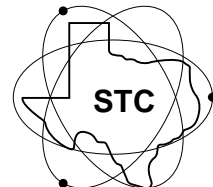




The Billet



The Newsletter of the South Texas Chapter — Health Physics Society

October 12, 2000

Web site: <http://www.stc-hps.org>

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Maxey's Radiation Science: Gnats, Camels, and Heroes

by Susan Jablonski, President-Elect



Dr Margaret Maxey gives presentation entitled "Radiation Science: Gnats, Camels, and Heroes" at the August STC Meeting in Austin.

Margaret Maxey, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin Professor of Bioethics and Director of the Murchison Chair of Free Enterprise, has energized and fascinated health physicists once again! As South Texas Chapter members, we are truly fortunate to have such an eminent personality and articulate speaker in our midst. Dr. Maxey delivered a riveting presentation as our featured luncheon speaker at the August 12, 2000, South Texas Chapter Summer Meeting in Austin, Texas. The overwhelming feedback from her presentation was a repeat performance of the opening plenary presentation of the 1997 Annual Health Physics Society Meeting in San Antonio.

Dr. Maxey opened her August 12th presentation with the following thoughts:

"In preparing my remarks for this occasion, I have become increasingly aware of the need to place our reflections about radiation science in a cultural context. I am concerned that you may have become so preoc-

cupied with seeing the trees that you may not have had the time to see the forest. Consequently, I would like to focus attention on some underlying considerations."

With that, Dr. Maxey intrigued the audience by building the case that science, particularly radiation science, is truly under siege. She uncovered the cultural context of science to the audience, including the religious symbolism that can be attributed to the secular environment movement. To those non-forest seers of the group, Dr. Maxey warned of "blind guides who strain a gnat and swallow a camel." She presented examples to illustrate how common sense has been overtaken by rallying cries such as BANANA—Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything.

Dr. Maxey advocates the need for an expanded role of ethics in science, pointing to the global warming debate that has been manipulated by some as a case of swallowing camels. She prompted the audience to critically look within themselves and their own professional persona for sign of straining gnats and swallowing camels. Dr. Maxey's presentation calls attentions to finding heroes in the history of radiation science, particularly in the Linear No-Threshold debate. She provides some healthy criticism of regulatory agencies and the need for scientific evidence in considering risk tradeoffs.

In her closing words, Dr. Maxey left the audience with the following thoughts:

"The future of radiation science will depend upon the dedication of its practitioners to scientific princi-

Continued on p. 2.

The STC-HPS and Regional Science Fairs

At the August 11, 2000, STC-HPS Executive Council meeting, a decision was made to support regional science and engineering fairs by presenting awards to deserving students for projects involving radiation or health physics. The awards, which would include a certificate, book, and \$25, would be presented during the public ceremony at the conclusion of the fairs. To publicize the new awards, participants at the South Texas Chapter—Health Physics Society Science Teacher Workshops would be made aware of them during the workshop, and offers made to provide advice to students who were interested in presenting such projects.

The STC-HPS would like to offer these awards at three or four regional science fairs this 2000-2001 year. The regional science and engineering fairs are usually held in March or April. See <http://www.sciserv.org/iseff/fairs/texas.asp> for a listing of Texas Fairs.

If you live in the Houston, Austin, or San Antonio areas and would be willing to spend about four hours of your time at one of the regional fairs, please contact STC-HPS Student Assistance Committee Chair Linda Morris (Lmorris@tstc.edu or 254-867-2952).

When you need supplies or services, call an Affiliate first. And tell them you saw them in The Billet.

Maxey . . .

ples and their courage to speak out in matters of scientific truths. In that regard, *Scripture* deserves the final work: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (*Proverbs* 29:18)

As promised, below are Dr. Maxey's recommended readings that were requested by many in attendance at the luncheon.

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER Longest-Standing, Continuously Active Members

Karen Myers, Public Relations Committee

In this issue of *The Billet*, we selected the longest-standing, continuously active member as being none other than Stewart Bushong, a South Texas Chapter (STC) member since 1966.

Stewart arrived in Houston in December 1966 to begin a long and mutually beneficial association with Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and STC. He came from Pittsburgh where he had just completed a term as the Secretary of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the Health Physics Society.

Since then, he has had a wonderful career in health/medical physics at BCM where his research interests have moved from radiobiology to medical health physics to diagnostic imaging. Several of his academic chairmen have given him total support allowing him to publish over 150 scientific papers and 32 books. His most successful textbook, *Radiologic Science for Technologists* along with a companion workbook by the same title, is now in its seventh edition. Together, more than 200,000 copies have been sold.

Stu has been President of STC twice (late 1960s and early 1970s), and he is also active in the Society of Nuclear Medicine and in the Texas Board of Professional Licensed Medical Physicists.

When asked to reflect on the early days of STC, Stewart came up with many anecdotes, two of which are recounted here.

"In 1974 the STC hosted the annual meeting of the Health Physics Society



Stewart and Ruth McBurney, Bureau of Radiation Control, enjoying breakfast at the STC Summer Meeting, August 12, 2000, in Austin.

(HPS) at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston. Most thought the highlight of that meeting was water skiing in the Hotel swimming pool . . . the pool was that big!" For Stewart, however, the highlight occurred the previous February when, as Chairperson of the Program Committee,

he entertained the eight-man committee with a reception and dinner at his home. After dinner, he took his committee crawling through some of the livelier nightspots so they would know where to take their

When asked to reflect on the early days of STC, Stewart came up with many anecdotes . . .

friends at the July annual meeting. They were at the Executive Supper Club on San Jacinto just north of the Texas Medical Center (long gone) when at 2 a.m., the doors sprung open with shouts of "Vice Squad, everyone stay put." That committee was never the same!

continued from p. 1.

The Death of Common Sense. Philip Howard. NY: Random House, 1994.

Environmental Radioactivity. Merrill Eisenbud. NY: Academic Press, 1973.

Has Radiation Protection Become a Health Hazard? Gunnar Walinder. Sweden: Kärnkraftsäkerhet & Utbildning AB (Swedish Nuclear Training & Safety Center) Phone +46-155-26-35-00, Fax +46-155-26-30-74

Risk vs. Risk: Tradeoffs in Protecting Health and the Environment. J. Graham & H. Wiener. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995

Science Under Siege. Michael Fumento. NY: William Morrow & Co., 1993

Hoodwinking the Nation. Julian Simon. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers (Cato), 1999

Opportunities to Serve on National HPS Standing Committees

Janet Hopkins

Chairman of the Nominations Committee

The national Health Physics Society is an organization dedicated to promoting the practice of radiation safety through activities that foster research in radiation-related sciences, develop standards, and disseminate radiation safety information. What better way to be a part of this organization than to serve on a national Health Physics Society Standing Committee? HPS committee participation provides a forum for HPS members to address their topics of interest and help shape the society and the profession. The following is a list of the national HPS Standing Committees now in place.

- h Academic Education
- h Affiliates
- h Awards
- h Continuing Education
- h Executive
- h Finance

- h History
- h International Relations
- h Laboratory Accreditation Policy
- h Legislation & Regulation
- h Laboratory Accreditation Assessment
- h Liaison
- h Local Arrangements
- h Membership
- h Nominating
- h Placement
- h Presidents Emeritus
- h Program
- h Public Education
- h Publications
- h Research Needs
- h Rules
- h Scientific & Public Issues
- h Standards

- h Strategic Planning
- h Summer School
- h Symposia
- h Venues

To be nominated and reside on one of the aforementioned committees, one should be a member of both the local South Texas Chapter HPS and the national Health Physics Society. Nominations are generally solicited for any national HPS committee vacancies by the current President of our local South Texas Chapter and are then facilitated by the Nominations Committee chair. In addition, the local South Texas Chapter is currently seeking auxiliary members to serve on STC-HPS standing committees.

For further information on the various committees and appointments, please contact Ian Hamilton at (409) 845-8101 or Janet Hopkins at (713) 500-5840.

FDA Approves the Use of Ionizing Radiation for Shell Eggs

The following information was released on July 20, 2000, by the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition as a FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVE CONSTITUENT UPDATE.

"Today, FDA announced that it had approved the use of ionizing radiation on eggs in the shell to reduce the level of salmonella in the egg. While the process cannot assure elimination of every organism, it can achieve a considerable reduction. The likelihood of any remaining viable salmonella will depend on both the original microbial load and the dose applied.

"The new regulation allows a dose up to 3 kGy (300,000 rad). The data in the petition, however, showed that under the conditions of application tested, radiation doses near the maximum dose allowed had an effect on the color of the yolk and the viscosity of the egg. Nevertheless, doses up to 3 kGy raise no safety concerns and will be allowed.

"Elimination of salmonella in eggs treated by this process will depend on the salmonella levels in individual eggs and

the dose that is absorbed by each egg. At doses likely to be practical, salmonella levels may be reduced 10–10,000 fold, depending on the distance of the egg from the radiation source. It is unlikely that a 5-log reduction would be achieved by this process alone. While, based on current knowledge, one cannot guarantee elimination of salmonella in all eggs, the total level of salmonella in eggs will decrease substantially, and the fraction of eggs that contain viable salmonella should also decrease.

"The irradiated eggs must be labeled in accordance with 21 CFR 179.26.

"The final rule amending the food additive regulations to provide for the safe use of ionizing radiation for the reduction of salmonella in fresh shell eggs, will be published in the July 21, 2000, *Federal Register*."

Authors Wanted for Novel STC HPS Book Effort

Although there are a number of excellent health physics reference texts available to practicing radiation safety professionals, there appears to be a need for a simple guidebook for the person who assumes the radiation safety role as one of those "other duties as assigned." To address this need, STC-HPS members Bob Emery, Mike Charlton, and Ian Hamilton have sketched out the beginnings of a document dubbed the "RSO Navigator." The idea is to create a simple question-and-answer format document that addresses those common questions experience by new practitioners. "Making a list of questions was easy," remarked Emery, "we've been assembling them over the years from our Radiation Safety Officer Course taught through the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health at the School of Public Health in Houston.

Continued on p. 5.

Editorial

John P. Hageman

The South Texas Chapter is by far the best local chapter in the Nation. The reason for that is the dedication the membership has to helping others. The willingness to volunteer, for example, to work on the Science Teacher Workshops, hosting Annual Meetings, or just answering questions that members of the public have about radiation.

I am amazed at how people react when they hear that I work with radiation, that I don't think it so bad, and that I support nuclear power. Many people think that all radiation is bad, and we should eliminate all things that originate from the nucleus. However, not one of these anti-types has a viable alternative to supplying the energy demands that any growing society needs. Their false dreams for an environmentally friendly energy source can only force power cutbacks, and this will force any society to step backward instead of forward in improving and saving lives. Do we want to return to a animal-powered life style?

