respectively. These areas included characterization of wastes, separation of radionuclides from wastes, vitrification and alternate waste forms.

Conclusions

It was agreed that the Points of Contact for each technical area on the U.S side are the following:

- Decontamination and Decommissioning - Paul Hart
- Tanks/Separations - David Geiser/Kurt Gerdes
- Uranium mill tailings - Clyde Frank

It was agreed that the Points of Contact for each technical area on the Argentine side are the following:

- Decontamination and decommissioning - Adrian Goldschmidt
- Tanks/Separations - Telma Ramallo
- Uranium mill tailings - Diana Clein

Both sides agreed to hold a Decontamination and Decommissioning technical workshop, as well as potential site visits to be held in conjunction with Spectrum '96 in Seattle, WA in mid-August, 1996.

Clyde Frank invited the Argentine delegation to Spectrum '96 to review progress made and agree to the next phase of cooperation.

Both sides further agreed to hold a Vitrification/Separations Technical Workshop, as well as potential site visits to be held in conjunction with the International Nuclear Electricity Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina in mid-November, 1996.

It was agreed to conduct a scientist exchange in the area of uranium mill tailings for a period of 3-9 months in the U.S. to exchange technical information on U.S. uranium mill tailings activities. Clyde Frank proposed that this scientist be based at FIU with the opportunity to travel to appropriate sites.

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