



THE *BILLET* STC NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER of the HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

Volume 37, Number 1 • Specialists in Radiation Safety • March 2016



Affiliates Fair Highlights

Many of our affiliates provided updates or overviews of the services they offer.

New Meeting Format Coming!!!

The Executive Council has decided to try out a new meeting format! In September we are planning to have a day-and-a-half meeting (Thursday and Friday) that incorporates both our topical meeting and Affiliates Fair. We are hoping that this change will allow us to offer more content, visit new locations, and better serve our membership. Information regarding future meetings will be sent out as it becomes available! Stay tuned!

2016 Student Presentations Meeting

The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) will be hosting the Student Presentations & Business Meeting in Bryan, TX, on Saturday, April 16, 2016. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to learn about Texas student projects and a chance to network with your STC-HPS friends and colleagues. Y'all come and join us for some delicious Texas BBQ!

Proposed 2016 Budget

The proposed budget is for Executive Committee approval.



State of Texas Preventative Radiological/ Nuclear Detection Program Development

The newly formed Texas Nuclear Sector Working Group (NSWG) is preparing plans for the preventive detection of radiological and nuclear material in the state. The program will develop a comprehensive plan to coordinate police, fire fighters, government and private groups for the detection of radiation that may be used for terrorist activities.

Welcome New STC-HPS Members!

The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society gladly welcomes our newest members:

[The Billet STC Newsletter Home](#)

[Future STC Meetings](#)

[Executive Council Meeting Minutes](#)
Feb. 1, 2016 | Sep. 18, 2015

[April 15-16 2016 Student Presentations & Business Meeting](#)

[Affiliates Roster](#)

[Chapter Leadership](#)

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Most Recent NIRDS Meeting in Houston

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) hosted a NIRDS (News in Radiation Safety Group) meeting in their cyclotron facility.

NRC Completes Safety Review of Proposed New Reactors at South Texas Project Site

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its Final Safety Evaluation Report for the Combined Licenses (COL) for the proposed South Texas Project (STP) Units 3 and 4.

Leigh Ing Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy Committee on Energy and Commerce

Ing talked about low-level radioactive waste interstate compacts to provide a better understanding of how the low-level radioactive waste compact system was set up, how it is structured today, and how compacts work together and with states to support disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

EnergySolutions Signs Definitive Agreement to Acquire Waste Control Specialists LLC

EnergySolutions, Inc. announced it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Valhi, Inc. (NYSE: VHI) and operator of a waste disposal facility located in Andrews County, Texas.

NRC Proposes \$3,500 Civil Penalty on Texas A&M University for Research Reactor Violations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a civil penalty of \$3,500 against Texas A&M University's Nuclear Science Center for violations of operating procedures for the center's research reactor.

Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society

September 18, 2015

Amanda Sullivan, Secretary

Persons in attendance:

Executive Council (EC) Members:

Sandra Jimenez	Past-President/Public Relations Chair
William Pate	President
Jay Poston	Board Member
Amanda Sullivan	Secretary/Membership Committee Chair
Jennifer Cerecero	Treasurer/Affiliates Chair
Tracy Tipping	Board Member

Committee Chairpersons:

John Hageman	Editor – <i>The Billet STC Newsletter</i>
Linda Morris	Student Assistance
Janet Gutierrez	Public Relations

Chapter Members and Guests:

Jacob Navar	STC Member & Guest
Boris Tsenov	STC Member & Guest

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Call to Order 06:00 PM	Quorum Established.	N/A
Agenda Approval	Motion to approve as written Motion: Sandra Jimenez Second: Jennifer Cerecero	<i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved
January 2015 STCHPS Executive Meeting	Motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting Motion: Amanda Sullivan Second: Jennifer Cerecero	<i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved
Past-President's Report	No new chapter news to report at this time. Goals for the upcoming year include increase in membership and continuing to reach out to high schools to spread awareness.	
Presidents Report	Chapter National <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Chapter Report for 2014-2015 was submitted on June 5, 2015 • Several good mentions of the STC-HPS in National HPS publications. Thank you to Janet and Susanne for the articles/mentions published in Health Physics News. In September there was an article about the STC-HPS encouraging students in science fairs and in August there was a mention about the Breakfast meeting in Indianapolis. • June 2015: submitted a nomination letter on behalf of the STC-HPS supporting the nomination of Ed Bailey to serve as one of the Health Physics Society delegates to the IRPA 15 Congress in Cape Town, 	

	<p>South Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many thanks to everyone involved in the preparation for tomorrow's meeting. Special thanks to Susanne, Jennifer and Sandra for coordinating arrangements for the meeting. • Linda Morris has requested a letter of support for the Low Level Radioactive Waste Commission. 	
<p>President-Elect/Program Committee Report</p>	<p>Past Chapter Meetings, statistics (Location, type, attendees, gain/loss)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 12-16 July 2015 – 60th Annual HPS Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana <p>STC-HPS Breakfast was held with 11 members and 4 guests present at Café Patachou on 7/15/15. Meeting minutes were submitted and a brief summary and photograph were sent to John Hageman for <i>The Billet STC Newsletter</i> as well as to Mary Walchuk, the editor of the HPS Newsletter. No loss/gain to report as attendees paid for the own breakfasts.</p>	
	<p>Future Chapter Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-19 Sept 2015 San Antonio, TX – STC-HPS Affiliate Fair & Technical Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bids were obtained for 3 hotels, with La Quinta remaining the least expensive option close to the Riverwalk. ▪ Affiliate Fair Agenda finalized on 8/20/15 ▪ Arrangements finalized on 9/1/15 • 31 Jan – 03 Feb 2016, Austin, TX – 49th Mid-Year Topical Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Breakfast Meeting TBA ▪ No Special Topics meeting scheduled for January 2016 so as not to compete with HPS Mid-Year Meeting • 2016 Student Presentations & Annual Business 	

