

Southeast Compact Commission Annual Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2023

The Commission met on June 15, 2023, at the Residence Inn Birmingham Downtown at UAB at 821 20th Street South, Birmingham, Alabama, 35205. Chairman-Elect Karl Frost noted that a quorum of the Commission was present, and Chairman Donna Hodges called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Members Present

Donna Hodges (Chairman), Cason Coan, Karl Frost, John Williamson, Paul Burks, Donna Hodges, Debra Shults, Jack Storton, and Lea Perlas

Staff Present

Tom Hansen

Also Present

Nick Swindall

Public Comment Pertaining to Agenda

No members of the public were present except for guest speakers and their invitees.

Approval of Minutes

Paul Burks made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2022, annual meeting. Jack Storton seconded the motion, and Chairman Hodges called for a vote on the motion which was unanimously approved.

Staff Report

Tom Hansen, Executive Director, reviewed the agenda items for the meeting offered a presentation covering the following topics:

- Welcome to new Commissioner and Alternate from the State of Alabama – Cason Coan and Nick Swindall
- Review website updates that are underway and will continue into fiscal year 2024
- Disposal Site Updates
 - EnergySolutions and US Ecology are under new ownership. US Ecology will undergo a name change to Republic which is expected on or about January 1, 2024.
 - US Ecology Idaho has requested a permit modification that, if approved, would effectively increase its limits for very low level radioactive waste

- EnergySolutions intends to permit and construct an exempt cell at its Clive, Utah site that would compete with the exempt cell at Waste Control Specialists and US Ecology's Idaho and Michigan sites for very low radioactive waste
- Alaron Corporation Sealed Source Disposal Issues/Resolutions
- Meetings and conferences attended
 - 67th Annual HPS Meeting; Spokane, WA; July 17–21, 2022 (elected to NRRPT BOD)
 - LLW Forum Fall Meeting/Disused Sources Working Group; Baltimore, MD; October 12-14, 2022 (elected Forum's Chair-Elect)
 - WM2023 Program Development Meeting; Litchfield Park, AZ; September 10-12, 2022 (selected to Program Advisory Committee)
 - RP-ALARA Association/Region I & II RPM/NRRPT BOD Meeting; Key West, FL; January 23-30, 2023
 - 2023 Waste Management Symposia; Phoenix, AZ; February 26 – March 2, 2023
 - LLW Forum Spring Meeting/Disused Sources Working Group; Charleston, SC; March 22-24, 2023
- Upcoming meetings and conferences
 - 68th Annual HPS Meeting; National Harbor, MD; July 23-27, 2023
 - WM2024 Program Development Meeting; Scottsdale, Arizona; September 16-19, 2023
 - LLW Forum Fall Meeting/DSWG; Salt Lake City, UT; October 2-5, 2023
 - RP-ALARA/NRRPT BOD Meeting; Key West, FL; January 2024
 - 2024 Waste Management Symposia; Phoenix, AZ; March 10-14, 2024
 - LLW Forum Spring Meeting/DSWG; Orlando, FL; March/April 2024
 - 2023 SECC Annual Meeting Planning; Knoxville, TN; April 2024
 - 2023 Radwaste Summit; Las Vegas, NV; June 2024
 - 2023 SECC Annual Meeting; Virginia, June 2024
- Policy Updates – deferred to presentation offered later in the day by Dan Shrum, Executive Director of the Low-Level Waste Forum

Treasurer's Report

Secretary/Treasurer Paul Burks summarized discussions that were had the previous day by the Finance Committee in its meeting. Key updates were as follows:

- As of June 2023, the Commission's assets are valued at \$19,991,930.30.
- The Commission's expenditures in fiscal year 2023 will be less than what was budgeted. This is due largely to the fact that \$40,000 that was budgeted for disused sources was not spent and Commission travel was considerably less than budgeted.
- The Commission's financial advisor, Raymond James, estimates that \$415,409 of revenue will be generated by the Commission's assets in fiscal year 2024. This income would exceed the proposed budget for the upcoming year.
- The Finance Committee agreed to change its banking institution from Truist to Pinnacle Financial Partners.

