



THE *BILLET* STC NEWSLETTER

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

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Ali Simpkins Elected Treasurer-Elect of Health Physics Society

Elected to serve the Health Physics Society (HPS) as Treasurer-Elect, Simpkins will take office at the HPS Annual Meeting this summer in Orlando, FL.



Latha Vasudevan, Ph.D, CHP, Elected to the HPS Board of Directors

Elected to a three-year term (2019–2022) to the Health Physics Society (HPS) Board of Directors, STC–HPS President Latha Vasudevan, Ph.D, CHP, will take office at the 2019 HPS Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, in July.



Students Study Decommissioned Cyclotron Facility

Dr. Mark Harvey (center) leads his group of Texas Southern University students on a study of the decommissioned cyclotron facility.

April 6, 2019, Student Presentations & Annual STC-HPS Business Meeting

University of Houston



Jennifer Cerecero earns CHP!

Congratulations, Jennifer Cerecero, CHP!



Photos from the September 2018 Affiliates Fair

The Affiliates Fair and EC meeting was held in September 2018. The photos by Stan Bravenec highlight the speakers and affiliates who attended.

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[April 6 STC Student Presentations & Annual STC-HPS Business Meeting Online Registration](#)

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STC-HPS Providing IAEA Lectures

STC-HPS members providing IAEA lectures as part of School of Radiation Emergency Management (SREM).



In Memoriam: Jack A. Owens

Jack Owens passed away January 18, 2019.

Ali Simpkins Elected Treasurer-Elect of Health Physics Society

Ali Simpkins was recently elected to serve the Health Physics Society (HPS) as Treasurer-Elect and will take office at the HPS Annual Meeting this summer in Orlando, FL. She has served on the Board of Directors of the HPS and she is a member of the Savannah River and the Texas Chapters of the HPS. She currently serves as Chair of the Public Information Committee. She has also served on various HPS committees and chaired several Ad Hoc committees for the Society.

Ali received the Elda E. Anderson award from HPS in 2007, became Fellow of HPS in 2018, and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in 2010. She is a lifetime member of the American Nuclear Society (ANS) where she is on the Environmental and Siting Consensus Standards Committee and serves as the ANS representative to the Accredited Standards Committee N13 on Radiation Protection. Ali also serves as associate editor for *Health Physics Journal*.

Ali has 27 years of collective experience in the areas of worker dose reconstruction, environmental assessment, and nuclear safety analyses and she currently works for NV5 (formerly Dade Moeller) as a production manager on the worker dose reconstruction project. Simpkins holds bachelor's and master's degrees in nuclear engineering from the Missouri University of Science and Technology.



Latha Vasudevan, Ph.D, CHP, Elected to the HPS Board of Directors



Latha Vasudevan, Ph.D, CHP, was elected to a three-year term (2019–2022) to the Health Physics Society (HPS) Board of Directors. She will take office at the 2019 HPS Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, in July.

Latha is the Asst. Director/Radiological Safety Officer (RSO) for Texas A&M University. Before that she worked as the RSO for Texas A&M Nuclear Science Center Reactor facility for almost 13 years. She completed her Master's and Ph.D degrees from the Texas A&M Department of Nuclear Engineering. She received her American Board of Health Physics Certification in 2008. Before joining A&M, she had been working as a Scientist at Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research (Department of Atomic Energy) in India. She has extensive experience both in teaching and research and has several peer-reviewed publications and presentations.

Latha has been an active member of the State of Texas Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) Chapter and the National Health Physics Society and has served in many roles. She was a member of the HPS program Committee from 2009–2015. She has also served on the Part-II panel of Examiners for the American Board of Health Physics since 2014. She held the position of President-elect for the STC-

HPS in 2018 and is now the President of STC-HPS.

Her goals for the Society are to actively support the Chapter's mission of pursuing outreach activities, providing educational grants and scholarship opportunities to students in the field of radiation safety, and to reach out to other chapters and help build a stronger foundation in the overall efforts of educating the public about radiation, which concurrently help to improve the society membership.



