



NITSL Newsletter

Our goal is to keep members informed and involved. Please check out the “NITSL Snippets” section at the bottom of the newsletter for links to additional information. Feel free to provide feedback or comments at any time.

Chairman’s Update



The week of October 1st, the NITSL Executive Committee, along with members of the planning committee from the host utility, Exelon, completed a walk down of the 2020 Baltimore conference venue and conducted a planning meeting. The conference location is in the vibrant Inner Harbor area and allows for a similar arrangement as this year. Conference registration and all meeting rooms are located in the same general area which will allow for easy flow and great engagement. The format of next year’s conference will be very similar to this year’s in that there will be additional sessions on Monday, with a focus on leadership as well as technical information while still allowing time for all four standing committees to conduct their working sessions in the afternoon. The Inner Harbor area offers many restaurants, shops, and family friendly options within walking distance of the hotel. We are hoping to make next year’s conference the best yet.

Standing Committee Meetings

Reminder to all committee participants, below are the schedules for the standing committee monthly calls:

- **Infrastructure & Applications:** Walter Church (Southern) – Chair; Matt Rhone (Talen) – Co-chair
 - Monthly Meeting - 3rd Thurs each month - 4pm EST
 - Call in: 612-330-5656 and use access code 3210291
- **Software Quality Assurance:** Maheeja Kotareddy (Duke) – Chair; Kim Passalugo (Entergy) – Co-chair
 - Monthly Meeting – 3rd Tuesday of each month – 2 pm EST
 - Call in: 1-704-382-5555 Participant ID: 362615#
- **Cyber Security:** Dave Feitl (XeNuclear) – Chair; Dewey Coulon (Entergy) – Co-chair
 - Bi Weekly Meeting – Tuesday starting 03/24/14 – 11am EST
 - Call in: 1-877-834-7331 Conference ID: 614-288
- **Digital Controls:** Sharon Gray (Southern) – Chair; Timothy Streeter (Exelon) – Co-chair
 - Monthly Meeting – 1st Weds each month - 3pm EST
 - Call in: 1-866-385-2663 Conference ID:2496738

Key Dates to know for the 2020 NITSL Conference

- EC Performed the Hotel Walkdown in the Baltimore Renaissance Harborplace Hotel on October 1st and 2nd, 2019.
- General sessions topics will be available by December 1st, 2019.
- Subcommittees need to provide the presentation topics and descriptions by January 17th, 2020. (4 – 8 topics/descriptions per subcommittee)
- Planning for registration to start by March 1st, 2020.
- Presenter Bios and Pics are needed by April 15th, 2020
- Planning to have the Mobile App available for download by May 1st, 2020.
- Final presentations are due by June 15th, 2020.

Infrastructure & Applications Update



The NITSL I&A committee has the following updates:

- The first two monthly meetings have been well-attended.
- During each session, someone is being asked to present a brief technology-related topic to keep a “continuous learning” mindset.
- A Slack workspace has been created to help improve collaboration between meetings. The usage has been relatively low, but we expect usage to increase over time.
- We are continuing to stay focused on our 2019-2020 initiatives. Nothing significant to report.
- As part of one 2019-2020 initiative, I&A will be working to be better educated/aligned with the EPRI Plant Modernization and other related initiatives.
- An INL/NextAxiom sponsored Dynamic Instructions Symposium will be held in Monterey, CA on November 14-15. The symposium is open to all utilities, labs, and vendors and is part of a broader INL strategic initiative.

Cyber Security Update



INPO announced at the August 13 Cyber Security Standing Committee (CSSC) biweekly meeting that they are now evaluating Cyber Security Programs in their 2-year INPO performance reviews and in 4-year WANO site reviews. “The NRC is interested in compliance, INPO is interested in excellence.” The evaluation teams will be looking at program performance and making sure that member sites are identifying issues and resolving them. For more information, please refer to the INPO folder in CSSC SharePoint site to view the INPO OE presentation provided.