	<p>Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location: College Station, TX ▪ Call for Presentations sent out to professors at Texas A&M, TSTC, UHD and TSU in January 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 12-16 2015: 61th Annual HPS Meeting- Spokane, WA – Breakfast meeting TBA • September 2016: Affiliate’s Fair, Location: TBA 	
Secretary Report	Nothing to report at this time	
Treasurer Report	<p>The total assets of the Chapter are \$195,895.40 This includes the annuities, petty cash fund, operating account, Science Teacher workshop account and Student Scholarship account. The chapter made approximately \$407.51 from the Student Presentation meeting in Waco.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report Motion: Tracy Tipping Second: William Pate</p>	<i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved
Affiliate Committee Report	<p>Affiliate Renewals since last meeting -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bionomics 2. Carson Nuclear LLC/Ludlum 3. FOBI Medical (New) 4. Mirion Technologies 5. NSSI (New) 6. Philotechnics, LTD 7. Suntrac Services 8. Ultra Electronics – Nuclear Control Systems (New) <p>21 Current Affiliates paid by 9-14-2015 Donations for meeting - \$1300 15 Affiliates Attending Meeting with Tables</p>	
<i>The Billet STC Newsletter</i>	<p>Future Meeting Dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jan 31-Feb 3, 2016 – 49th Midyear HPS Meeting – Austin, TX 2. April 2016 – STC Student Presentation & Annual Business Meeting – College Station, TX 3. July 17-21, 2016 – 61st Annual HPS Meeting – Spokane, WA 4. September 2016 – Affiliates Fair and Technical Meeting 	
Science Teacher Workshop Report	Ken Krieger has tried to contact several science teachers regarding workshops and has received no response. He will try and get a booth at the San Antonio Regional Science Fair meeting in September.	
Student Assistance Committee Report	Education Grant Winner – This year’s winner at the Associate Degree level is Garrett Fulcher. Garrett is a	

	<p>Radiation Protection Technology major at TSTC Waco. Holly Parenica from Texas A&M won the undergraduate award. This is the first year to award an undergraduate award in addition to the Neff Poston Endowed Scholarship. Holly has been working with STC Members Michael Charlton and Jennifer Cerecero. The graduate award is being awarded to Jose Trevino from Texas A&M University.</p> <p>Neff Poston Award Dr. Jean Ragusa, TAMU Nuclear Engineering Faculty, and his awards committee has not yet announced the selection of the Neff-Poston Award winner for 2016. Hopefully, we will have that information at the next meeting</p>	
	<p>Science Fairs 2015: Dates for the upcoming science fairs are listed below:</p> <p>Central Texas Science & Engineering Fair Waco, TX Feb 2016</p> <p>Austin Energy Regional Science Festival Feb 2016</p> <p>Science & Engineering Fair of Houston Feb 2016</p> <p>Alamo Regional Science & Engineering Fair Feb 2016</p> <p>ExxonMobil Texas Science & Engineering Fair Mar 2016</p>	
	<p>Annual Meeting and Student Presentations It is really not too early to start beating the bushes for student presentation. It is recommended that the President-Elect/Program Chair contact the appropriate professors at the various universities. TSTC students will be scheduled to make presentations also. I would be willing to help the Present-Elect with this task. The meeting will be held in College Station this year.</p>	
	<p>Student Assistance I am recommending that we formalize our offering of Travel Grants and other student assistance such as hotel for meetings such as the HPS midyear in Austin. Also, I would like to discuss our ways of contacting student members.</p>	
Membership Report	Current STC membership is at 149 members.	
WELCOME NEW STC MEMBERS!	<p>New Members:</p> <p>Tony Gonzales TCEQ Vaishali Tendolkar TCEQ</p>	<i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved

	<p>Garrett Fulcher TSTC Rosliann Miller TSTC Holly Parenica TAMU Lazaro Pina BCM Andrew Gaunt Ultra Electronics NCS Yizell Valdiviez TSTC Jacob Navar TSTC Patrick Przybyla FOBI Medical</p> <p>Motion To Approve New Members: Motion: Amanda Sullivan Second: Sandra Jimenez</p>	
Webmaster Report	No report at this time.	
Legislative Committee Report	No report at this time.	
Nominations Committee	No Report at the time.	
Public Relations Committee Report	<p>Articles of <i>The Billet STC Newsletter</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student Science Fair Award Winners ○ April 2015 Recap of Student Meeting ○ STC-HPS – Indianapolis – Susanne Savely ○ Texas Medical Center’s News in Radiation Safety Group Meeting – Susanne Savely <p>HPS Newsletter Articles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September 2015 – STC Encouraging Students in Science Fairs ○ August 2015 – STC Breakfast Meeting – Susanne Savely 	
New Business	<p>Student Travel for Midyear Meeting – Linda Morris proposes that we pay the registration and hotel costs for 20 student members to attend the midyear meeting in Austin. Motion to approve: Jennifer Cerecero Second: Sandra Jimenez</p> <p>Meeting Reformat Amanda Sullivan has proposed that we reformat the September meeting to incorporate both our Affiliates Fair and Topical meeting. This meeting would most likely be hosted over 1.5-2 days and would still feature our Vendors Hall. We are hoping to increase member attendance at meetings and possibly offer different sessions of presentations. Motion: Amanda Sullivan Second: William Pate</p>	<p><i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved</p> <p><i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved</p>
Adjournment	<p>7:45 pm Motion: Sandra Jimenez Second: William Pate</p>	<p><i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved</p>

Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society

February 1, 2015

Amanda Sullivan, Secretary

Persons in attendance:

Executive Council (EC) Members:

Sandra Jimenez	Past-President/Public Relations Chair
Susanne Savely	President-Elect
Jay Poston	Board Member
Amanda Sullivan	Secretary/Membership Committee Chair
Jennifer Cerecero	Treasurer/Affiliates Chair
Tracy Tipping	Board Member