State Reports and Liaison Reports

Each member state was provided a few minutes to speak on items of interest. Items related to the Commission's mission are concisely summarized below.

- **Alabama** – Cason Coan and Karl Frost provided Alabama's report. David Turberville and Myron Riley have retired, and Cason Coan and Nick Swindall have assumed their roles within Alabama's Office of Radiation Control and on the Commission. Karl Frost intends to retire in 2024, and when he does, the position he will hold as Chairman of the Commission will be vacated. Staffing continues to be a challenge in Alabama.
- **Florida** – John Williamson provided Florida's report. Waste shipments continue to be made from the Crystal River decommissioning project to EnergySolutions at a rate of a couple/few train shipments per month.
- **Georgia** – Paul Burks provided Georgia's report. Kevin Clark has retired from Georgia's Environmental Finance Authority, and as a result, his position as Commissioner has been vacated. Progress continues at Vogtle, and new nuclear power units will be operating in the region soon.
- **Mississippi** – Donna Hodges provided Mississippi's report. Ron Rogers has replaced B. J. Smith as Director of Mississippi State Department of Health's Division of Radiological Health. Ron has been encouraged to replace B. J. Smith on the Commission but is currently attending to matters related to improving the State's radiological control program.
- **Tennessee** – Debra Shults provided Tennessee's report. Tennessee Governor Bill Lee signed an executive order to advance Tennessee's position as a national leader in nuclear energy. Executive Order 101 creates the Tennessee Nuclear Energy Advisory Council, which will seek to build upon the state's legacy in nuclear innovation and drive continued investment to create a nuclear energy ecosystem for the future of Tennessee. BWXT announced that its Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) subsidiary in Erwin, TN has been awarded a contract from the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to provide purification and conversion services for highly enriched uranium (HEU). NRC is participating in Tennessee's licensing process to provide opportunities for apprenticeships.
- **Virginia** – Lea Perlas and Jack Storton provided Virginia's report. To address staffing challenges, Virginia's governor has signed legislation that removes the requirement to hold a university degree when the applicant has sufficient other experience. BWXT is working with U.S. Department of Energy to develop a small mobile reactor that would have to be shipped back to Virginia and refueled every three years. Dominion Energy has

issued a statement indicating that its energy focus will be traditional power sources and small modular reactors.

The following concise reports were made from the liaisons with professional organizations with which the Commission associates.

- **Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD)** – Virginia Commissioner Lea Perlas provided the liaison report. CRCPD held its conference in May where it provided an update on the Source Collection and Threat Reduction (SCATR) Program. The program is expected to continue without any changes to its existing procedures. CRCPD is also interested in disseminating information related to Part 61 rulemaking and has offered a high-level overview of the subject during a recent webinar.
- **Health Physics Society (HPS)** – Tom Hansen provided the liaison report but noted that he is not aware of any HPS pursuits related to low-level radioactive waste management beyond interest in proposed updates to 10 CFR 61.
- **Organization of Agreement States (OAS)** – Tennessee Commissioner Debra Shults provided the liaison report. A recent focus of the OAS has been the relationship between states and the NRC, particularly on the ability of the national materials program and the agreement states to help each other when they are short on staff. OAS recognizes that the ability to recruit and retain health physicists is a national problem.
- **Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and Southern States Energy Board (SSEB)** – Virginia Commissioner Jack Storton has recently replaced Herbert Wheary as the liaison to these organizations. As he did not attend any meetings of these organizations, no report was made. He intends to evaluate the value of continuing to collaborate with these organizations.