Would you like to participate in the Cyber Security Standing Committee goals for 2019-2020? Please contact Dave Feitl (david.feitl@xenuclear.com) or Dewey Coulon (dcoulon@entergy.com) to get involved. The goals and leaders for this year’s efforts are:

- Performance Indicators 2018-2019 Initiative Continuation, Miranda Wolf - Exelon
- Vulnerability Management Standards and Best Practices, Jim Shank - PSEG
- EPRI TAM Evaluation/Incorporation into existing NRC Requirements, Kevin Sykes - ENW

Thank you to this year's leaders who have stepped up to improve our programs!

Duke to seek second license renewals fleet wide

Duke Energy has announced it will seek second 20-year renewals of the operating licenses for all of its nuclear reactors, starting with the three-unit Oconee plant for which it expects to submit a renewal application in 2021. The company says the units are key to it achieving its carbon emissions goals. Read more [here](#).

Nuclear Plants Are in a League of Their Own When It Comes to Efficiency. Here's Why.

Autumn is here, bringing good news: The Washington Nationals are in the MLB playoffs. But more importantly, the discussions about nuclear power in our future energy portfolio continue to gather steam (pun totally intended).

It's refreshing to see so many prominent organizations speak out on behalf of nuclear. We also have seen more states identify nuclear power as a path to achieve their carbon goals. The point is clear: if we want deep and rapid decarbonization, we need nuclear.

As policymakers, climate advocates and thought leaders look to value nuclear, though, the onus is back on the industry to show what we are doing to stay competitive.

So, with baseball clearly on my mind, I ask, "Has the nuclear industry stepped up to the plate?"

Let's dive into the details. According to NEI's recent report, "Nuclear Costs in Context," the average total generating cost for nuclear energy in 2018 was \$31.88 per megawatt-hour, 7.1 percent lower than in 2017 and nearly 25 percent below peak costs in 2012. In simple terms, a unit of nuclear electricity generation is 25 percent cheaper than it was just seven years ago.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the average cost of electricity (which includes other sources of electricity, such as renewables, natural gas and coal) has increased by 7.5 percent during the same time.

What's driving this reduction in costs? Read more [here](#).

Permits issued for construction of new Chinese plant

Construction licenses have been issued for units 1 and 2 of the Zhangzhou nuclear power plant in China's Fujian province. The units were originally planned to be based on Westinghouse's AP1000 design, but will now feature domestically-designed Hualong One reactors. Read more [here](#).

Take it Easy – Your Body Will Thank You

Whether it happens at work or on the golf course, overexertion continues to be a leading cause of injury over all age groups. It was the second leading reason (after falls) that adults age 25-64 ended up in emergency departments in 2013, and the third leading cause for kids ages 10 and older, often from too-heavy backpacks, computers and gaming, and poor posture.

Overexertion causes 35% of all work-related injuries and is, by far, the largest contributor to workers' compensation costs – more than \$15 billion, or 25% of the total cost in 2012, according to Injury Facts 2016. It also is the #1 reason for lost work days. More than 322,00 people missed work that year due to overexertion. Here are some injury statistics by industry for 2014:

- Construction – 19,070
- Manufacturing – 46,040
- Wholesale trade – 21,100
- Retail trade – 42,720
- Transportation and warehousing – 38,960
- Professional and business services – 23,410
- Education and health services – 68,720
- Government – 72,050

Over all age groups, whether work-related or off-the-job, hospitals treated 3,132,271 overexertion-related injuries in 2014, and the trend doesn't seem to be going downward. What gives? Read more [here](#).

NITSL Snippets

- Here's how a Nuclear Reactor Actually Works. Read [more](#).
- Need to know who to contact? Visit the [NITSL website](#) and a list of the current Executive Committee members and Standing Committee chairs/co-chairs.

Visit us at www.nitsl.org. [Comments, questions or story ideas are always welcome.](#)