Committee Chairpersons:

John Hageman	Editor – <i>The Billet STC Newsletter</i>
Linda Morris	Student Assistance
Janet Gutierrez	Public Relations
John Salsman	Nominations Committee Chair

Chapter Members and Guests:

Jacob Navar	STC Member & Guest
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Call to Order 03:32 PM	Quorum Established.	N/A
Agenda Approval	Motion to approve as written Motion: Sandra Jimenez Second: Jennifer Cerecero	<i>Committee Vote: Approved</i>
January 2015 STCHPS Executive Meeting	Will send out for approval via e-mail.	
Past-President's Report	No new chapter news to report at this time.	
Presidents Report	No report at this time.	
President-Elect/Program Committee Report	<p>Past Chapter Meetings, statistics (Location, type, attendees, gain/loss)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept 18, 2015 – 60th Annual HPS Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 60 total registrants, 14 Affiliate Members ○ Net Gain \$559.42 ○ Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to put together the conference and make it such a great success. 	

	<p>Future Chapter Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 Student Meeting – April 16, 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TAMU Health Science Center, Health Professionals Education Building (HPEB) rooms LL44 and LL43B on the lower level. ○ Call for presentations sent 1/21/16 • July 17-21, 2016: 61st Annual HPS Meeting – Spokane, WA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Breakfast Meeting TBA • September 22-23, 2016 – Affiliates Fair and Topical Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Location: TBA 	
Secretary Report	<p>Coffee Mugs/T-shirts – motion to move forward with production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unanimous Approval <p>Member Get a Member Campaign – Motion from Will Pate to give discounts to members who recruit new members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unanimous Approval <p>Letter of Support for TAMU RHEN program – letter from chapter president in support of their RHEN program in danger of being cut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unanimous Approval <p>Letter of Support for Charles Beasley – letter to support his recommendation to the Medical Physics board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unanimous Approval <p>Tabled Discussion for this meeting – Chapter finance suggestions from Jay Poston</p>	
Treasurer Report	<p>The total assets of the Chapter are \$187537.79 This includes the annuities, petty cash fund, operating account, Science Teacher workshop account and Student Scholarship account. The chapter lost approximately \$559.52 during the San Antonio Affiliates Fair.</p> <p>2016 Proposed Annual Budget Jennifer Cerecero has proposed a balanced budget for the 2016 year. This budget includes income from dues and donations and fees for chapter operations. The budget will be published in the next edition of <i>The Billet STC Newsletter</i>.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and 2016 Budget Motion: Susanne Savely Second: Amanda Sullivan</p>	<p><i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved</p>
Affiliate Committee Report	<p>Affiliate Renewals since last meeting -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Landauer 2. Owens Scientific 3. Delphi Groupe 4. ARDT 	

	21 Current Affiliates paid by 2-1-2016 Renewal e-mails sent 1/4/2016	
<i>The Billet STC Newsletter</i>	<p>Future Meeting Dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jan 31-Feb 3, 2016 – 49th Midyear HPS Meeting – Austin, TX 2. April 15-16, 2016 – STC Student Presentation & Annual Business Meeting – College Station, TX 3. July 17-21, 2016 – 61st Annual HPS Meeting – Spokane, WA 4. September 22-23, 2016 – Affiliates Fair and Technical Meeting 5. July 9-13, 2017 – 62nd Annual HPS Meeting – Raleigh, NC 	
Science Teacher Workshop Report	No report at this time.	
Student Assistance Committee Report	<p>Education Grants– We would like to have information in <i>The Billet STC Newsletter</i> announcing the Student Education Grants for FA 2016. As always, we will be giving \$1000 associate and graduate degree grants (one of each). The deadline will be May 27, 2016. Students should attach their transcripts that indicate their Spring 2016 grades. I will work with John to make sure that <i>The Billet STC Newsletter</i> has the information that it needs. The winners will be announced at the September 2016 STC-HPS meeting. The Nuclear Engineering faculty at TAMU will be selecting the next Neff-Poston Endowed Scholarship later this Spring or early Summer.</p> <p>Student Assistance for HPS Midyear Meeting - The STC is supporting 15 students for the midyear meeting this week. The students are sharing hotel rooms (3 per room), and their registration was paid by the STC (thank you Jennifer!). They will be available to assist the STC or the HPS as needed at the conference. They are thrilled to be able to attend. Does the STC want to consider offering stipends for the HPS meeting in Spokane?</p>	
	<p>Science Fairs 2015: Dates for the upcoming science fairs are listed below:</p> <p>Central Texas Science & Engineering Fair Waco, TX Feb 23-24, 2016</p> <p>Austin Energy Regional Science Festival Feb 17-20, 2016</p> <p>Science & Engineering Fair of Houston Feb 27-Mar 1, 2016</p> <p>Alamo Regional Science & Engineering Fair Feb 26, 2016</p>	