New Business

- **Report of the Finance Committee.** Paul Burks, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that his Treasurer's report earlier conveyed the important information that was discussed by the Committee during its meeting the previous day. He reiterated that the Commission's finances are in a strong position. He also reviewed the FY 2024 budget proposal that was agreed upon by the Committee, noting that the budget included a \$80k line item for piloting work with CRCPD to collect disused sources from the region.
- **Report of the Administrative Committee.** Jack Storton, Chairman of the Administrative Committee, stated that the Committee had met the previous day and had the following recommendations:
 - Recommend Tom Hansen consult with the Commission's attorney and have a policy for records retention drafted for review during the next meeting.

- Recommend the draft contract with Bionomics, Inc. for disused source disposals be advanced in a manner that authorizes the officers to negotiate the contract’s final terms and sign when deemed to best reflect the interests of the Commission.
- Have the Executive Director seek an alternate means of storing electronic records currently held by Records Retention, Inc.
- Draft a letter recognizing Mike Mobley for his years of service to the Commission.
- Have the Executive Director work with staff from Lea Perlas’ office to find a suitable location in VA for the next annual meeting.
- Revise the Executive Director’s contract to reflect the salary increase indicated in the proposed budget.
- Have the Executive Director draft and an ad hoc awards committee approve revised criteria that make the Hodes Award available to a broader pool of nominees.
- Approve draft revisions to the By-Laws that will allow 1) meetings to be held by phone, 2) electronic checking to happen without signature, and 3) individuals to serve on committees without specified term limits.
- Approve draft revisions to the Travel Policy that will allow compensation up to the Federal daily per diem rate on the first and last days of travel.

John Williamson made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Administrative provided the proposed changes to the By-Laws that would allow electronic banking were acceptable to the Commission’s annual auditor. Lea Perlas seconded the motion. Chairman Hodges call for a vote on the motion which was unanimously approved.

Action Item – Tom Hansen will accomplish the items recommended by the Administrative Committee and will seek assistance from the Commission’s officers where required.

Jack Storton also presented a proposed FY 2024 budget of \$322,590 as follows and recommended that the Commission approve the budget.

RENT	\$200
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$53,540
OFFICE EXPENSE.....	\$1,500
POSTAGE AND PRINTING.....	\$200
TELEPHONE.....	\$240
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	\$80,000
COMMISSION TRAVEL	\$60,000
STAFF TRAVEL/CONT. ED.....	\$25,375
RICHARD S. HODES AWARD PROGRAM	\$5,500
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$1,000
INSURANCE	\$16,000
DISUSED SOURCES	\$80,000
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	\$175

John Williamson moved to approve the budget and Karl Frost seconded the motion. Chairman Hodges called for a vote, and the budget was unanimously approved.

- **Report of the Policy and Planning Committee.** John Williamson, Chairman of the Policy and Planning Committee, stated that the Committee had met the previous day and had the following recommendations:
 - Have the Executive Director engage an outside organization to lead the Commission through a strategic planning session/policy review.
 - Approve draft revisions to the existing Strategic Plan that 1) reflect language proposed at the last annual meeting and documented in the minute of that meeting and 2) extend the end date of the Plan one year, thereby making it applicable through FY2024.

Paul Burks moved to accept the recommendations of the Policy and Planning Committee, and Karl Frost seconded the motion. Chairman Hodges called for a vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item – Tom Hansen will accomplish the items recommended by the Policy and Planning Committee

Other Business

Dan Shrum, Executive Director of the Low-Level Waste Forum, provided a summary of work that the Forum is involved in and an overview of proposed revisions to 10 CFR Part 61. Thomas Callaham, Chief Research Officer and Vice President of Protomics Inc. provided an overview of research related to fusion that his company is accomplishing in Georgia. Pete Knollmeyer, Vice President of Nuclear Operations at FLUOR - Nuclear Project Services provided an overview of small modular reactors and related waste issues.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present except for guest speakers and their invitees; thus, there was no public comment except as described under other business.

Adjournment

Paul Burks moved to adjourn the meeting and Jack Storton seconded the motion. Chairman Hoadges called for a vote, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:50 a.m.