Now, there are some people who are concerned that the medical industry is exposing people to more radiation than nuke plants, which is true by several orders of magnitude. Some well-intentioned people want to stop the medical

diagnostic and therapeutic use of radiation, with the claim that this is the root of all cancer. It's sad that these well-intentioned souls can't logically reason that radiation-related imaging (CT scans, x-rays, and nuclear medicine studies) finds and identifies so many medical problems so that the proper treatment can be given to improve and save the patients' lives.

*. . . keep up the good
work, South Texas
Chapter members . . .*

They don't stop to think that radiation therapy is perhaps the best and most proven cancer cure that exists today.

In my job, I have tried to practice presenting a problem to my boss along with solutions to the problem. If every anti-whatever person would stop just whining about their pet peeve and, instead, put forth at least one solution, there could be real progress instead of stagnation or even wasteful destruction. Even if the suggested solutions may be impossible, for now, the more potential solutions that are

presented the more likely that the best solution will be found.

As energy consumers, we all need to consider the risks and benefits for each of the potential solutions to supplying energy. Just as a person decides if they want to buy a bigger or smaller car, and weighs fuel economy verses collision safety, we must decide what types of power sources are to supply our energy demands. If we don't want to make such decisions, such as in buying a car, we may all be forced to ride the bus and be at the mercy of a bureaucracy to get us from one place to another. Riding a bus is so slow, and it hardly ever goes to the place you want to go at the time you want to go. There is no flexibility, because you can't control where the bus is going. As it stands now, it seems that politicians, who want to please all the vocal antigroups to get re-elected, are deciding all our energy policies.

It is time for us to work harder to get some of these points across to our neighbors, co-workers, and leaders. So keep up the good work, South Texas Chapter members, to bring logic, wisdom, knowledge, and progress to make a better and solution-seeking society.

FUTURE STC MEETINGS

November 11, 2000	Clear Lake/NASA, See pages 13-16.
January 13, 2001	San Antonio, Affiliates' Fair and TAMU & TSC Student Papers
May 2001	Annual Meeting, College Station
June 10-14, 2001	National Meeting, Cleveland, Ohio

NEXT BILLET DEADLINE
Tuesday, November 14, 2000

TNRCC Releases LLRW Management Study

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) released a contracted technical study and companion legal analysis on low-level radioactive waste management on September 1, 2000. These investigations are intended to assist the Texas Legislature in dealing with policy issues related to low-level radioactive waste in the 2001 session.

This study was conducted by the TNRCC in response to the legislative charge to “investigate techniques for managing low-level radioactive waste including, but not limited to, above-ground isolation facilities.” This charge relates to duties acquired by the TNRCC effective September 1, 1999. Hence, the TNRCC is the regulatory authority for disposal of low-level radioactive waste and also the agency charged with developing low-level radioactive waste management and disposal alternatives. To address the legislative charge with maximum objectivity, the TNRCC utilized a technical contractor for these investigations. The analysis of legal considerations related to management techniques was performed by TNRCC staff in consultation with the Texas Attorney General’s office.

The technical study and companion legal analysis generally provide:

- h Factual information on low-level radioactive waste generation and management practices in the United States and Texas Compact states—Texas, Maine, and Vermont

- h Technical evaluation of low-level radioactive waste management options, including an expanded discussion of the above-ground assured isolation concept

- h Legal analysis of issues surrounding low-level radioactive waste management.

TNRCC ISSUES STUDY

During the recent legislative session, the Texas Legislature charged the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) to “investigate techniques for managing low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) including, but not limited to, above-ground isolation facilities” pursuant to appropriations of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority. The LLRW Technical Report and the legal analysis were written in response to the legislative charge. To support this investigation, the TNRCC contracted with the Rogers and Associates Engineering Unit of URS Corporation to provide relevant technical services.

LLRW management options included in the study were: permanent below-ground disposal, permanent aboveground disposal, processing and short-term storage, assured isolation, and variations or combinations of these concepts. Each of these options is explored and evaluated using technical criteria. The report provides an expanded discussion of the assured isolation concept presented in two ways: assured isolation with the initial intent to retrieve the waste for disposal at an off-site LLRW disposal facility and assured isolation with the intent to preserve the option to license the facility for LLRW disposal until later.

The following are the major points of this report:

- h Review the history of LLRW management in the United States and the Texas Compact.

- h Identify commercial LLRW and other radioactive material that might be

managed at an LLRW management facility.

- h Describe LLRW generation and generator waste management activities in the Texas Compact, and project total LLRW generation for the next 35 years.

- h Survey LLRW management concepts including storage assured isolation disposal, and other possibilities.

- h Present a technical definition of the assured isolation concept.

- h Review the existing regulatory framework that might be useful in developing regulations for assured isolation facilities.

- h Evaluate the technical issues for design and development of an assured isolation facility and recommend technical requirements for a Texas assured isolation facility.

- h Present and describe an assured isolation facility conceptual design that would satisfy recommended technical requirements.

- h Compare the LLRW management alternatives of storage, assured isolation, and disposal.

This article is reprinted with permission from the August 2000 issue of the ARDT News, which is the communication vehicle for the Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas. Membership continues to grow quickly, and applications are solicited from interested individuals and organizations who share ARDT’s goals. If you would like to join, please contact our office. Project Director: T.R. Locke, Jr. or General Manager: E.C. Selig, P.O. Box 12024, Austin, TX 78711.

Writers Wanted

Now we need the answers in easy-to-understand terms.”

Armed with this list of questions, Emery, Charlton, and Hamilton are seeking volunteers who would be interested in drafting answers. The desired format is for each question, answer, and associated references to be no longer than one page. Once assembled and reviewed, the book would be published

continued from p. 3.

and distributed under the auspices of the STC-HPS, possibly becoming a source of revenue for the chapter. Such a coordinated effort could serve as a model for the other chapters and the national HPS to follow.

Those wishing to become involved in this effort are encouraged to contact Mike Charlton via e-mail at charlton@uthscsa.edu.

STC Leaves Them Clamoring for More in Mile High City

by David B. Fogle, Past-President

Already arguably the best, most high-profile-chapter in the land, the South Texas Chapter again raised (not razed) the bar a couple of notches by sponsoring a seminar during the evening hours of Wednesday, June 28, 2000 during the Annual Meeting of the national Health Physics Society. The topic of the seminar was "How to Present HPS Science Teacher Workshops." Members of the STC provided insights on how to establish, afford, manage, and perpetuate a post-Department of Energy funding cut viable program designed for the education of science teachers who will ultimately educate our future—our children.

The evening began with a light-hearted and satisfying (in the adult beverage way) welcome presentation from STC President Ian Hamilton. Dr. Hamilton thanked the HPS for providing a venue and some adult beverages (of the barley and hops variety) and snacks for the evening's activities. He then laid the groundwork for the presentations to follow by briefly outlining our mission that night and the need to get out our message regarding the facts about radiation. STC Past-President David Fogle followed with a presentation designed to inform the audience about the underlying mechanism for starting a workshop initiative and how to overcome the tribulations experienced by doing that very first workshop. David did not forget to mention the rewards associated with producing and supporting an initiative that benefits us as professionals and those that we ultimately educate, the children.

Discussing the impact of funding, venues, attracting an audience, and keeping them focused was the job of Susan Jablonski, STC President-Elect. STC Past-President Linda Morris followed with a discussion on how to design or adapt your materials for teaching educators about a sometimes confusing topic—radiation. Linda continued with a discussion on adjusting the workshop to address responses or concerns risen by attendees and how to interface the workshop mission with outreach to regional science fairs.

STC Secretary Pete Myers discussed the importance of editing and adjusting

handout materials used in the workshops. Mr. Myers then produced an STC Science Teacher Workshop (STW) crate loaded with all the materials that the chapter normally gives educators attending a workshop. Pete carefully went through the contents of the crate and lesson plan binders. It was then announced that the crate, contents, and several survey meters donated by the Texas A&M University Student Branch will be raffled-off at the end of that night's program. John Salsman, STC Director, stayed the course by discussing the materials contained on the CD-R disks that were distributed to all attendees at that night's seminar, compliments of the STC. John presented the format and contents of many of the actual slides used during STWs.

The evening concluded with a discussion period designed to enlist input from attendees regarding successes and pitfalls of conducting STWs. Excellent exchanges of information occurred during this period. At the conclusion of the seminar, the crowd responded with thunderous applause and overtures of appreciation for our (the STC) efforts. A great number of attendees stayed long after the end of the seminar to congratulate and thank the STC for providing such a quality seminar and materials. Several attendees, one HPS Board member among them, plainly stated, "This is the best thing (session) I've gone to all week."

Representatives from Uruguay and Canada were notably impressed by the STC presentations to the point that the representative from Canada indicated a desire for the Chapter to come to Nova Scotia to conduct a similar seminar at their national radiation protection convention. Negotiations are currently underway between national HPS, the STC, and Canadian authorities to make that outreach a reality. Arrangements are also underway to make certain that the STC-STW seminar is on the agenda for next year's national HPS meeting in Cleveland.

Special thanks must be given to Susan Jablonski who tirelessly developed practically every slide used during the PowerPoint presentations that evening. Susan, along with Ian's help, made certain that the vision of conducting a seminar

before the national HPS membership became a reality.

Much appreciation to Pete Myers who, with some understandable reluctance, offered to put additional adult beverage charges on his personal credit card. Pete demonstrated the highest level of cooperation, trust and concern for the success of the seminar by incurring a debt so that the seminar could continue in a seamless, successful fashion.

WHAT ARE THE BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF LOW LEVEL EXPOSURES?

by Ian Scott Hamilton, Ph.D., CHP

Check out the *BELLE Newsletter* if you are interested in the biological effects of low-level exposures (BELLE) to ionizing radiation. An expert advisory panel comprised of international luminaries in the fields of radiation biology, risk assessment, public health and medicine met in 1990 to encourage the assessment of the biological effects of low-level exposures to chemical agents and radioactivity. This newsletter is a free publication of the Northeast Regional Environmental Public Health Center, University of Massachusetts, School of Public Health, Amherst, MA. You can learn more about BELLE at www.belleonline.com. In addition, you can access previous issues of the newsletter and subscribe to this publication at the website.

The U.S. Department of Energy has a website dedicated to their Low Dose Radiation Research Program, as well. Go to <http://lowdose.org/pubs/progplan.html> to see the low-dose radiation research program description prepared for DOE's Office of Biological and Environmental Research. Most of this thirty-nine-page program outline contains very up-to-date, succinct information on the state-of-the-knowledge for low-level, low LET, low-dose rate exposures to ionizing radiation, presented in very understandable fashion.