	ExxonMobil Texas Science & Engineering Fair Apr 2, 2016																																															
	Annual Meeting and Student Paper Presentation If any of you are affiliated with an academic institution that has radiation-related programs, please consider helping with the academic program at our April 16th meeting in College Station. I am sure that STC President-Elect Savely would appreciate assistance with signing students up for presentations!																																															
	Student Assistance I am recommending that we formalize our offering of Travel Grants and other student assistance such as hotel for meetings such as the HPS midyear in Austin. Also, I would like to discuss our ways of contacting student members.																																															
Membership Report	Current STC membership is at 149 members.																																															
WELCOME NEW STC MEMBERS!	<p>New Members:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Victor Ibarra</td><td>TAMU</td></tr> <tr><td>Lainy Dromgoole</td><td>TAMU</td></tr> <tr><td>Anna Laura Licon</td><td>TAMU</td></tr> <tr><td>Buck Kopp</td><td>TSTC</td></tr> <tr><td>Nefroteria Preston</td><td>MD Anderson</td></tr> <tr><td>Bobby Janecka</td><td>TCEQ</td></tr> <tr><td>Mohanned Kawasmi</td><td>TCEQ</td></tr> <tr><td>Emily Thompson</td><td>TAMU</td></tr> <tr><td>Jama Mohmand</td><td>TSTC</td></tr> <tr><td>Justin Bennett</td><td>TSTC</td></tr> <tr><td>Hannah Irving</td><td>TSTC</td></tr> <tr><td>Ricardo Gayton</td><td>TAMU</td></tr> <tr><td>Monica Sullivan</td><td>TCEQ</td></tr> <tr><td>Killian Fischer</td><td>Pacific Gas & Electric</td></tr> <tr><td>Weining Feng</td><td>UH - Downtown</td></tr> <tr><td>Minh Van</td><td>UH - Downtown</td></tr> <tr><td>Katarina Jegdic</td><td>UH - Downtown</td></tr> <tr><td>Mian Jiang</td><td>UH – Downtown</td></tr> <tr><td>Collin Harlan</td><td>TAMU</td></tr> <tr><td>Karina Torres</td><td>UH – Downtown</td></tr> <tr><td>Jason Lehrmann</td><td>TSTC</td></tr> <tr><td>Kristen Weismantel</td><td>UTHSCSA</td></tr> <tr><td>Justin Lutz</td><td>TSTC</td></tr> </table> <p>Motion To Approve New Members: Motion: Jennifer Cerecero Second: Sandra Jimenez</p>	Victor Ibarra	TAMU	Lainy Dromgoole	TAMU	Anna Laura Licon	TAMU	Buck Kopp	TSTC	Nefroteria Preston	MD Anderson	Bobby Janecka	TCEQ	Mohanned Kawasmi	TCEQ	Emily Thompson	TAMU	Jama Mohmand	TSTC	Justin Bennett	TSTC	Hannah Irving	TSTC	Ricardo Gayton	TAMU	Monica Sullivan	TCEQ	Killian Fischer	Pacific Gas & Electric	Weining Feng	UH - Downtown	Minh Van	UH - Downtown	Katarina Jegdic	UH - Downtown	Mian Jiang	UH – Downtown	Collin Harlan	TAMU	Karina Torres	UH – Downtown	Jason Lehrmann	TSTC	Kristen Weismantel	UTHSCSA	Justin Lutz	TSTC	<i>Committee Vote: Approved</i>
Victor Ibarra	TAMU																																															
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Webmaster Report	No report at this time.																																															
Legislative	No report at this time.																																															

Committee Report		
Nominations Committee	John Salsman has stepped down as Nominations Chair. The Executive Council would like to thank John for all of his hard work as chair. Sandra Jimenez has graciously stepped into this role and is currently forming the ballot for the upcoming election.	
Public Relations Committee Report	<p>Coffee mugs, pint glasses and polos designed and purchased to sell in Austin.</p> <p>Articles for <i>The Billet STC Newsletter</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September 2015 Affiliates Fair Highlights ○ January 2016 - South Texas Chapter Members Partnered with University of Texas School of Public Health Students to Participate in Nationwide Radiation Data Quality Drill <p>HPS Newsletter Articles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Submitted regarding Nationwide Radiation Data Quality Drill ○ January 2016 – Texas Chapter to Sell Novel Coffee Mugs, Pint Glasses and Polo Shirts ○ https://hps.org/membersonly/publications/newsletter/hpnewsvol44no01.pdf, Submitted September 2015, Affiliates Fair Highlights 	
New Business	<p>John Hageman presented information to the council regarding the State of Texas Preventative Radiological/Nuclear Detection Program.</p> <p>John also suggested that we put up some nominees from chapter to serve as Board Members on the National level.</p> <p>Use of Chapter Funds</p> <p>The Executive Council has opened up a discussion regarding the use of chapter funds at the request of Board Member Jay Poston. Jay proposes that the chapter evaluate their liquid assets and identify some projects where excess chapter funds can be used to boost our mission to our members, students and industry. Some areas up for discussion include the offering of grants to be used to support research or equipment within the profession, endowing scholarships or offering a monetary grant to fund projects at our local universities.</p>	<p><i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved</p> <p><i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved</p>
Adjournment	<p>5:00 pm</p> <p>Motion: Amanda Sullivan</p> <p>Second: Susanne Savely</p>	<p><i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved</p>



2015 Affiliates Fair Highlights Our Affiliates

By: Janet M. Gutiérrez, DrPH, CHP, LMP, STC-HPS Public Relations Committee Chair

The South Texas Chapter (STC) is fortunate to have strong support of the affiliates. We are appreciative of their contributions in making the 2015 Affiliates Fair in the San Antonio River Walk area a success. A current list of the affiliates is found here: <http://www.stc-hps.org/affiliates.htm>. Please consider the STC Affiliates for your current and future business needs.

STC President Will Pate began the meeting by welcoming all attendees and introducing the events of the day. Many thanks go to STC President-Elect Susanne Savely for working on the program, logistics, and venue. Many thanks go to Jennifer Cerecero as well for her role as Affiliates Committee Chair and STC Treasurer. I would certainly like to thank all the STC-HPS members who worked behind the scenes to continue to make the meeting a success.

Many of our affiliates provided updates or overviews of the services they offer. In addition to the presentations given by the affiliates, Dr. Mark Harvey presented about the activities at Texas Southern University related to health physics and Hans Honerlah provided a presentation about the STURGIS Barge Decommissioning Project. Our keynote lunch-time speaker was HPS President-Elect Bob Cherry who has also been an STC-HPS member. His presentation was regarding the Davy Crockett device.