Cyclotron Decommissioning Project

By: Janet M. Gutiérrez, DrPH, CHP, STC-HPS Board Member, UTHealth, Radiation Safety Program within EH&S and SHERM

Dr. Mark Harvey (center) leads his group of Texas Southern University students on a study of the decommissioned cyclotron facility, with the help of UTHealth including but not limited to Dr. Robert Emery, Dr. Scott Patlovich and Dr. Janet Gutiérrez



Photo credit: Dr. Scott Patlovich with UTHealth

[Click here for more information about the unique project.](#)



Annual Student Presentations Meeting

University of Houston – April 6, 2019

By: Tracy Tipping

The State of Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) will be hosting the Student Presentations meeting in Houston, TX, on Saturday, April 6, 2019. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to learn about Texas student projects and a chance to network with your STC-HPS friends and colleagues. Please join us to enjoy the technical presentations, comradery, and good food. The venue for the presentations is the University of Houston Science and Research 1 Building (uh.edu/maps). If you would like to give a presentation, please contact President-Elect Tracy Tipping at tipping@att.net for more information.



Science and Research 1 Building - 3507 Cullen Blvd., Houston, TX 77204

The Executive Council meeting will be held on the evening of April 5, 2019.

Follow [this link for additional meeting information and online registration](#). The preregistration deadline is March 8, 2019.

A block of rooms has been reserved for the evening of April 5, 2019, at the Hilton – University of Houston for \$131/night + tax. The Hilton is within walking distance of the meeting venue. [Use this link to reserve a room at the special rate.](#)



Congratulations Jennifer Cerecero, CHP

By: Michael A. Charlton

Jennifer Cerecero, the Director of Radiation Safety at the [Environmental Health & Safety Department](#) of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, is a Certified Health Physicist (CHP) as of November 2018.

Jennifer juggled working full-time, being pregnant, and studying for her board examination in 2018. It was quite an eventful year for her!

Congratulations, Jennifer, on your grand accomplishment.



Jennifer with Mike Charlton (left) and Ben Sramek



Photos from the September 2018 Affiliates Fair

Photos by: Stan Bravenec



Latha Vasudevan



Latha Vasudevan



Scott Pennington, The University of Texas at



Scott Pennington, The University of Texas at Austin



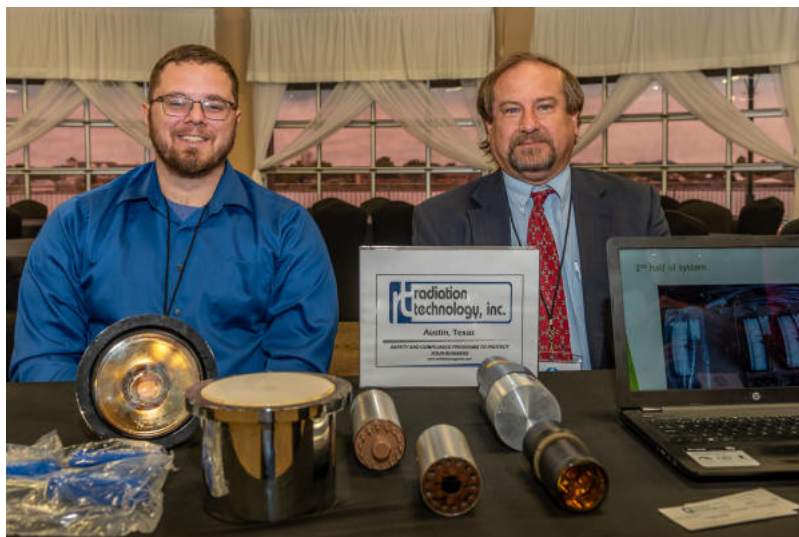
Rich Palatine, Thermo Scientific/Owens Sci



John LeJeune, Ludlum Measurements



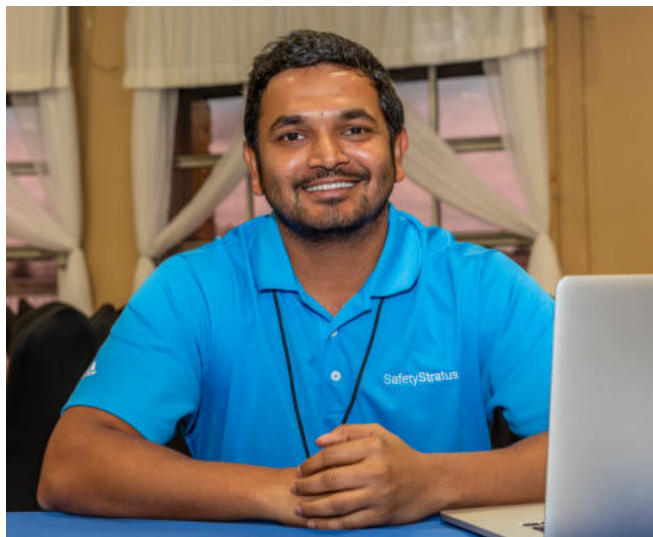
Tracy Tipping



Ken Klriegar (right), Radiation Technologies, Inc.