Safety Associated with the Expanding Clinical Use of PET Radiopharmaceuticals

October 25, 2000, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.
Houston, Texas

OVERVIEW: Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a method for scanning the body to assess the function of various organs. With advances in technology, PET imaging has experienced rapid growth. With this rapid growth, there is a need for specialized training. This seminar will provide a forum for discussion of the safety aspects of PET usage, the safety aspects of PET radiopharmaceuticals and associated expanding clinical use.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- PET Technologists
- Technicians who utilize PET Imaging Equipment
- Nuclear Medicine Practitioners
- Radiation Safety Personnel associated with PET

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this session, you will be able to:

- Describe the medical applications of PET Imaging.
- Discuss the clinical necessity of PET Imaging.
- Discuss methods of safely expanding the utilization of PET Imaging and Radiopharmaceuticals.
- Describe the production, delivery and logistics of PET Radiopharmaceuticals.
- Discuss the radiation safety issues associated with PET Radiopharmaceuticals.
- Explain the Regulatory Requirements associated with the use of PET Radiopharmaceuticals.

FOR REGISTRATION, CONTACT:

713-500-9451	713-500-9442 (fax)
713-500-9463	cpardue@utsph.sph.uth.tmc.edu

SPEAKERS

Bob Emery, PHD, CHP, CIH, CSP

Radiation Safety Officer & Director
 Environmental Health & Safety

University of Texas—Health Science Center at Houston
 Houston, Texas

K. Lance Gould, MD

Professor & Director
 The Weatherhead PET Center

University of Texas—Health Science Center at Houston
 Houston, Texas

Ray Jisha

Chief, Medical and Academic Program
 Division of Licensing, Registration & Standards
 Bureau of Radiation Control
 Austin, Texas

Carlos Gonzalez Lepera, PhD

Executive Director, Cyclotron Facility
 University of Texas—Health Science Center at Houston
 Houston, Texas

LOCATION

The session will be conducted at The University of Texas—Health Science Center at Houston, Operations Center Bldg, 1851 Crosspoint, Houston, Texas. Call 713-500-9451 for directions.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee is \$70. This fee includes continental breakfast, course materials, course instruction, and CEUs.

CEUs

This seminar is acceptable training to satisfy the required prerequisite training of PET physicians and technologists. This session is approved for .4 CEUs.

**Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting of the
South Texas Chapter of Health Physics Society, Inc.
Doubletree Hotel, Austin, Texas
August 11, 2000**

I. Persons in attendance:

A. Executive Council Members in Attendance: David Fogle, Past-President; Susan Jablonski, President-Elect; Pete Myers, Secretary; Mike Charlton, Treasurer; Chris Maxwell, Executive Council Member; and Jim Lewis, Executive Council Member

B. Chapter Members and Guests in Attendance: Janet Hopkins, Chairperson, Nominating Committee; Karen Myers, Chairperson, Public Relations Committee; Bob Wilson, Chairperson, Legislative Committee; Stacy Bruss; Roy Craft; and Ken Krieger

II. Call to Order—David Fogle: A quorum having been established, the meeting of the Executive Council (EC) of the South Texas Chapter of Health Physics Society, Inc. (STC), was called to order at 6:45 pm by Past-President David Fogle acting in the place of Ian Hamilton, President, who was unable to attend.

III. Approval of Minutes of EC Meeting on May 5, 2000—David Fogle: Past-President Fogle asked the EC if there were any changes to be made to the minutes of the meeting held May 5, 2000. Hearing none, Susan Jablonski moved to accept the minutes as written; Jim Lewis seconded the motion; and the EC voted unanimously to accept the minutes as written and published in *The Billet*, Volume 21, Number 3, July 10, 2000.

IV. Approval of the Agenda—David Fogle: The agenda for the August 11, 2000, meeting, with minor changes, was approved (striking the report from the Publications Committee and having Susan Jablonski provide the report from the Student Assistance Committee).

V. President's Report—David Fogle for Ian Hamilton:

A. Offered thanks to committee chairs for accepting or continuing their chairpersonships. No announcement,

however, of specific chairperson assignments was made.

B. Offered thanks to persons (David Fogle, Susan Jablonski, Linda Morris, Pete Myers, John Salsman) who created and presented, at the National HPS Meeting in Denver, the Workshop, "How to Conduct Science Teacher Workshops."

C. Briefed EC on action taken by the Texas Radiation Advisory Board to write a letter to the Governor advising against Texas spending \$400M necessary to implement the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's mandated Radon in Water program. Their advice is based on the lack of significant levels of radon in Texas; the inconclusive connection between exposure to radon and adverse health effects; the need to mitigate other water-borne contaminants, which are known to produce adverse health effects; and the potential effect of having to shut down some small water systems because they have inadequate resources to implement what is required by the program. Bob Wilson recommended liaisons with other organizations to support rejection of EPA mandate.

D. Advised that Ian Hamilton is working on a letter to *Time* magazine. Ralph Heyer alerted the STC EC to a misuse of the radiation safety trefoil in a recent issue of *Time* and recommended the STC EC consider writing *Time* in an attempt to encourage them not to perpetuate misconceptions regarding radiation and radiation safety.

E. A motion was made and seconded to set adjournment for 8:30 pm. The motion was passed unanimously.

F. Advised that Robert Ludlum volunteered at the national HPS meeting to become the STC website webmaster. Robert has already made great improvements in the site. Persons are encouraged to submit informational articles and pictures to Robert. Articles will be vetted by David Norman, Technical Editor of *The Billet*.

G. Advised that thank you letters have been sent to instructors and teachers

who participated in the last STC STW at Mercedes, TX.

H. Advised on results of STC nominations to professional/advisory boards. Ian Hamilton has been appointed as the Health Physicist on the TRAB; have not heard anything on the nomination STC made to the Board for Professional Licensed Medical Physicists.

I. Advised that the Medical Radiological Technologist Board has informed us that the CEUs we award for attendance at our technical sessions will have to be awarded more carefully and that they will have to be broken into direct hours and nondirect hours; LMP CEUs need not be broken into these two categories. The STC President or Secretary should coordinate with the MRT Board to ensure we're awarding CEUs correctly.

J. Asked Treasurer Charlton to research the payment of the Minneapolis 1998 breakfast bill (final notice faxed from national HPS to John White) and pay the bill if it hasn't already been paid.

K. Reported that David Fogle met with TSTC recruiter to help re-establish HP program. The meeting proved very profitable, resulting in an indication that the TSTC recruiter will enthusiastically support the TSTC HP Technologist program and that it should be re-established by January, 2001. Two representatives from TSTC, including David Day, Chair EHS Department, will be attending the meeting tomorrow as guests of STC. Susan Jablonski made a motion to pay for registration fees including lunches; Jim Lewis seconded the motion; and the motion passed unanimously. Additionally, the two TSTC representatives will be staying at the hotel in the two complimentary rooms, which the hotel provided as a benefit of holding the meeting in their hotel tomorrow.

VI. Treasurer's Report—Mike Charlton:

A. Slight modification of Susan Jablonski's Treasurer's Report. The Operating Fund is growing into a quite large noninterest-bearing account. Overall the status excellent: \$102K on the books. We

receive \$150 interest per month from scholarship fund account. Outstanding bills of \$8–10K will draw down the Operating Fund to a more reasonable amount.

B. Susan Jablonski made a motion to reimburse Pete Myers for the \$100 paid to replenish refreshments at the STC STW Workshop at national HPS; passed unanimously.

C. Financial Plan. Based on the charter, research and education related to HP in Texas. Should involve regular goal setting and revision. The plan will limit flexibility, but it can be amended based on majority vote of EC.

1. Current initiatives:

a. Scholarship (2–4/yr): approx. \$2K per year.

b. Science Teacher Workshops (2–3/yr): approx \$3K per year.

c. STC Professional Meetings (4/yr): approx \$6K per year.

d. R.D. Neff Student Awards (2–3/yr): approx \$1500 per year.

e. Science Fair Support: approx \$250 per year.

2. Income Analysis:

a. Scholarships: even

b. Meetings: small profit

c. Science Teacher Workshops: moderate deficit (can exercise cost containment) and would like to plan for a break-even, self-sustaining program supported by an interest-bearing STW fund similar to the scholarship fund. The STW fund could be seeded with the transfer of some money from the Operating Fund.

d. Others: small deficit

3. Possible Actions:

a. Interest-bearing checking account.

b. Put portion of Operating Funds into interest-bearing account (maybe \$5–10K). Thinking that we need \$15–20K in the account to become self-sustaining.

c. Determine required funding for Science Teacher Workshops (2–3/yr)

d. Evaluate additional income sources

e. Draft financial plan for next EC meeting

f. Compare draft financial plan with STC charter/philosophy

Probably should move some money out of the operating budget into an interest-bearing account (\$5–15K) to support a long-term commitment to STWs. Discussion on other possible initiatives in addition to STWs, which might compete for

proposed commitment to establishing a self-sustaining fund supporting STWs: (1) education goals/scholarships, perhaps another scholarship in J. Poston's name; (2) professional meetings; (3) membership expansion; (4) services to STC membership—professional development; (5) sponsoring radiation safety officer handbook publishing costs recovered by sales; (6) increased electronic communications providing health physics information; (7) public policy shaping via legislative committee but could require contractor support; (8) research or internship program at BRC. EC should review the last 3 pages and provide comments to M. Charlton who would like to present a draft plan at the next meeting. A motion made by Jim Lewis to accept Treasurer's Report was passed unanimously.

VII. Secretary's Report—Pete Myers:

A. Received a letter from national HPS President-Elect Anastas requesting to schedule a meeting with STC at which he can speak. STC President-Elect Susan Jablonski is coordinating with President-Elect Anastas.

B. Have received several letters from the Texas Department of Health offering opportunity to comment on rules. Will now forward directly to Chairperson, Legislative Committee. Might consider adding rule posting to web page allowing membership to comment.

C. Received an e-mail regarding the nomination of new chairpersons. An announcement of those nominations is needed, and the EC needs to approve Chairpersons who have been nominated for more than 3 years service. Put on next meeting agenda.

D. Received a copy of an e-mail message from Jim Lewis to David Fogle requesting an electronic copy of the rules (Title 25 Texas Administrative Code 289) to generate an enhanced set of rules (e.g., bookmarked), which could be posted to the STC web page.

E. Received a request for support of Science Engineering Fair of Houston. Will be passed to Susan Jablonski.

F. Received notification by the U.S. Postal Service that bulk rate mailing was canceled. Was established to support the TDH/BRC regulatory conference in 1994; EC decided that the allowance for bulk rate mailing is no longer required.