Many thanks to the following affiliates who provided additional financial support for the meeting such as sponsoring the refreshments at the breaks: Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas; Energy Laboratories; Owens Scientific, Inc.; Sectra; Suntrac Services, Inc.; Texcom Environmental Services; and Thermo Fisher Scientific. Also, many of the affiliates generously provided door prizes for attendees. Once again, we are fortunate to have strong support from our affiliates.

In the future, the Executive Council decided to pursue combining the topical and affiliates meetings into a several day meeting, which could not only showcase our affiliates but also provided technical presentations. This new format may also be on a weekday as well, such as Thursday and Friday to see if more health physics professionals are able to attend and be more active within the society with this new format. Be on the lookout for this new format in the years to come. Our next STC meeting will be a chapter breakfast meeting at the HPS Mid-Year meeting in Austin, Texas. More details to come.

Photos taken by Janet Gutiérrez.





[Presenter Dr. Mark Harvey, Texas Southern University](#)



**2016 Student Presentations & Business Meeting
Texas A&M Health Science Center – Bryan Campus
April 16, 2016**



Health Professions Education Building (HPEB)

*8447 State Highway 47
Bldg 1000, Rooms LL44 & LL43B (Lower Level)
Bryan, TX 77807*

The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) will be hosting the Student Presentations & Business Meeting in Bryan, TX, on Saturday April 16, 2016, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to learn about Texas student projects and a chance to network with your STC-HPS friends and colleagues. Y'all come and join us for some delicious Texas BBQ!

Meeting Registration

Online registration is preferred. Please click [here](#) to register!
When you register online, you can pay online with credit card or mail in a check.

OR

Complete and mail a registration form.
Please click [here](#) to download the Registration Form.

The Preregistration Deadline is March 31, 2016

Hotel Information & Reservations

Four Points by Sheraton College Station

1503 Texas Ave S
College Station, TX 77840
Phone: 979-693-1741

A block of 20 rooms (King size beds for \$109/night + tax, single & double occupancy, free breakfast buffet) has been reserved for the evening of April 15, 2015. To reserve one of these rooms, please call **979-693-1741** and reference "**South Texas Chapter Health Physics Society.**" This block of rooms is available until sold out, or until 5 pm, March 31, 2016.

**SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER
HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY**

PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET FOR EC APPROVAL

February 1, 2016

ESTIMATED INCOME:

\$ 13,000 Dues, Donations, Account Interest, & Investment Income

PROJECTED EXPENSES:

\$ 13,000 TOTAL including:

\$ 6,550 Student Assistance

\$ 3,000 - Three \$ 1,000 Educational Grants (include Undergraduates)

\$ 2,000 – Student Travel Grants

\$ 1,050 – Three \$ 250 & three \$ 100 Research Paper Awards

\$ 500 – Science Fair Awards

\$ 2,000 Billet Preparation and Editing

\$ 1,500 Programs/Meetings*

\$ 1,500 Science Teacher Workshops

\$ 1,450 Administrative Expenses

\$ 750 – Bank, Post Office, Credit Card, and PayPal Charges

\$ 250 – Internet Host Fees

\$ 200 - Constant Contact Fee (Normally around \$168)

\$ 150 – Plaques and Awards

\$ 100 – Miscellaneous

* This is estimated cost exceeding monies received from registration fees.



Nuclear Sector Working Group Texas Preventive Radiological/Nuclear Detection Program

By: John P. Hageman

O The newly formed Texas Nuclear Sector Working Group (NSWG) is preparing plans for the preventive detection of radiological and nuclear material in the state. The program will develop a comprehensive plan to coordinate police, fire fighters, government and private groups for the detection of radiation that may be used for terrorist activities. The NSWG is co-chaired by:

- Bob Free, of the Texas Department of State Health Services, Radiation Licensing Branch
- Bobby Janecka, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- John Hageman, of the Texas Radiation Advisory Board/Southwest Research Institute

The NSWG is being guided by Kevin Clement, of the Texas Office of Homeland Security with assistance from the US Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO)

The program's development goals are described in [this flyer](#)



State of Texas Preventive Radiological/Nuclear Detection Program Development

Preventing radiological and nuclear terrorism requires the ability to detect and interdict nuclear materials before they can be misused.

A State-level multi-discipline, multi-agency Nuclear Sector Working Group has been formed to develop systematic and coordinated plans for detecting, interdicting, and assessing radiological and nuclear encounters within the State of Texas and responding to a possible or actual radiological/nuclear threat or incident.

A series of activities has been organized through the Summer of 2016 to facilitate the creation of a State-level preventive radiological/nuclear detection (PRND) gap assessment, concept of operations, and implementation & sustainment strategy. State and Local agencies that have a role in the detection and resolution of radiation incidents are invited to participate, including:

- Law Enforcement / SWAT
- Bomb Squad / EOD
- Commercial Vehicle Inspection
- Maritime/port security and law enforcement
- Fire / HAZMAT
- Fusion Centers
- Environmental Protection
- Public Health
- State Radiation Control
- Transit

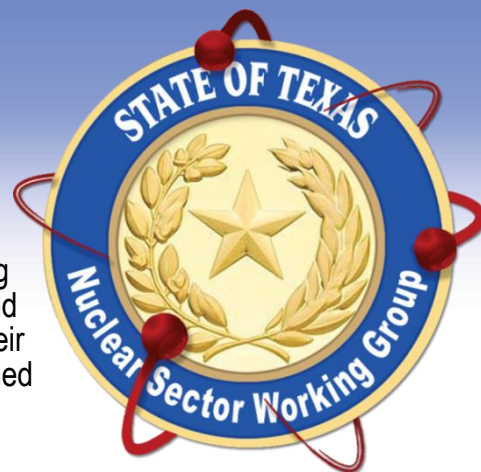
PRND Program Development Goals

- Improve awareness, prevention, protection, and security of both government agencies and private businesses through enhanced radiological/nuclear planning, training and response;
- Identify, develop and support best practices in preventive radiological/nuclear detection;
- Coordinate, provide, and inform state and local agencies and organizations of educational and training opportunities;
- Provide guidance to state and local agencies and organizations on the vision, strategies, deliverables, tools and initiatives to develop best-practice radiological/nuclear prevention programs;
- Assist in the development, coordination, and conduct of readiness exercises integrating radiological/nuclear prevention and response scenarios in Texas; and
- Facilitate radiological/nuclear information sharing among state, regional and local law enforcement, public safety, and partner agencies.