Safety Stratus



Safety Stratus



Bionomics



Ludlum Measurements



NSSI



STC-HPS Leadership



Betty Hail and Rich Palatine, Thermo Scienti



Betty Hail and Rich Palatine, Thermo Scientific/Owens Scientific



Betty Hail, Owens Scientific, Inc.



RaySafe



RaySafe



Ken Kriegar, Radiation Technologies, Inc.



Gary Wiechering, Comanche Peak Nuclear I



Aaron Torres, Theoretical Studies of Radiofluorinated Complexes with Potential Use as PET Imaging Agents



UT Southwestern



Eric Goldin, HPS President-Elect, Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Challenges and Opportunities



Eric Goldin, HPS President-Elect, Nuclear Plant Decommissioning Challenges and Opportun.



Latha Vasudevan and Eric Goldin



Eric Goldin with Yasmin Jackson, HPS Stud



Steven Drabbant, HPS Student Science Fair Winner, with Eric Goldin



Linda Morris and Eric Goldin



Latha Vasudevan and Austin Nichols



Latha Vasudevan and Zachary Olson



Latha Vasudevan and Aaron Torres



Rae Walker, TDSHS, STP Ingestin Exercise



Ken Kriegar, Radiation in Movies



Ken Kriegar, Radiation in Movies



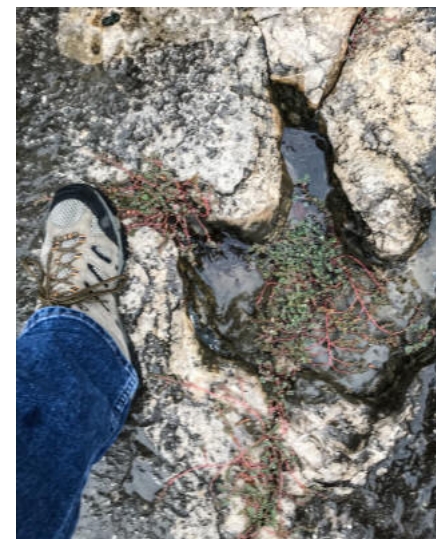
Tracy Tipping, Health Physics Aspects of Cryogenic Liquid Activation Targets



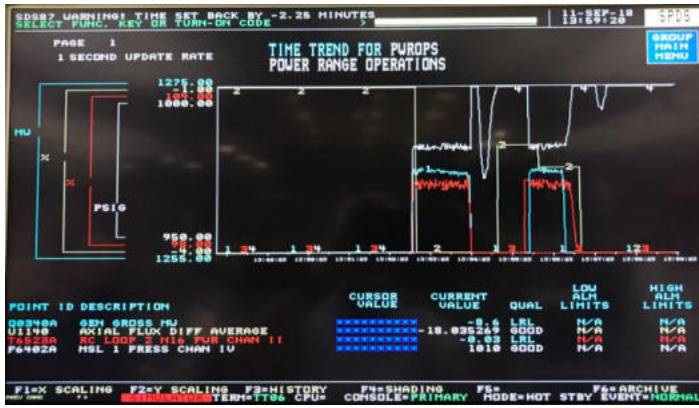
Erich Fruchtnicht, TAMU, Removing an Irrad



Erich Fruchtnicht, TAMU, Removing an Irradiator



Dinosaurs to Nuclear Power, Acrocanthosau 10-ton meat eating reptile that lived 199M ye



Reactor Simulator Panel



Reactor Simulator



Stan Bravenec with Reactor Simulator



Latha Vasudevan with Reactor Simulator



Reactor Simulator Training



STC-HPS Providing IAEA Lectures

By: Latha Vasudevan, Ph.D., CHP, President

STC-HPS members providing IAEA lectures as part of School of Radiation Emergency Management (SREM)

A two-week “School of Radiation Emergency Management – SREM” (Nov–Dec 2018) focused on radiation protection and emergency management of incidents with radiation sources was hosted by Nuclear Power Institute (NPI) at Texas A&M University.