G. Requested that the Chairperson, Membership Committee, notify Pete Myers of new members' e-mail addresses so the STC e-mail distribution list can be kept current. This is especially important to include new members in all announcements.

H. Robert Ludlum, taking over web site, wanted to include a procedure for reviewing information papers for technical content. David Norman, technical editor for *The Billet*, has agreed.

I. Received from Legislative Budget Board public hearings on legislative appropriations for the 2001–2 biennium. Transferred to Chairperson, Legislative Committee, for research and coordination with Ian Hamilton to determine what action should be taken.

A motion to accept correspondence as received to be filed was passed unanimously.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Program Committee—Susan Jablonski:

1. Expect a good program tomorrow. The luncheon speaker will be Dr. Margaret Maxey, who always provides a thought-provoking and entertaining talk. Right now have 149 registered and will probably have another 10–20 sign up at the desk. Many thanks are offered to our STC affiliates who offered to sponsor breaks (\$1150).

2. Next meeting will be November 11, 2000 (in Galveston or Clear Lake). Agenda will be either associated with NASA or Medical.

3. Next meeting will be January 13, 2000, to accommodate President Anastas visit; it will be a joint meeting with TAMU & TSTC Student Branches in San Antonio.

4. The Annual Meeting will be in May in College Station.

B. Public Relations — Karen Myers:

1. Published an article on the STW in Mercedes into national newsletter and *The Billet*.

2. Provided Chairperson, Membership Committee, a Synopsis of Position Statements so it could be included in STC Directory—reviewed and approved by K. Dinger.

3. Provided the Synopsis of Position Statements to Robert Ludlum, STC

webmaster, so it could be included on the STC website.

4. Electronically transferred the new STC logo to the National *HPS Newsletter*.

5. Published the article on Ed Bailey for longest-standing, continuously active member.

6. The article on Stewart Bushong is in draft and should be in the next *Billet*.

7. Have developed a list of scholarship students who have e-mail addresses and beginning to work on articles on whereabouts/activities of scholarship students.

8. Information papers will be the committee's next effort.

C. Nominations Committee—Janet Hopkins:

Working on collecting nominations for national committees. Will write an article for *The Billet* encouraging STC members to consider membership on HPS committees.

IX. Appointed Committee Reports:

A. Affiliate Membership—Chris Maxwell:

1. Affiliate members will be sponsoring breaks at tomorrow's meeting. Thanks much to Rob O'Donnell for taking the initiative for sponsoring the breaks. It is a very pleasant and unexpected addition to the meeting, which will make the meeting better and even more enjoyable.

2. Affiliate renewals will be conducted in October–November 2000.

3. Currently have 32 affiliates with another preparing to join.

B. Legislative Committee — Robert Wilson:

1. First meeting.

2. Anticipate emphasizing the communications process by looking at bills and getting information to membership via the STC e-mail distribution list.

3. Expect big issues to be waste and TNRCC Sunset.

C. Publications Committee—Susan Jablonski for John Hageman:

Deadline for *The Billet* is 09/08/00

D. Student Assistance — Susan Jablonski for Linda Morris:

1. Received 7 applications for scholarship grants (1 at the associate level; 5–6 at the graduate level; and 0 at the undergraduate level). Those being awarded tomorrow at the Business Meeting are Jane Abroski, TSTC; David

Dodoo-Amoo, UT; and Natalia Medvedeva, TAMU.

2. Discussing ranking of applicants. Have always given large consideration to academic achievement, but many student records are similar, and some only have one semester of grades, making ranking based upon academic achievement difficult. Are considering developing a ranking based more on need, which will be presented to the EC. Jim Lewis believes should still evaluate scholastic success because it would be imprudent to award to someone who might not complete a program. Pete Myers went on record indicating that preference for these grants should be given to those students who are involved in health physics programs.

3. Would like EC to decide that STC will sponsor a certain number of Science Fairs (as general donor or special award donor or both) in conjunction with Science Teacher Workshops (e.g., telling teachers at STWs that we will be back supporting the Science Fair that will be conducted in their area). David Fogle accepts charge. Mike Charlton believes insufficient bang for buck. Pete Myers and Stacy Bruss supports. Susan Jablonski indicated that Linda Morris envisions, in addition to providing awards at Science Fairs, that STC members would volunteer to (1) provide guidance (and perhaps facilities) to students interested in conducting radiation experiments and (2) serve as judges at Fairs in which radiation science experiments were included. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed for STC to coordinate through the STWs to establish a program of setting up award money for Fair participation by STC members in coordination with the STWs. Each award will include a certificate, a chart of the nuclides, and a \$25 cash award.

E. Science Teacher Workshop—David Fogle:

1. Next STW is scheduled for Oct 14, 2000, College Station. David Fogle will be asking persons to be instructors, and Ian Hamilton will be coordinating logistical support.

2. Discharged committee responsible for arranging and conducting the STW Workshop at the national HPS meeting in Denver, July 2, 2000. Thanks so much to the committee and especially Susan Jablonski. Many participants indicated

that the STC STW Workshop was the best and most valuable activity they attended at the meeting.

a. Request for STC to present STW Workshop in Nova Scotia. Working with national HPS to get funding to allow HPS outreach to Canada.

b. Probably on agenda for national HPS meeting in 2001.

X. Old Business:

A. Banner purchased from money previously allotted (\$115).

B. Mid-year meeting 2002 will be at Orlando, FL. STC is backup chapter.

C. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, to reimburse Jim Sharp \$205.44 for printing of the STC Directory after the Treasurer confirms the validity of the expense.

XI. New Business:

A. RSO Navigator—Bob Emery: Proposed STC sponsor publication of a book that would contain a collection of questions frequently asked by new RSOs. *RSO Compass/Navigator* Book published by collective expertise of STC would not only serve as a useful tool for RSOs in Texas and generate funds for STC, but also earn accolades for the chapter. Bob Wilson and Bob Emery will coordinate to develop a plan (e.g., publication costs, sales, copyright) to be presented to the EC at the next meeting.

B. "Student" Membership—Bob Emery: 45 new STC members from Bob Emery's RSO courses. STC might consider special listing in *The Billet* explaining novel approach in encouraging radiation safety education and support of HPS membership. Propose an article be written for the national HPS Newsletter. Will ask Karen Myers to coordinate.

C. Mentoring Program—Ken Krieger: To maximize the experience for students and first-time attendees at national HPS meetings, it would be good to marry them up with persons of similar interests. Ken Krieger will draft a letter to be reviewed at the next meeting we can consider sending to national HPS.

XII. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

What's an HP?

Andrew Karam, CHP

Over the past few years, there has been a lot of discussion about the fact that an increasing number of radiation safety positions (including Radiation Safety Officers) are being filled by non-Health Physicists (HP). Tom Johnson presented a paper at the Midyear Meeting a few years ago (Johnson, 1998), it's come up in numerous electronic postings, and it's a matter that Ray Johnson, Paul Rohwer, and other senior members of the Health Physics Society (HPS) have discussed with some degree of concern.

I see a few concerns that we should consider. First, of course, is health and safety. There are a lot of people who are responsible for radiation safety of industrial linear accelerators, radioactive sources, a variety of gauges, radiography devices, and the like, who have, at best, minimal training in health physics. While the harm that a soil-density gauge can cause is minimal, some linear accelerators can give dose rates on the order of a few mega-rads per hour.

Another concern is that every non-HP put in charge of a radiation safety program tends to detract from our profession. After all, if a person with a general safety background is viewed as competent to run an accelerator radiation safety program, why hire a health physicist for anything less dangerous? Over time, this is likely to reduce the number of jobs for genuine HPs as more companies become convinced that ours is a "boutique" profession that, while necessary at large facilities, provides no added value at smaller ones.

Ironically, this can lead to a third concern. If a company uses a non-HP to run its radiation safety program, it may be more likely to have a program with significant "holes" that a health physicist would notice. Non-HPs are more likely to concentrate on their own areas of expertise and neglect to make sure that, for example, a training program provides information specific to the company's use of radiation. Or they may perform periodic surveys, but neglect those areas that the vendor has said are not a concern. These oversights make it easier for employees to complain about radiation-induced injury, and they make it more difficult for the company to defend itself. And what the public sees is another news-

paper article about a former employee suing a company over radiation injuries, further heightening the public's fears of radiation. Using people who are not adequately trained in health physics makes both companies and our profession more vulnerable to these perceptions.

On the other hand, this is an argument we probably don't have a hope of winning. I think we are unlikely to persuade governments to require further training or experience to administer, say, the radiation safety program for a soil-density gauge. In fact, we're probably unlikely to be able to insist on more stringent training even for industrial linear accelerators, in spite of the far greater potential for harm. In short, to a point, I think we're going to

***... if we can't win outright
and if there are legitimate
issues at stake, what options
do we have?***

have to live with the fact that most licensed organizations will continue to have non-HPs running their radiation safety programs.

So, if we can't win outright and if there are legitimate issues at stake, what options do we have? Since we probably can't insist that only HPs hold industrial RSO positions, perhaps we can work to turn these RSOs into HPs. For example, HPS could issue a position paper noting Society recommendations for the qualifications that such RSOs should have. These could include some hands-on training or operating experience with the devices they are to supervise. In addition, HPS could develop a list of requirements for training programs that these RSOs could attend—programs meeting these requirements could be designated as "HPS accredited" or something similar. By doing this, we can encourage industrial RSOs to attend training programs that meet HPS standards for content and teaching quality, helping to ensure they not only receive decent training, but are also made aware of the existence of HPS as a professional organization that is available to assist them in their duties.

Kelly Classic brought up another option at the recent business meeting of the RSO Section. She noted that, a few years ago, the RSO Section sent out flyers to about 20,000 RSOs at small licensees inviting them to join the HPS. The thought was good but the lack of response was overwhelming. In my opinion, we should make a continuing effort to contact industrial RSOs and to do so in a manner that will help them to understand that joining is in their best interests. We may also wish to consider working with other professional organizations to establish "Radiation Safety" sections for their members who are also RSOs. Membership in such a section could carry with it the same benefits noted below and, perhaps, associate membership in HPS in a manner analogous to the American Institute of Physics membership that accompanies my membership in the American Association of Physicists in Medicine.

One way to encourage membership would be to offer industrial RSOs discounted rates for a membership category that would include only subscriptions to *Operational Radiation Safety* (ORS) and the *HPS Newsletter*. At the same time, I would suggest running a continuing column in either *ORS* or the *Newsletter* that goes over the very basic issues that will be of concern to industrial RSOs.