The State of Texas PRND Program development effort supports the 2015-2020 *Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan* strategic goals and objectives to reduce the risk of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) incidents by enhancing control and early detection capabilities.



State of Texas Preventive Radiological/Nuclear Detection Program Development



The Nuclear Sector Working Group (NSWG) is an organization of public and private critical infrastructure stakeholders, working jointly in continuing efforts to share information, identify and address operational concerns, and to increase the security and resiliency of Texas' critical infrastructure in their sector. The NSWG, via the Texas Office of Homeland Security, has obtained assistance from the Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) to support PRND program development efforts.

The Texas Department of State Health Services and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, with support from the Texas Office of Homeland Security, will co-lead the NSWG and PRND program development effort the inaugural year.

Key Program Development Milestones: Six Month Targets

December 03 2015 Nuclear Sector Working Group Meeting

- Radiological /Nuclear Threat and Consequence Briefing
- Review program development information sharing and outreach tools
- Confirm PRND program development plan

January 14 2016 Nuclear Sector Working Group Meeting

- PRND Briefing: Texas urban area program experiences and lessons learned
- DNDO Capability Development Framework Briefing
- Launch PRND development subcommittees (Plans, LE, Equipment, Legal)
- Initiate State of Texas PRND resource inventory

March 31 2016 Nuclear Sector Working Group Meeting (3/4 day)

Expanded Working Group/Multi-Subcommittee assembly to:

- Brief Texas PRND Resource Inventory Results
- Initiate Resource Gap Analysis
- Review PRND ConOps Alarm Adjudication Process
 - (draft) ConOps document roll-out and vetting
 - State-level alarm resolution and reachback capabilities
- Review State and Federal program implementation & sustainment resources

June 16 2016 Nuclear Sector Working Group Meeting (1/2 day)

- Approve PRND ConOps document
- Vet equipment capability and acquisition priorities
- Confirm long-term program implementation and sustainment strategy
- Initiate Public Information and Private Sector Subcommittees

These meetings will be held at the Official Use Only level and will not be open to the public.

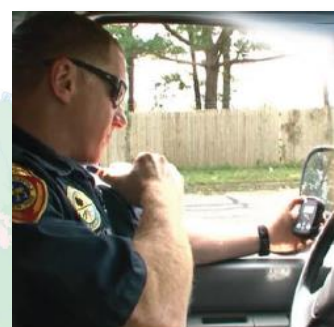
For more information please contact:

Robert Free, Robert.Free@dshs.state.tx.us

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Bobby Janecka, bobby.janecka@tceq.texas.gov

Kevin Clement, Kevin.Clement@dps.texas.gov





Welcome New Members!

The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society gladly welcomes our newest members:

- **Justin Bennett** – TSTC
- **Lainy Dromgoole** – TAMU
- **Killian Fischer** – Pacific Gas & Electric
- **Weining Feng** – UH-Downtown
- **Garrett Fulcher** – TSTC
- **Andrew Gaunt** – Ultra Electronics NCS
- **Ricardo Gayton** – TAMU
- **Tony Gonzales** – TCEQ
- **Collin Harlan** – TAMU
- **Victor Ibarra** – TAMU
- **Hannah Irving** – TSTC
- **Bobby Janecka** – TCEQ
- **Katarina Jegdic** – UH-Downtown
- **Mian Jiang** – UH-Downtown
- **Mohanned Kawasmi** – TCEQ
- **Buck Kopp** – TSTC
- **Jason Lehrmann** – TSTC
- **Anna Laura Licon** – TAMU
- **Justin Lutz** – TSTC
- **Rosliann Miller** – TSTC
- **Jama Mohmand** – TSTC
- **Jacob Navar** – TSTC
- **Holly Parenica** – TAMU
- **Lazaro Pina** – BCM
- **Nefroteria Preston** – MD Anderson
- **Patrick Przybyla** – FOBI Medical
- **Monica Sullivan** – TCEQ
- **Vaishali Tendolkar** – TCEQ
- **Emily Thompson** – TAMU
- **Karina Torres** – UH-Downtown
- **Yizell Valdiviez** – TSTC
- **Minh Van** – UH-Downtown
- **Kristen Weismantel** – UTHSC-SA





NIRDS Meeting in Houston

By: Susanne M. Savely, MS, DrPH, RBP, CHMM

On January 14, 2016, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) hosted a NIRDS (News in Radiation Safety Group) meeting at their cyclotron facility, which has been converted into office and meeting room space.

During the January 14 meeting, arranged by Dr. Janet Gutierrez, (UTHealth, SCH and STC-HPS Public Relations Committee Chair), Ashley Walbridge presented information about next-generation Landauer products and services. Ashley demonstrated the upgrades that are underway for Landauer's dose tracking software. She also announced that dosimeters, which can wirelessly communicate dose information, are in the final stages of development and mentioned that accreditation with NVLAP is expected in early 2017. Additionally adjustable dosimeter rings (including samples) are now available.

Twenty-seven NIRDS attended the meeting and enjoyed the potbelly-sandwich lunch provided by Landauer.

The NIRDS are a group of Houston-area Radiation Safety/Medical Physicist/Health Physicist personnel that meet a couple of times a year in the Texas Medical Center (TMC) for updates about each member institution and the evolving fields of radiation safety, medical physics, and health physics.