NPI, under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth L. Peddicord (NPI Director), collaborated with IAEA to promote Nuclear Knowledge Management. The program was developed by the IAEA, and it is being implemented in several regions of the world in the same manner to achieve consistency in this basic training.

Experts and representatives from eight IAEA member states from the Carribean countries attended the school, including Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The two-week school was co-organized by IAEA at Texas A&M University campus where several of our STC members had an opportunity to deliver lectures and provide training exercises.



Linda Morris



Linda Morris



John W. Poston, Sr.



Latha Vasudevan



Latha Vasudevan



Erich Fruchtnicht



Erich Fruchtnicht



Chris Moore



Chris Moore



Craig Marianno performing training exercises at Disaster City



Craig Marianno performing training exercises at Disaster City



Leslie Lutz at Brazos County Emergency Operations Center



Erich Fruchtnicht provides training on how to wear PPE with Austin Horne



Erich Fruchtnicht and Latha Vasudevan provide training on how to wear PPE with Austin Horne



IAEA Group



In Memoriam: Jack Aciel Owens

By: Betty Hail



It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of Jack A. Owens on January 18, 2019. He was a member of STC-HPS for many years, and he knew a lot of the members. Below is an excerpt of his obituary published in the February 2 issue of the *Houston Chronicle*.

Jack Aciel Owens, 88, of Katy, passed away Friday, January 18, 2019. He was born December 24, 1930, in Ottawa, Illinois to William & Ruth Dodd Owens. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

He is survived by his companion of 43 years Betty Hail; children, Jack M. Owens and Kevin Owens; grandson, Jared Owens; extended family, Staci Dupree, Chloe Saldivar and Kelsey Saldivar; brother, Jerry Owens; and numerous other family members and many friends.

The full obituary and a video is available at http://www.schmidtfuneralhome.net/sitemaker/sites/Schmid1/obit.cgi?user=08744600_JOwens.

Owens Scientific, Inc. will certainly continue our membership with STC.



STC – EC Meeting – Granbury, TX
September 10, 2018

1) Persons in Attendance:

Amanda Sullivan
Sandra Ramirez
Billie Harvey
William Pate
Janet Gutierrez
Tracy Tipping
Linda Morris
Erich Fruchtnicht
Billie Harvey
Latha Vasudevan
Karen Blanchard

2) Meeting Convened

Quorum established and meeting officially convened at 6:49 pm.

3) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of April 6, 2018 meeting distributed and reviewed by group. Motion to approve made by Billie Harvey;
Second by Tracey Tipping. Minutes were approved.

4) Reports Made

Past President (Amanda):

- Most of time is being spent with updating memberships

Membership Chair (Amanda):

- Currently at 138 members; a lot of people who have retired and who no longer want to be receiving email notifications. Changes in the industry with Medical Physicists or consultants providing HP services likely contributing to reduced numbers. Not getting a lot of student members who “stick” due to having to go out of state for jobs

	Category	2018	Comments	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
1	Honorary Lifetime Memberships	3	Hageman, Poston, Morris	1	1	2	2	2
2	Individual Memberships	105		117	111	116	130	241
3	Student Memberships	12		11	62	10	11	22
4	Science Fair Winners	2		3	2	0	2	0
	Sub-Total	122		115	176	127	143	167
5	Affiliate Memberships	16		15	23	22	22	18
	Total	138		135	199	149	165	185

(Numbers of 2018 Members, above, includes New Members listed below)

New Members

Fisher	Barbara	Student
Kelley	Bryan	Regular
Bhakta	Vihar	Regular
Johnson	Carol	Regular
Friess	Kendall	Student
Dennes	Christia	Student
Dadani	Mariam	Student
Arndt	Catherine	Student
Olson	Zachary	Student

Approval of new members: Tracey made a motion to accept new members. Billie seconded the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the new members.

Discussion related to continued outreach to try and get new members. Emphasis on Facebook advertisements to try and get information out to those who might be interested.

There was a discussion about looking at career outreach at A&M to discuss career opportunities and what sort of jobs are available to people in health physics. Possible inclusion of these kinds of presentations during student meetings.

Discussion related to how to create value for prospective members in an effort to try and structure meetings and benefits to encourage them to join, attend meetings, and participate in the Chapter.