Alternately or in conjunction with such a column, we could provide industrial RSO members a free copy of a basic book written at an appropriate level to give them the background knowledge of HP principles, regulations, and what constitutes a "good" radiation safety program. Other benefits we could offer might include access to "model" procedures and documents developed by RSOs and made available on the RSO Section's web page (which was mentioned at the recent RSO Section meeting). Something else that would be nice would be a CD-ROM containing back issues of *ORS*, if we could make such a thing available. Offering these items might help entice industrial RSOs to join our Society, and they would be a great service to those who most desperately need our help. Incidentally, providing these services would also help to cement HPS' standing as the society of

Continued on next page.

experts in matters dealing with radiation safety.

In addition, I would suggest that the HPS consider offering an Industrial RSO Session and Professional Enrichment Program classes at our meetings. These sessions would teach industrial RSOs the things that they are not going to get in a 40-hour class, such as recordkeeping, litigation prevention, recent regulatory changes, characteristics of specific radiation-generating devices, how and when to do a proper survey, how to respond to radiological incidents, surviving inspections, incidents and lessons learned, and so forth. These are the sorts of practical items that part-time, non-HP RSOs will need to do their jobs competently.

At the same time, no matter how valuable we make HPS membership for industrial RSOs, they have to know about us in order to join. Although I have not read the mailing that went out a few years ago, I would imagine it was very professionally done. I am not sure how compelling it was. I would suggest we take a few notes from our friends in the antinuclear camp and make it painfully obvious that having an unqualified person as RSO can be very damaging to a company, leaving it vulnerable to legal action for radiation damage if its program was not run in accordance with accepted good practices. Citing a few cases of this would help. Perhaps we should even mention some of the

things that the 40-hour classes don't have time to go into. Then we can note the benefits of joining the HPS as an industrial RSO, including the "freebies" that go along with membership.

I would further suggest that, in addition to sending these invitations to "Radiation Safety Officer, Acme Corporation," we might consider sending a mailing to corporate legal officers stressing the role of competent and knowledgeable RSOs in litigation prevention. And perhaps we can seriously consider also posting prominent advertisements in the newsletters of a variety of professional organizations and trade magazines—people working in the mineral industry, with soil-density gauges or other larger sealed sources, industries where linear accelerators are used, well-logging, and so forth. Every company that uses sufficient quantities of radiation or radioactivity must have an RSO, and each of these people is a potential HPS member or affiliate member who we should try to contact and encourage to become industrial RSO members of HPS.

There is one potential problem in encouraging a large number of non-HP RSOs to join our Society. Industrial RSOs far outnumber HPS members. If we make a concerted effort to reach out to more members, we run the risk of becoming an industrial society and not a scientific society. We can try to limit this by restricting voting to only full members. We can

acknowledge that a large number of people who practice radiation safety are in the industry and that, perhaps, our makeup and priorities should reflect this. Or, perhaps we could encourage other professional societies to form radiation safety sections that could be affiliated with the HPS, but not as full HPS members. In this capacity, we could offer the Industrial RSO Section membership as an "add-on" to their existing professional society membership rather than as outright membership in HPS. This way, we can provide the information, publications, and HPS meeting sessions (or perhaps sessions at other societies' meetings) while maintaining the HPS as a society of health physics professionals.

Obviously, anything we do must be better considered than what I have suggested here. I agree with those who are concerned about the large numbers of non-HP RSOs who are "out there," and I agree that this is a concern we need to address. The risks of not trying to do something are simply too great.

Reference

Johnson, T. Current experiences in radiation safety officer training. In: *Proceedings of the 31st Midyear Topical Meeting, February 1998*. City, ST: Publisher. p. 109.

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Response to "What's an HP?"

Ralph S. Heyer

Radiation Safety Officer and Manager of Regulatory Affairs, TN Technologies, Inc.

The recent article on "What's an HP?" by Mr. Andrew Karam, CHP, (Editorial in HPS Newsletter, Volume XXVIII Number 9, September 2000) truly shocked me into writing a retort. Having been a member of the National Health Physics Society as well as South Texas Chapter HPS for many years, I am surprised at the position Mr. Karam has taken with regard to Radiation Safety Officers and Health Physicists in industrial communities. Once again we emphasize the label and not the performance. I've been in this profession (labeled a Health Physicist) for 25 years; I am the Radiation Safety Officer for one of the

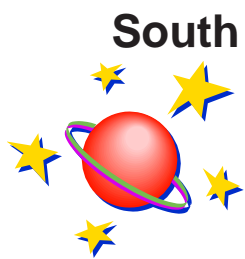
leading industrial gauge manufacturers in the country, and I am not a certified health physicist.

Our company offers "intense" 40-hour radiation safety training to the industrial gauge community targeted toward prospective Radiation Safety Officers. I emphasize the word intense (ask our 1000s of customers, including both state regulators and industry personnel) simply because the course puts a "non-health physicist" through radiation physics, biology, shielding, dose calculations, regulatory requirements, emergency response, and a 100-question exam. I took personal offense at the list of "items not covered in

a 40-hour class" (e.g., recordkeeping, litigation prevention, recent regulatory changes, characteristics of specific radiation-generating devices, how and when to do a proper survey, how to respond to radiological incidents, surviving inspections, lessons learned, etc.) since all of these are covered in our class.

What Mr. Karam apparently does not understand is that the majority of industrial RSOs have many other responsibilities associated with their routine jobs. These individuals are (appropriately) being designated as Radiation Safety Officers as an add-on to their regular

Continued on p. 20.



South Texas Chapter of Health Physics Society, Inc. Fall Meeting

Space Center Houston - NASA
Saturday, November 11, 2000

The Final (Radiation) Frontier: Space

Conveniently located in the jurisdiction of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC), the Johnson Space Center (JSC) is a natural meeting topic generator. As health physicists, we are always interested in the relationship between man and radiation, even extraterrestrial radiation. For this reason and the fact that the JSC employs leading experts in the field, the STC has turned its attention to this related and fascinating field of study and exploration—space.

Years have passed since the STC concentrated on our neighbor's activities in Clear Lake. Space Center Houston (SCH) has undergone an almost complete transformation including the addition of a great number of interactive exhibits for people of all ages. A special behind-the-

scenes guided tour will be provided to STC guests as part of the meeting venue. SCH exhibits feature tram tours of the JSC, special kiosks, videos, and interactive experiences to take visitors on a tour of the universe and let them experience other planets, exploding stars, ancient galaxies, and even black holes.

This meeting will focus on extraterrestrial radiation considerations. Offering even more educational opportunities to this ambitious agenda is an afternoon focus-group discussion on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) initiative toward a National Materials Program. Due to the unique cross-section of radioactive materials users in the STC membership, we have been asked to host this focus group for the National Materi-

als Program Working Group. This will be your opportunity to be involved with and have input into this groundbreaking initiative. (Here's your opportunity to tell the NRC what's wrong and suggest how to fix it!) Besides the opulent buffet spread offered during lunch, STC members will be treated to a presentation from an actual astronaut (this is a surprise!). Offering so much to our membership in this one meeting, space will fill up fast. Make certain of availability and submit your reservation now. The STC is proud to continue our educational mission in support of the STC Charter and Bylaws and for the benefit of our membership. You will not want to miss this one!

***CEUs Awarded for LMP and MRT Certifications**

MEETING AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS Holiday Inn—NASA

MAIN MEETING

Space Center Houston
1601 NASA Road 1
Houston, Texas 77058
(281) 244-2145

HOST HOTEL AND EC MEETING

Holiday Inn—NASA
1300 NASA Road 1
Houston, Texas 77058
(281) 333-2500

STC Group Amenities include:

Free Breakfast Buffet for STC Group, Free Local Calls, Swimming Pool; Exercise Facility; Premium cable TV; In-room coffee makers, hair dryers, irons and ironing boards; Brewsky's Lounge and Complimentary Beverage for guests; In-room voice mail; and Children's Playground

FOR RESERVATIONS: (281) 333-2500
www.holidayinnhouston.com

A block of rooms has been reserved for Friday, November 10, 2000, and Saturday, November 11, 2000, until October 27, 2000, under the name "STC-HPS." Room rates will be \$72 per night for singles or doubles. In order to secure these rates, you must call the reservation telephone number listed above and spec-

ify that you are with the STC-HPS. After the reservation deadline, reservations will continue to be accepted based strictly on room availability, however, extension of the \$72 rate will be unavailable. Therefore, make your reservations early!

If you are interested in the special guided tour of Space Center Houston (SCH) that will begin at 3:00 p.m. on November 11th, you must order advance tickets separately on your registration form. These advanced tickets are offered at a group discount to STC and must be pre-paid to Space Center Houston by October 26, 2000. Therefore, if you are planning to attend the tour portion of the meeting, you must order and pay for SCH tickets and send in your registration packet to be received by Wednesday, October 25, 2000.

Friday, November 10, 2000

Holiday Inn—NASA
1300 NASA Road 1, Houston, Texas 77058
(281) 333-2500

6:30 -10:00 p.m. **Executive Council Meeting**, 4th Floor - Apollo Room

Saturday, November 11, 2000

Space Center Houston
The Silver Moon Café
1601 NASA Road 1, Houston, Texas 77058
(281) 244-2145

9:00 - 9:10 a.m. **Welcome**—STC President-Elect Susan Jablonski

9:10 - 9:55 **Biological Effects of Radiation and Special Human Considerations During Space Flight**,
 Jeff Jones, M.D., National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) Flight Surgeon

9:55 - 10:40 **Biological Effects of Space Radiation**,
 Francis Cucinotta, Ph.D., Lead Physicist for the Radiation Health Office

10:40 - 10:50 **Break**

10:50 - 11:35 **Evaluating Cosmic Ray Dose and Radiation Quality**,
 Leslie A. Braby, Ph.D., Research Professor, Nuclear Engineering Department,
 Texas A&M University

11:35–1:00 p.m. **Lunch with Distinguished Speaker**

Special Guest Astronaut***Luncheon Buffet featuring:***

Fresh Garden Salad with dressing

Bleu Cheese and Chive Potato Salad

Grilled Herb Chicken in Pesto Sauce and Beef Tips a la Cabernet

Herbal Rice and Green Beans Almondine

Broiled Roma Tomatoes

Freshly Baked Breads and Desserts

Iced Tea, Coffee, d Tea, lDcdp lllniPoo, T6:30 -13 SalAoygOnyndf0:3:k0c-3pM)OxgGElectb-vn)HH-f:r

10:50 -O&fGBnff)Hyg—lDcdp lllniPooMcanffee,d sodaniPooMGa, fnOOgb&fDessergoodieO&fTM9nyOMHGBf1MBv

REGISTRATION

Please submit a registration form for each member or guest attending the meeting and mail to the address below.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

South Texas Chapter of Health Physics Society, Inc.—Fall Meeting—Space Center Houston - NASA

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number (____) _____ Home Office (Mark one)

Please submit a pre-registration form for each member or guest attending and mail to the address below.