Membership and lunches are free, and meeting locations are rotated around the TMC. Previous meetings have been hosted by Houston Methodist Hospital, the University of Houston, Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and Texas Children's Hospital.

Speakers have included:

- Dr. Charles Beasley (Memorial Hermann Hospital/UTHSCH)
- Chris Skrocki (FLIR)
- Bob Free (TDSHS)
- Julie Pflieger & Mark McGary (Bayer)
- Dr. Stewart Bushong (BCM)
- Dr. Jim Meen (Texas Center for Superconductivity at the University of Houston)



No: 15-061

October 1, 2015

CONTACT: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

NRC Completes Safety Review of Proposed New Reactors at South Texas Project Site

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has completed its Final Safety Evaluation Report for the Combined Licenses (COL) for the proposed South Texas Project (STP) Units 3 and 4. The [report](#) concludes there are no safety aspects that would preclude issuing licenses for construction and operation of the proposed reactors at the site, near Bay City, Texas.

The staff will provide the report and [Final Environmental Impact Statement](#) on the application to the Commission for the mandatory hearing phase of the licensing process. In the mandatory hearing, expected to take place later this year, the Commission will determine whether the staff's review supports the findings necessary to issue the licenses. Following the mandatory hearing, the Commission will vote on whether to authorize the staff to issue the licenses.

STP Nuclear Operating Company submitted its COL application for Units 3 and 4 on Sept. 20, 2007, for permission to build and operate two [Advanced Boiling Water Reactors](#) (ABWR) at the site. Nuclear Innovation North America became the lead applicant on Jan. 24, 2011. The proposed reactors would be adjacent to STP's existing Units 1 and 2. The NRC certified the 1,300-megawatt electric ABWR design in 1997. More information on the ABWR [certification process](#) is available on the NRC website.

The NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards independently reviewed those aspects of the STP application that concern safety. The committee provided the [results](#) of its review to the Commission on Feb. 19, 2015. The NRC and the Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, completed the environmental review and issued the final impact statement for the proposed STP reactors in February 2011.

Testimony of
Leigh Ing, Executive Director
Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission

Before the
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives

October 28, 2015

Good morning Chairman Shimkus and members of the subcommittee. My name is Leigh Ing and I am the Executive Director of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission. Thank you for inviting me to talk about low-level radioactive waste interstate compacts today. My testimony is for informational purposes to provide a better understanding of how the low-level radioactive waste compact system was set up, how it is structured today and how compacts work together and with states to support disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

To begin, I will provide a brief overview of interstate compacts and more specifically low-level waste compacts. Speaking generally, a compact finds its origin in federal or state law that authorizes a contract between two or more states to address a particular policy matter, adopt standards and set a basis for cooperation on national or regional matters. Examples of compacts include river compacts which are formed by states which share the river and function generally for the purposes of managing the quality and quantity of the river as it exits one state and enters another. Low-level radioactive waste compacts are authorized by federal law and formed between states in which one state is designated as the host state that will develop and manage a facility for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste. The remaining states in the compact, the party states, have guaranteed access to that site for disposal of the low-level waste generated in their state.

Low-level radioactive waste is generated by a number of activities including medical research, nuclear medicine, industrial gauging, and electricity generation. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has chosen to classify low-level radioactive waste into three classes based on concentration, half-life and radionuclide type. Class A has the lowest concentrations and shortest half-lives; Class B and Class C

contain greater concentrations and longer half-lives. Low-level radioactive waste does not include spent fuels or transuranic waste.

The Low Level Waste Policy Act of 1980 set up the compact system to provide for safe and efficient disposal of low-level waste on a regional basis. A key component of this legislation is that it allows these compacts to exclude low-level radioactive waste from other regions. To date we have ten low-level waste compacts. Eight states, the District of Columbia and the territories are not affiliated with a compact.

Since the Low-Level Waste Policy Act was established, each of the compacts has gone through an individualized process to decide whether to establish a disposal facility. Each compact has a unique history that has brought us to where we are today. Currently, four compacts have access to their own disposal facility: (1) the Northwest Compact has access to the Richland Facility located in the state of Washington, (2) the Rocky Mountain Compact has access to the Richland Facility by agreement with the Northwest Compact, (3) the Atlantic Compact has access to the Barnwell Facility in South Carolina, and (4) the Texas Compact has access to the Andrews Facility in Texas. All states have access to the Clive Facility in Utah, but only for Class A waste. The remaining six compacts do not have their own host facility, but they currently have access to the Andrews Facility and the Clive Facility as do the unaffiliated states.

Access to disposal among states has been evolving since low-level radioactive waste was first generated after World War II. Beginning in the 1960s, the United States developed six disposal sites that were fully operational by 1969, three of which were closed by 1978 leaving the Beatty Facility in Nevada, the Richland Facility and the Barnwell Facility. By the 1990s, these facilities were pressured to close or to restrict access resulting in the Beatty Facility closing in 1992 and the Richland Facility restricting access in 1993. South Carolina joined the Atlantic Compact in 2000 and began restricting access to non-compact states that ultimately concluded in the compact excluding all out-of-compact imports at Barnwell in 2008. As a result of these closures and restrictions, 37 states were left with no access to dispose of Class B and Class C waste from 2008 until 2012. In 2012, the Andrews Facility opened its doors to allow for the disposal of Class A, Class B and Class C waste. Additionally, in 1991 the Clive Facility opened but is precluded from accepting Class B and Class C waste.