President's Report (Latha):

- April 7th student presentation meeting at College Station, TX was a big success.
 - Thank you to Erich Fruchtnicht for assisting me with ordering and arranging the food
 - More than 65 people attended.
 - Best presentation awards were given out
 - 3 first place winners \$ 250 each graduate, undergraduate, and associates
 - 2 second place winners \$100 each (graduate and undergraduate)
 - 2 third place winners \$ 50 each (graduate and undergraduate)
 - Gift cards were given to two high school students (science fair award winners)
- Both science fair award winners were nominated to HPS for national science fair award
- Two students (graduate and associates) were supported with HPS travel grants (\$250 each)
- Chapter report was submitted to national HPS- still showing William Gordon as webmaster- need to discuss website
- Neff-Poston award-visited with Jean Ragusa (NUEN, TAMU) and discussed the *Amendment to change the criteria from RHEN major to minor in RHEN.*
 - Scholarship award to student with RHEN minor is approved.
- National HPS meeting in Cleveland, OH –Breakfast meeting July 17th
 - Thank you to Tracy Tipping for reserving the table for breakfast meeting

- More people showed up.
- Discussed the September meeting venue and details.
- Discussed the Chapter website with the national HPS website coordinator Ruedinger Birenheide
 - If headquarters doesn't mind, he is fine with working on our site as well. However, he needs to have a view "behind the scenes" to see how it is programmed etc.
- Alana's invoice for the Billet and Website
 - Seems she built a new site last year. Follow up
- Meeting highlights submitted for August Billet
- September 9-11 meeting
 - Meeting venue (hotel and conf center arranged)
 - Thank you to Sylvia Revell for making a trip to Granbury location to give me feedback on the hotel
 - Contract signed
 - Food arranged
 - Added welcome reception-meet and greet in the meeting for the vendors and members
 - Introduced ribbons for the Exec team
 - Comanche Peak tour arranged
 - Arranged for HPS president-elect visit to the meeting
 - HPS president Nolan Hertel was also supposed to show up but had to cancel the trip. He sends apologies to the Chapter
 - Arranged for gift give away-thanks to Sandra and Billie
 - Supported nomination for chapter volunteer award
 - Thank you to Tracy Tipping for putting together a great agenda
- National HPS Nominations Committee has considered me as one of the candidates for HPS Board of Directors-thank you STC-HPS chapter for the nomination.

Thank you EXEC team for your great support and cooperation!

Question: STC-HPS Charter not transferred over to President? Is that a tradition?

- Request from Alana the link for the "test" website and all EC members will provide feedback
- Develop "instructions" for each position and what they need to do each year
- Feedback on today's meeting was positive

President Elect Report (Tracey):

- A big thank you to Latha for organizing the Comanche Peak tour and handling all the venue related items for the meeting. Thanks to Amanda for handling meeting registrations, Jennifer for corralling the vendors, and Jay for sprinkling money in as needed. All I did for this meeting was sit around and collect PowerPoint presentations from a dozen people.
- I was not able to attend the breakfast meeting at the HPS annual meeting in Cleveland. It appears to have been at least a partial success. However, evidently there was a communications issue in that several people complained they did not receive any information about the breakfast meeting even though all the information went out to the STC-HPS email list.
- Communication: effectiveness of email communication

Treasurer's Report:

- Reviewed the balances for all of the accounts
- Student Scholarship fund currently at \$5,121.38
- Science Teacher Workshop account currently at \$3,992.45
- Operating account at \$37,673.70
- Including all investments, total assets currently sit at \$214,857.50

Affiliate Report:

1. Affiliate Members to Date – 16 total
2. January 2019 – Will email out reminders for dues & try to get more affiliates. If you know of any companies that might be interested let me know.
3. Affiliate/Technical Meeting –
 - a. 9 Affiliates Attending
 - b. \$1000 Donations from Affiliates

The Billet Report:

- Discussion on future meeting dates- Sending out date of April 6th as proposed date; will send out to EC to verify no scheduling conflicts. Houston area proposed location.

Student Assistance Committee Report:

Fall 2018 STC Education Grant Winners

The following students are the fall education grant recipients:

- Associate Degree: Austin Nichols, Texas State Technical College
- Undergraduate: Aaron Torres, University of Houston – Downtown
- Graduate: Zachary Olson, Texas A&M University

Fall 2018 Neff-Poston Endowed Scholarship Winner: Cailin O'Connell is a repeat winner for this award. Dr. Jean Ragusa from TAMU Nuclear Engineering just announced her selection last week.