- STC Member (technical session, luncheon, and focus group) — \$40 “J”
- STC Member (technical session and focus group ONLY) — \$30 “L”
- Non-STC Member (technical session, luncheon, and focus group) — \$50 “J”
- Non-STC Member (technical and focus group ONLY) — \$40 “L” “J”
- Student (technical session, luncheon, and focus group) — \$10
- Adult tickets to Space Center Houston — \$9**
- Child ticket (ages 4-11) to Space Center Houston — \$7**

Total

****If you (or family members) are planning to attend the tour portion of the meeting, you must order and pay for these discounted SCH tickets and send in your registration packet to be received by Wednesday, October 25, 2000.**

Mail registration form(s) with your check (*made payable to the STC-HPS*) to arrive before October 25, 2000, if attending the tour or before November 2, 2000, if not attending the tour, to:

- Need a receipt for this meeting
- Need CEU certificate

Michael Charlton, Treasurer
South Texas Chapter—HPS
5303 Hamilton Wolfe, #420
San Antonio, Texas 78229
Phone (210) 567-2955
Fax (210) 567-2965

Pre-registration for those not attending the tour will close on November 2, 2000. If you will not be able to attend the meeting, please call and cancel your reservation **PRIOR TO November 2, 2000.** Any reservation not canceled by November 2, 2000, will be regarded as a confirmed reservation and monies will be due for the meeting expenses. Refunds will be honored only for cancellations

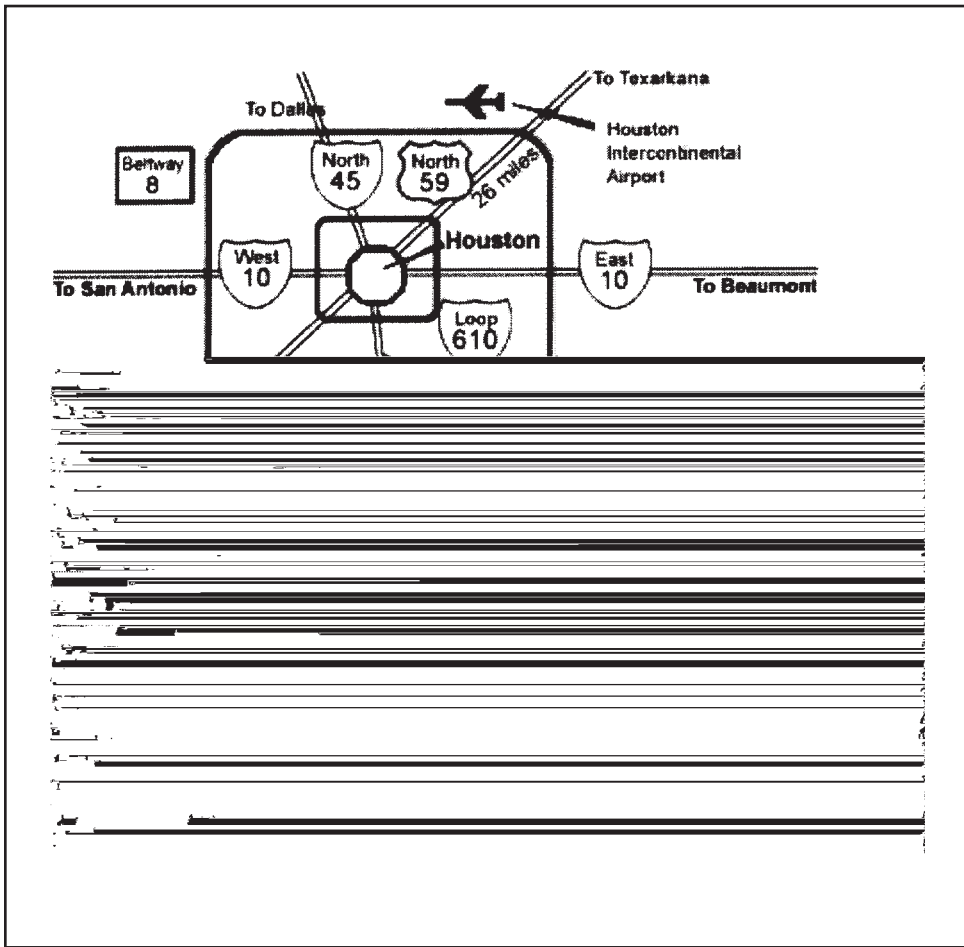
made before November 2, 2000. Registration fees collected after November 2, 2000, or at the door, if space is available, will be \$10 extra.

L This price **DOES NOT** include lunch with our special guest. If contemplating on-site purchase, meeting space and lunch cannot be guaranteed on the day of the meeting.

J Non-members may select THE option of applying for South Texas Chapter—Health Physics Society membership at the meeting and enjoy privileges of membership at future Chapter events.

** Did you remember to order Space Center Houston tickets if you are planning to attend the tour? Don't miss out!

MAP TO THE FALL MEETING



DIRECTIONS

Space Center Houston and the Holiday Inn—NASA are located approximately 25 miles south of downtown Houston. Exit at NASA Road 1 off IH-45 coming from northbound or southbound directions. Turn on NASA Road 1 going eastbound toward Johnson Space Center. Both locations will be on NASA Road 1 before reaching the entrance to Johnson Space Center.

Changing the Way Radioactive Materials are Regulated?

by Cindy Cardwell, Texas Department of Health

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) currently regulates 25% of the radioactive material licensees in the U.S. So, what about the other 75% of licensees? Those licensees are regulated by Agreement States (AS). AS are states that have entered into an agreement with the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission under which the NRC relinquishes the authority to regulate radioactive materials (with some exceptions) in that state. The NRC periodically reviews each AS to ensure that the radiation regulatory program is adequate to protect public health and safety and is compatible with NRC regulations. Texas is an AS, along with thirty other states. There is also the potential for four more states to become AS by 2003. This would mean that 80% of radioactive material licensees would be regulated by AS.

The NRC has recognized this distribution of licensees and is placing more emphasis on activities supporting a national infrastructure, specifically, rule-making, guidance development, information technology systems, technical support, and event follow-up in order to move toward a “national material’s program.” However, there is no clear definition of what a ‘national material’s program’ should look like or how it should work. The NRC Commissioners directed the establishment of a working group to address the issue.

The National Materials Program (NMP) working group consists of members from NRC and from AS. In April 2000, the working group began meeting to figure out what a national material’s program should do, what it should look like, and how it should operate. The cur-

rent regulatory structure was examined, alternative ways of doing business were evaluated, and recommendations were developed. At this point . . . WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The NMP working group wants input from stakeholders, a.k.a., licensees, on these recommendations for a national material’s program. We will be making a presentation at your meeting in Clear Lake to explain the process the working group has used, to present some of the recommendations, and to explain the envisioned structure of a national material’s program. This is your chance to let us, a.k.a., the regulators, know what you think about how a national material program should operate.

Information Tracking with Enfish OneSpace

by Jim Lewis

Ever wonder why you could possibly need a 650 MHz or better Pentium III computer? Enfish OneSpace is the answer (www.enfish.com). Enfish is an acronym for ENter, FInd, and SHare. It is best described as a combination indexing engine (like AltaVista Discovery Personal Edition), web browser, and replacement shell for your Windows Desktop/Explorer (Microsoft, look out!). The program indexes all your data files and e-mails (works best with Microsoft Office and Microsoft Outlook). It will index (with your permission and direction) networked drives, removable drives, and remote web sites. It's capable of pattern-matching, learning to associate files with a topic even though the keyword(s) for the topic are not contained in the file (Tell the program, "Oops! Missed that one!" and it learns to "magically" associate). You can create web page views that are combinations of a number of web sites in a multi-paned view. Searches can be further refined and saved to disk for future reference or e-mailed to associates. Files and e-mails that were mistakenly included or excluded from a search result can be removed or added.

The program is "free," and privacy disclaimers notwithstanding, one wonders how much E.T. could be phoning home. Enfish can index PDF files (e.g., the BRC regs) and zip file archives and comes with INSO Quick Viewers for popping open and showing you the location of text hits within a file (the PDF viewer is downloadable from Support Updates; no built-in Zip viewers yet, but works with WinZip). Don't try Enfish with anything less than a 200-MHz Pentium computer and 64 megabytes of RAM. For each gigabyte of data files, it consumes about 50 megabytes of hard disk building an index.

The program was designed to be used as a custom interface to Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.x or higher. If Netscape is your default browser, Netscape use outside of the program will be unaffected.

Legal Considerations

The legal analysis prepared by TNRCC, Environmental Law Division, is a companion to the technical report prepared by Rogers & Associates Engineering (RAE). It tracks the *LLRW Technical Report*, reviews existing LLRW law, and examines how the assured isolation concept and other management techniques may be addressed by existing law or may require changes to existing law. The legal analysis examines existing federal and state law relating to LLRW management and disposal, various legal issues relating to LLRW management and disposal, and whether, and the extent to which, management and disposal options presented by RAE in the *LLRW Technical Report* meet the requirements of existing law.

The assured isolation concept presented in the *LLRW Technical Report* is a potential management option developed by RAE, based on their technical opinion, but not specifically recognized in existing law. The assured isolation concept would provide Texas with greater flexibility in managing LLRW. Assured isolation is not specifically prohibited by the Texas Compact and could, according to an A.G. opinion, satisfy the Texas compact obligation to manage LLRW. However, in view of the fact that later disposal is required under the Texas Compact and federal statute (the LLRWPA), an assured isolation facility may provide an effective interim solution, albeit for a long period of time, but not a final one.

If Texas intended to use assured isolation to fulfill federal and state requirements for LLRW disposal, federal statute and the Texas Compact would need changes. If Texas intended to use assured isolation as an interim step towards disposal, federal statute and the Texas Compact may not need to change, but it is possible that NRC regulations would. Before any conclusion can be drawn about whether assured isolation satisfies Texas' obligations under the federal law and the Texas Compact, input from the NRC and the two other compact states would be necessary. However, because assured isolation is a relatively new approach to LLRW management, there are some issues that Texas, NRC, and Texas Compact states may have to contend with to ensure that the assured isolation concept can provide an interim management technique that can ultimately lead to disposal of the LLRW and satisfaction of all federal law requirements.

This article is reprinted with permission from the August 2000 issue of the ARDT News, which is the communication vehicle for the Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas. Membership continues to grow quickly, and applications are solicited from interested individuals and organizations who share ARDT's goals. If you would like to join, please contact our office. Project Director: T.R. Locke, Jr. or General Manager: E.C. Selig, P.O. Box 12024, Austin, TX 78711.