The Texas Compact was formed in 1998 by the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Consent Act, Public Law 105-236 and is comprised of two states: Texas as the host state and Vermont as the non-host party state. Although Maine was originally a member of the compact, it exited once it determined it could dispose of its waste at the Barnwell Facility in advance of the Andrews Facility opening. The Texas Compact Commission is not a political subdivision of either Texas or Vermont. The compact has eight voting commissioners: (1) six appointed by the Governor of Texas, and (2) two with one alternate appointed by the State of Vermont. The commission meets approximately every six weeks with most meetings held in Austin and at least one meeting each year held in Vermont. The commission also strives to periodically meet in Andrews County, Texas to allow commissioners to view the facility.

Texas has passed legislation allowing the import of out-of-compact waste up to 275,000 Curies per year (the measure of the radioactivity of the waste); however, the in-compact generators of Texas and Vermont are not subject to that limit. Allowing imports helps to assure the viability of the Andrews Facility for our compact generators; however, this must be balanced with the Texas Compact Commission's main charge of protecting capacity at the Andrews Facility for generators in Texas and Vermont. The Texas Compact must individually review and approve or disapprove each import application for disposal into the Andrews Facility to ensure these imports do not diminish the facility's ability to serve in-compact generators and to ensure they otherwise meet the criteria the commission has set for imports. Further, our compact maintains on its website an up-to-date table of out-of-compact and in-compact disposal at the Andrews Facility by volume and by activity. The Texas Compact must also authorize in-compact generators to export out of the Texas Compact for disposal since the compact law otherwise requires that all low-level waste generated in the two states be disposed of at the Andrews facility. The most common export scenario is for a Texas or Vermont generator to export Class A waste to the Clive Facility.

Since opening of the Andrews Facility in 2012, the Texas Compact has entered into almost 100 agreements for the importation of low-level radioactive waste from 40 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Although this activity has been robust, it is still early in the life of the Andrews Facility. The current license expires in 2045 with an opportunity to extend the license after a public comment period and an opportunity for a contested case process. The Texas Compact Commission feels strongly that capacity of the Andrews Facility is fully protected now and into the foreseeable future.

Our compact began its work in earnest with the opening of the Andrews Facility in 2012. As our mission has been put into play and our related functions have grown, we have moved through expected growing pains. We continue to learn more about: (1) the generators who need access to disposal at the Andrews Facility, (2) the policies and processes of our fellow low-level waste compacts, (3) the flexibility needs of the Andrews Facility operator, and most importantly (4) the policies and needs of our party states, Texas and Vermont. As a result, we have been engaged in a continuing process to revise our rules for imports and tweaking our daily operational processes to improve our efficiency and effectiveness. Given that Texas specifically allows imports and the Texas Compact Commission has determined there is currently available capacity, the Andrews Facility is well situated to play a role in addressing low-level radioactive waste disposal needs of our partner states and generators.

On behalf of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission I thank you for allowing me to provide this testimony. We look forward to continuing to work with this committee and Congress, our fellow compacts, the states, facility operators, and federal partners to ensure safe and timely disposal of low-level radioactive waste.



EnergySolutions Signs Definitive Agreement to Acquire Waste Control Specialists LLC

Salt Lake City, Utah – November 19, 2015 – EnergySolutions, Inc. today announced it has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Valhi, Inc. (NYSE: VHI) and operator of a waste disposal facility located in Andrews County, Texas.

At closing, EnergySolutions will pay \$270 million in cash, \$20 million face amount in Series A Preferred Stock and will assume approximately \$77 million of WCS debt. Additionally, EnergySolutions will assume all financial assurance obligations related to the WCS business. Completion of the sale is subject to certain customary closing conditions outlined in the transaction agreement.

“Combining our capabilities will bring improved operational efficiencies and allow us to deliver a safe and seamless supply chain that better serves the needs of commercial and government customers,” said David Lockwood President and Chief Executive Officer of EnergySolutions. “In addition to the ongoing utilization of all the acquired assets, we intend to continue to seek expansion opportunities in the nuclear services area.

EnergySolutions and WCS will continue to operate as independent companies until completion of the sale.

About EnergySolutions and WCS

EnergySolutions offers customers a full range of integrated services and solutions, including nuclear operations, characterization, decommissioning, decontamination, site closure, transportation, nuclear materials management, processing, recycling, and disposition of nuclear waste, and research and engineering services across the nuclear fuel cycle. For additional information about EnergySolutions visit www.energysolutions.com.

WCS operates a West Texas facility for the processing, treatment, storage and disposal of a broad range of low-level radioactive and hazardous wastes. For additional information about WCS visit www.valhi.net.

For additional information please contact Mark Walker at mwalker@energysolutions.com or

801- 231 -9194.

No: 15-069

October, 28, 2015

CONTACT: David McIntyre, 301-415-8200

NRC Proposes \$3,500 Civil Penalty on Texas A&M University for Research Reactor Violations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a civil penalty of \$3,500 against Texas A&M University's Nuclear Science Center for violations of operating procedures for the center's research reactor.

A notice of violation issued Oct. 22 cites two specific violations that occurred in May 2013. Two operators left the control room the night of May 14 having verified the reactor was in a safe condition but without completely shutting it down as defined in the university's license. The next day, a manager willfully falsified records to show that the operators had completed the shutdown procedure when in fact they had not.

The NRC staff determined the willful falsification of records was a Severity Level III violation and proposed the \$3,500 civil penalty. The other violation was assessed as Severity Level IV. The agency has a four-tiered severity scale in which Severity Level I is the most serious.

"Although there was never any threat to the safety of the reactor operators or the campus community, the NRC cannot and will not tolerate willful violations of its requirements," said Lawrence Kokajko, director of the Division of Policy and Rulemaking in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, which oversees research and test reactors.

"The Nuclear Science Center has already responded to these violations by implementing extensive corrective actions to ensure they don't happen again," Kokajko said. "We have seen positive changes to the center's safety culture, organization and procedures over the past two years."

The center may accept the violation, contest it, or request neutral mediation under the NRC's alternative dispute resolution program.