National HPS Science Fair Award Winners

Both Steven Drabbant and Yasmin “Jenna” Jackson were present today to receive their awards from HPS President-Elect Eric Golden. They each received a large plaque and a check for \$500. The STC thanks the HPS Awards Committee for selecting both of our nominees.

Visit to TAMU Student Branch-HPS

Linda Morris will speak to the TAMU student branch members on September 20th in College Station. Information on the benefits of membership in both the HPS and the STC will be presented. Do we want to make a “pizza” monetary donation?

Spring 2019 Science & Engineering Fair Participation

The spring science fair season will be here before we know it. Dates for the fairs are not yet all posted on the websites. In the past, we have participated in the Houston, Austin, Central Texas, and State fairs. This year we plan to add the Dallas fair. A significant change is that the State of Texas fair will no longer be held in San Antonio. It is being moved to Texas A&M in College Station. The date for this fair is March 29-30, 2019. Please consider volunteering.

April Student Presentation Meeting: Location to be determined.

- Vote to provide funding to support meal at Student Branch-HPS at TAMU; Amanda presented motion to donate \$250 to support food; Billie seconded; all approved

Legislative Affairs Committee Report:

Texas Legislature Activities

The Compact Facility Legislative Oversight Committee created by House Bill 2662 (85th Regular Session) met on September 6, 2018 and heard testimony from stakeholders regarding the Compact waste disposal facility in Andrews County. The committee, which consists of three state senators, three state representatives, the chairman of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission (TLLRWDC) and a member selected by the State of Vermont, must complete and submit a report to the legislature by December 31, 2018.

State Agency Rulemakings

No current draft or proposed rulemakings by DSHS.

The TLLRWDC adopted final rules requiring notification by entities receiving low-level radioactive waste in Texas for processing or disposal in a facility other than the compact waste facility. Notice of the rulemaking was published in the March 23, 2018 Texas Register (43 TexReg 1871).

TCEQ has proposed a rulemaking adjusting the Disposal Rate for the Waste Control Specialists site, reducing several surcharges and simplifying the rate structure, with the expected date of consideration for adoption of October 17, 2018.

TCEQ also has proposed rulemaking revising regulations for uranium mining activities, as requested by the Uranium Committee of the Texas Mining Reclamation Association, with the expected date of consideration for adoption on November 14, 2018.

Federal Agency Rulemakings

The NRC has one rulemaking matter currently open for public comment regarding:

Approval of American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Code Cases; Incorporation of Regulatory Guides (comments close October 30, 2018).

Three rulemakings that could establish new requirements are anticipated to be complete this fiscal year:

Enhanced Weapons, Firearms Background Checks, and Security Event Notifications (Part 73);

List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC International, Inc., NAC-UMS Storage System, CoC No. 1015, Amendment No. 6 (Part 72);

Mitigation of Beyond-Design-Basis-Events (MBDBE) (Parts 50, 52);

Performance-Based Emergency Core Cooling System Acceptance Criteria (Part 50);

Price Anderson Adjustment of Deferred Premiums for Inflation (Part 140); and

Update to Fees for Search and Review of Agency Records by NRC Personnel (Part 9).

Nominations Committee (Sandra):

- Will begin to solicit for nominations for President-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, and Secretary

CEU Committee:

- Doug Johnson has reviewed the contact and will award CEUs based upon contact time and technical content
- Amanda to send list of people to Doug who requested CEU

Other Business:

- Will set a conference call for the EC in November to catch-up on Action Items. Erich & Latha will coordinate the conference call. Secretary to email reminder to Erich
- Regulatory Conference: nothing substantive right now on the docket. 2019 is a legislative year, and it is kind of late in the game to begin planning for September. Only big thing coming down is new NRC Medical Rules; looking at fall of 2020 as the year to host a Regulatory Conference. Planning typically needs to begin about a year out from the proposed date, so by April 2019 might need to look to develop STC-HPS subcommittee to start supporting planning. Karen to reach out to previous hotel in order to see how far in advance we might need to start working with the hotel.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Billie Harvey

Second: Amanda Sullivan

Meeting adjourned.