A Special Thank You to our Affiliates

The following affiliates sponsored the refreshment breaks at the Austin Meeting August 12, 2000. (Note that the order of this listing is based on the amount each contributed, in decreasing amounts). Your contributions make our organization stronger. Thank you.

h Iso-Tex Diagnostics, Inc.	281-482-1231
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h Suntrac Services	281-338-2133

Letter to Governor Bush

28 July 2000

The Honorable George W. Bush
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Bush:

I understand you recently received a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advising you of a revision to the Safe Drinking Water Act regarding radon. The Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) believes that the EPA revised drinking water rules for radon will impose \$400 million in costs on the nation, \$40 million of which will likely fall on Texas—predominantly on small water systems that can ill-afford the additional burden.

The TRAB's concerns are that the burdens placed on Texans by the changes in the EPA rules are unwarranted and unsupported by public health information. The public health hazard this rule presumes to address has never been scientifically demonstrated. I am enclosing an appendix explaining the technical factors the board considered.

The TRAB understands that community water system (CWS) funds are very limited; the TRAB believes that issues of water supply, infrastructure, and basic hygiene should take precedence over radon mitigation. These critical CWS funds should not be exhausted on the mitigation of a hypothetical risk of radon in water but, instead, on the mitigation of water-borne pathogens that are causing real death and disease throughout the nation today. In the end, it is not a question of what is the most cost-effective alternative for Texans, but ultimately it is a question of "who pays" for the mitigation of a miniscule or nonexistent risk.

As a matter of radiation and safe drinking water policy for the State of Texas, the TRAB recommends that the State of Texas consider challenging the EPA rules to be promulgated in August 2000. Because the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission is the agency charged with administering EPA rules, the TRAB will be advising the commissioners of its recommendation as well.

Please contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,
Dale E. Klein, Ph.D., P.E.
Chair

Enclosure

Appendix: Technical Considerations
Revision to the Safe Drinking Water Act
(SDWA) Rules Regarding Radon

Background

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that the 1999 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report¹ confirmed that radon in drinking water causes cancer deaths. In fact, it does not. What the NAS report does say, however, is that the risk from exposure to radon in water is exceedingly small—0.02 to 0.17% of all lung cancers and 0.01 to 0.36% of all stomach cancers might be attributable to radon in water.² Limited funds should not be invested in the mitigation of a hypothetical risk of radon in water. Technical considerations, which lead to this conclusion address:

- h Risk evaluation
- h Related health studies
- h Relationship between radon exposure and lung cancer risk
- h Cost effectiveness of compliance options

Risk Evaluation

Two issues in particular complicate the risk statement made by EPA:

1. There is no epidemiological data that has ever linked radon exposure to stomach cancer. The radon-stomach cancer relationship is an unproven hypothesis, and the stated "risk" a calculated conjecture.

2. Lung cancer "risks" are based on uranium miners' studies that establish a cause and effect relationship for radon and lung cancer at very high exposures only for smokers and only if all other mine-related exposures are ignored [silicates (dust), diesel exhaust fumes, etc.]. A downward extrapolation to radon exposures in the home (hundreds to thousands of time lower concentrations than in mines) is accomplished by another

hypothesis—the Linear No-Threshold Hypothesis (LNTH).³

Dr. Paul Rohwer, president of the Health Physics Society (HPS) recently addressed a congressional subcommittee on the reexamination of the scientific basis for the LNTH and commented on the expenditure of large sums of money with no known public health benefit: "The mis-use of an LNT model can result in the mis-appropriation of public money with a net harm to public health."⁴ It is the position of the HPS that the LNTH is misused in both legislation and regulations. Dr. Rohwer went on to say that "the Society does not endorse the quantification of health effects from minute doses of radiation, or the presumption of causation of disease by any amount of radiation. We consider this a mis-use of the LNT model."

Related Health Studies

In promulgating the changes to the SDWA rules, EPA does not acknowledge two additional and significant issues found in radon health studies:

1. Ten of the 12 household studies looking for a radon-lung cancer connection have failed to find a positive association. Of the two that have found positive associations, the latest study—the Iowa Radon Lung Cancer Study⁵ published in May of this year—was only able to establish "statistical significance" by omitting cases that died during the study period, carving up the data set into nonuniform intervals, and poorly correcting for disparities in smoking histories between subjects and controls. In fact, a radon-lung cancer connection has never been conclusively established for nonsmokers, neither in the home nor in the mine.⁶

2. A wide-ranging report published by the Government Accounting Office in June of this year evaluated a total of 67 cancer studies that also included environments other than the home.⁷ Out of that number of studies, 33% reported results indicating a statistically significant correlation between natural background radiation or radon and cancer rates, while 67% found no such correlation—including 12% that found a negative correlation (or radon exposures are beneficial).

Continued on next page.

Relationship between Radon Exposure and Lung Cancer Risk

An NAS report that the EPA uses to construct the hypothetical radon deaths reported in the agency's literature concludes by stating, "[T]he committee's model may not correctly specify the true relationship between radon exposure and lung cancer risk. The models assume a linear-multiplicative relationship without threshold between radon exposure and risk. While the miner data provide evidence of linearity across the range of exposures received in the mines, the assumption of linearity down to the lowest exposures was based on mechanistic considerations that could not be validated against observational data. [Emphasis added]"⁸

Cost Effectiveness of Compliance Options

Since the EPA issued its first "radon warning" in 1980, Americans have spent over \$1 trillion on a public health hazard that has never been scientifically demonstrated to exist. The soon-to-be promulgated drinking water rules will impose another \$400 million in costs on the nation, \$40 million of which will likely fall on Texas—predominantly on small water systems that can ill-afford the additional burden.

EPA's new rules provide the option of complying with a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 300 pCi/L of radon dissolved in water or with an Alternative Maximum Contaminant Level (AMCL) of 4,000 pCi/L while adopting state-wide or local Multimedia Mitigation (MMM) programs to reduce indoor radon concen-

trations. EPA encourages the adoption of the AMCL/MMM approach as the most cost-effective alternative.⁹

Upon closer inspection, the cost-effectiveness of the EPA-preferred approach shows several complications:

1. For those community water systems failing to meet either the MCL or AMCL, filtering out radon and its byproducts will create radioactive wastes that will require special handling and disposal by trained personnel.

2. Radiation exposures from the radioactive wastes created by filtration will concentrate an otherwise diffuse and miniscule hazard on a very few individuals employed by the water system, possibly requiring additional costs to monitor and mitigate the hazards.

3. If you do not choose to adopt the MMM at the state level, the state is still required to maintain oversight and verify that communities adopting the MMM approach are meeting the requirements of the rule. This would be an entirely new program for Texas for which agency jurisdiction is unknown.

4. Construction techniques for new homes have not been shown to be effective in consistently reducing radon levels—some have even been shown to increase exposures.

5. Homeowners may not be willing to cooperate with state agencies or water systems that have set up a radon testing, inspection, and remediation program, especially if the results of the testing require the individual homeowner to spend thousands of dollars reducing radon levels in their homes to the EPA target levels. Hence, it may be impossible to implement an MMM program if Texans

feel that they will be singled out and adversely impacted.

In the end, it is not a question of what is the most cost-effective alternative for Texans, but ultimately it is a question of "who pays" for the mitigation of a miniscule or nonexistent risk.

Most interesting in the entire discussion is the question of whether the EPA—regardless of the lack of scientific and public health basis for the radon rule—is overstepping its authority granted in the SDWA by writing rules that govern the control of radon in water AND indoor air. Clearly, the SDWA does not address indoor air quality.

Conclusion

In balancing the risks that Texans face on a daily basis, other risks pose far greater consequences. For instance, the total lung cancer incidence could be reduced by devoting more attention to smoking cessation programs and less attention to radon. Smokers have always faced a much higher risk for lung cancer; that increased risk is further magnified by high radon exposures. By reducing the number of smokers, the hypothetical risk of radon-induced lung cancer is also reduced.

The limited funds possessed by CWSs for maintaining the safety and integrity of their water supplies should not be exhausted on the mitigation of a hypothetical risk for radon in water. Beyond those monies needed to meet the basic water needs of the community, any additional expenditures should be focused on the mitigation of water-borne pathogens that are causing real death and disease throughout the nation today.

1 "Risk Assessment of Radon in Drinking Water," Committee on Risk Assessment of Exposure to Radon in Drinking Water, Board on Radiation Effects Research, Commission on Life Sciences, National Research Council, 1999.

2 Ranges "subjectively determined" within the NAS report cited above.

3 LNTH can be characterized by the following analogy: if a person taking 100 aspirin tablets constitutes a lethal dose (or 100 person-aspirins = 1 death) then giving 100 people 1 aspirin each would create the same collective dose (100 person-aspirins) and result in the death of 1 hypothetical person.

4 Testimony of Paul S. Rohwer, PhD., CHP, President, Health Physics Society, Hearing on "Reexamining the Scientific Basis for the Linear No-Threshold Model of Low-dose Radiation," before the House Science Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, 18 July 2000.

5 Field, W.R., et al., "Residential Radon Gas Exposure and Lung Cancer: The Iowa Radon Lung Cancer Study," *American Journal of Epidemiology*, Vol. 151; No. 11, May, 2000.

6 For over 40 years, Dr. Gino Saccomanno has studied uranium miner disease at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado. He has yet to find a single case of lung cancer among nonsmoking uranium miners who breathe in radon eight hours a day, five days a week at levels much greater than households.

7 GAO/RCED-00-152, "Report to the Honorable Pete Domenici, U.S.; Senate: Radiation Standards: Scientific Basis Inconclusive, and EPA and NRC Disagreement Continues," June 2000.

8 The Health Effects of Exposure to Indoor Radon, BEIR VI, Committee on Health Risks of Exposure to Radon (BEIR VI), Board on Radiation Effects Research, Commission on Life Sciences, National Research Council, 1999.

9 The rules would apply only to community water systems that regularly serve 25 or more people and that use groundwater or mixed groundwater and surface water (e.g., systems serving homes, apartments and trailer parks).

New 2000/2001 Officers for the Texas A&M Student Branch of the Health Physics Society

by Dr. Ian S. Hamilton, PhD, CHP
Texas A&M University Health Physics Society Student Chapter

The new 2000/2001 officers for the Texas A&M Student Branch of the Health Physics Society have been elected. After a successful year of leadership by David Hearnberger and his cabinet, our newly elected officers are aggressively pursuing many diverse projects for the fall semester. Such projects include invitations for new memberships in the South Texas Chapter and National HPS Chapter, interacting with notable radiation safety professionals through lectures and additional activities, and planning the first ever Texas A&M sponsored joint ANS/HPS Student Conference for the Spring of 2001. Additional events will include the annual "Spooklear Engineering" Halloween Ball, a Chili Cook-Off, and an

Aggie Christmas Party. And look out for our new T-shirts and polo shirts!

The new Student Branch, officers are

President	Matt Arno
Vice-President	Rob Bucheit
Treasurer	Amy Houck
Secretary	Missy Moore
Public Relations	Jenny Smith

Representatives to 2001 ANS/HPS Student Conference
Josh Schoenvogel
Erica Camese

Freshman Representatives
Laura Strban
Jennifer Watson

Congratulations to all! Our new officers and I look forward to an exciting year with the South Texas Chapter, HPS.

Student Thank Yous

To the President of the South Texas Chapter,

I would like to thank you for the scholarship that was made available for me. This scholarship will aid in my tuition expenses, allowing me to further my education. With the cost of tuition going up, and with various other expenses, this aid will help so that I may have more time for my studies. I will be graduating in May of 2001. After that, I will be proceeding to a career where I would like to put my radiation safety training to good use.

Once again, I say "thank you" for the financial assistance that you provided. I look forward to the next meeting of the South Texas Chapter—Health Physics Society. Until then, thank you.

Sincerely,
James Oravsky
Texas State Technical College

I'm one of the recipient of this year's STC-HPS scholarships/grants, and I would like express my profound gratitude to the society for awarding me this scholarship. I know this award would go a long way in helping me in my career as a Health Physicist, since it's going to appear on all résumés that I will present in the future. Thank you for the award.

David Dodoo-Amoo
Graduate Student
University of Texas at Austin

Response to "What's an HP?"

continued from p. 8.

responsibilities because radiation safety at most industrial facilities is not a full time job and never will be. Many of these companies have very limited budgets for items like health and safety training and are not interested in spending any more than absolutely necessary to train RSOs.

I believe when attendees have successfully completed our training, they have demonstrated their ability to be Radiation Safety Officers in the best sense. The issue is not who is a "health physicist" but the content of their training and their ability to perform to the satisfaction of the regulatory community.

We all know state and federal regulations seldom (if ever) specify, in rule, the duration of training required. We have developed a course that is recognized and accepted in many state and federal regu-

latory arenas throughout the country. In fact, we have many regulators soliciting our input (as it should be) as to what the best course content is for an RSO at an industrial gauge facility. Perhaps the efforts of the Health Physics Society would be better spent lobbying for stronger training requirements in 10 CFR Parts 19 and 20, and their equivalent state regulations, than worrying over labels.

Finally, I disagree with the statement "... that every non-HP put in charge of radiation safety program tends to detract from our profession." I believe credibility comes with training and performance of duties. Being a Health Physicist is a fine profession, but in the "real world" many of us must wear several hats. Why get hung up on labels?

A Special Thank You to our Affiliates

The following affiliates sponsored the refreshment breaks at the Austin Meeting August 12, 2000. (Note that the order of this listing is based on the amount each contributed, in decreasing amounts). Your contributions make our organization stronger. Thank you.

- h Iso-Tex
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Texas Regulatory Conference for the New Millennium

The South Texas Chapter held its 2000 Summer Meeting on August 12, 2000, at the DoubleTree Hotel North in Austin, Texas. This meeting was structured as a one-day regulatory conference, continuing the tradition of South Texas Chapter sponsorship of positive interaction between the regulated community and state regulators. The conference was an extension of the partnership between the South Texas Chapter and the Texas Department of Health. The format of the “Regulatory Conference: The Next Millennium” was modified to emphasize the doing more (improved scheduling, quality and focus of presentations, and timeliness of issues) with less (condensed time) mantra of the times.

Invitations to the conference were extended beyond the South Texas Chapter membership to all licensees within Texas. For the first conference held under the new one-day structure, conference registration was excellent at nearly 200 people. Some special persons in attendance included a member of Governor Bush’s office and staff members of two Texas Representatives. The general session of the conference was expanded to include broad scope topics of particular value and timeliness, instead of holding concurrent, conflicting sessions that invariably resulted in loss of value and education.

The morning session started out with a comprehensive overview of state and federal activities impacting attendees presented by Richard Ratliff, Chief of the Texas Department of Health—Bureau of Radiation Control. Richard’s presentation provided a snapshot look at the structure, goals, and current internal and external issues of the Bureau. Brad Broussard, of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, followed with an update on regulatory activities at the Commission related to radiation and radioactive waste. Brad focused on the current activities of

the Underground Injection Control and Radioactive Waste Section of the Commission. Closing out the first morning session was Susan Jablonski, also of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. Susan provided a specific update on the “hot” topic of low-level radioactive waste management related to Texas regulations.

The late-morning session began with a presentation by Dale Klein, Chairman of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board and Vice Chancellor for Special Engineering Programs of the University of Texas System. Dr. Klein provided insights on the things that health physicists and licensees practicing in Texas should know about the Texas Radiation Advisory Board. Art Tate, of the Bureau of Radiation Control, was next up to give a summary of the Texas Department of Health Sunset Regulatory Review. Art’s summary provided attendees, specifically non-state employees, with a general understanding of the “Sunset review” that all state agencies undergo. The last speaker of the morning was Bob Emery, noted as the non-regulator of the group, of the University of Texas—Houston Health Science Center. Bob’s presentation was focused on getting to the root of noncompliance problems of Texas licensees. This presentation provided suggestions for problem prevention, in hopes of saving licensee money and resources (now that’s a good idea!).

After a great lunch, conference attendees enjoyed their desserts while being thoroughly entertained by distinguished speaker, Margaret Maxey, Ph.D. Dr. Maxey’s luncheon presentation entitled, “Radiation Science: Gnats, Camels, and Heroes,” opened our eyes to radiation science in a cultural context. Whether straining gnats, swallowing camels, or finding heroes, all attendees took away new insights and some healthy constructive criticism to ponder beyond Dr.

Maxey’s presentation (see related article in this issue).

The afternoon session began with Cindy Cardwell, of the Bureau of Radiation Control. Cindy’s presentation focused on new rules and proposed rules being considered by the Bureau, along with a interesting look on how far (or not) regulations have come over the years. Ruth McBurney, also of the Bureau, followed next with a specific look at the new nuclear medicine rules. Ruth focused on the impact that changes to the medical rules will have on states and nuclear medicine programs in Texas. The next presentation was a light-hearted look at a special veterinary nuclear medicine application by Ray Jisha, of the Bureau of Radiation Control. Ray told the group the tall tale about the diagnosis of Thai, a 10,000 pound uncastrated Asian bull elephant.

The late afternoon session began with a look at future licensing challenges by Pete Myers, of the Bureau of Radiation Control. Pete’s presentation pointed out licensing areas that have been streamlined and improved and other licensing areas that will be evaluated in the future. The final presenter of the day was David Fogle, also of the Bureau. David presented a guided tour through the license amendment process, including some licensees’ perceptions of the regulatory process contrasted by regulatory reality in Texas.

The 2000 Regulatory Conference was a huge success—thanks to everyone who attended this first-of-its-kind condensed conference, especially those who provided feedback in the form of evaluations. These evaluations are currently being compiled for submission to the Executive Council for review. For those of you who were impacted by the change in how Continuing Education Units are determined, please accept apologies for the confusion, and see the related article in this issue of *The Billet* for an explanation.

WHERE ARE YOU? (Electronically Speaking, That Is)

An electronic mail distribution list has been created from the e-mail addresses submitted on STC-HPS membership applications; some e-mail addresses have been obtained from the National HPS Directory (i.e., for persons who currently are not STC-HPS members but who live within the STC-HPS region). The list is used to disseminate information important to Chapter Members that would not reach the membership through other channels of communication in a timely manner.

Please help keep the list current by submitting changes in e-mail addresses to Pete.Myers@tdh.state.tx.us, the current list keeper.

Because of having received several “Failed Mail” messages, the following addresses appear to have become obsolete. Please contact Pete Myers at his e-mail address (above) if you have correct e-mail addresses for these persons. He will contact them to see if they wish to continue receiving STC-HPS electronic mail:

Baron, Robert
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tung@tadph6.mdacc.tmc.edu
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vcm@flash.net
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vjo@msn.com
?
yasmeen@trinity.tamu.edu

A Word About CEUs . . .

by David B. Fogle, Past-President

As you will note in this issue of *The Billet*, meeting announcements will no longer indicate the number of continuing education units (CEU) that will be given for continuous attendance during the meeting. Since the South Texas Chapter (STC) began giving CEUs to members holding certifications as Licensed Medical Physicists (LMP) or Medical Radiographic Technologists (MRT), we had been given a great deal of latitude in how we awarded those units. Suffice it to say

that the STC no longer has that same measure of latitude.

Proposed meeting agendas are now to be reviewed by the Texas Department of Health for applicability prior to the awarding of a determined amount of CEUs. As soon as a determination is made of the appropriate numbers of CEUs to be awarded, STC membership will be informed via posting on the STC website (www.stc-hps.org) or direct e-mail notification.

We regret that the changes in the awarding of CEUs became immediately effective prior to the August meeting in Austin. Because of that change, attendees did not receive the amount of CEUs advertised in the meeting announcement carried in the last issue of *The Billet*. On behalf of the Executive Council of the STC, we apologize for the inconvenience and frustration experienced by this unforeseen change.

South Texas Chapter – Health Physics Society Chapter Dues Payment/Membership Application Form

(Please Print – This information is used for mailing labels and directory listing.)

Name _____ Business Name _____

Home Address _____ Business Address _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Home Fax _____ Business Fax _____

Email _____

I would prefer to receive mail at: Home Business

I would prefer to receive calls at: Home Business

Yes, I am a National HPS member.

Yes, I am a Certified Health Physicist.

Yes, I am a Registered Radiation Protection Technologist.

Please check the STC-HPS committee(s) on which you would like to actively serve.

Nominating Meeting Program Membership Publications

Legislation Public Relations Affiliate Other/Ad Hoc

Student Assistance

Enclosed is my check # _____ made payable to the STC-HPS for the following:

STC-HPS dues for the year:

Regular membership: \$10.00/yr × _____ Years = \$ _____

Student membership: \$ 5.00/yr × _____ Years = \$ _____

Student Scholarship Fund Donation (tax deductible) = \$ _____

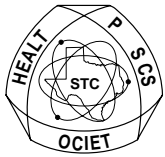
Science Teachers Workshop Donation (tax deductible) = \$ _____

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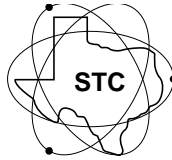
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