



November 24, 2020

Dear Radiation Protection Managers and Regulators,

Re: 2021 North American ISOE ALARA Symposium*, January 4 - 6, 2021

On behalf of the NATC NPRE Technical Program Committee, I am pleased to invite you to attend the 2021 North American ISOE ALARA Symposium* to be held January 4- 6, 2021. North American ISOE ALARA Symposia are sponsored by the Department of Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering, Grainger College of Engineering, University of Illinois since 1997. Due to the challenges of the COVID 19 Pandemic, the 2021 Symposium will be a virtual technical symposium. The Illinois University ZOOM license will be used to assure a strong firewall for the 2021 symposium proceeding.

The Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel contract allows postponement of the NATC NPRE ALARA Symposium to January 3-7, 2022. The 2022 symposium will be the International ISOE ALARA Symposium**.

The NATC NPRE Technical Program Committee has needed to be flexible for the 2021 Symposium. The virtual meeting format will allow a focus on RPM operating experience from the 2020 spring and fall outages. The Committee has sought RPM outage problems and challenges volunteered by ISOE RPM members. Papers have been invited to provide solutions to these problems. The Call for Papers for the symposium is open until December 15, 2020. Please send author, title and abstract to Amy Moeller, NATC Executive Administrator, almoeller88@gmail.com. Over 15 papers have been identified by the 2021 Symposium committee. A provisional agenda will be distributed by December 7, 2020.

The virtual meeting format will provide current RPM management good practices and lessons learned at the scheduled symposium events including the PEP Continuing Education Course, Symposium and Region III & IV RPM meeting. The 2021 North American ISOE ALARA Symposium will again be the **premier regulatory/RPM meeting** of the year. Tuesday afternoon, January 5, 2021 will be a regulatory forum for regulatory health physicists/branch chiefs and attending utility RPMs and health physicists. Again, based on feedback from prior symposia, the presentations at the Symposium will focused on solutions to RPM and ALARA management issues based on the spring and fall 2022 refueling outages.

The nomination questionnaire for the 2020 World Class ALARA Performance Award will be distributed next week. Please consider applying this year for this prestigious award. Also, consider nominating your site for the John M Palms Outstanding Innovation Award. There will be two papers selected from the 2021 symposium for the Distinguish Paper Award. The authors of this award will be invited to the next ISOE symposium held in Tours, France on June 1-3, 2021. The authors' registration fee is waived. A new category for author recognition is the Young Presenter's Distinguished Paper Award. This award is for presenters under the age of 40 years of age.

The January 2021 symposium will include the following schedule:

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| Monday, January 4, 2021 8 am - 5 pm* | Day 1 including Plenary speakers, 2020 World Class Performance ALARA Award, and RPM presentations on outage OEs lessons learned. |
| Tuesday, January 5, 2021 8 am – 5 pm* | Day 2 including US NRC regulatory presentations on changes in US NRC ALARA inspection program and NRC RP/ALARA findings in 2020. |
| Wednesday, January 6, 2021 8 am – 12 pm* | ISOE ALARA Symposium – Day 3 (RPM Operating Radiological Events & Lessons Learned). |
| Wednesday, January 6, 2021 1 pm – 5 pm* | Region III & IV RPM Meetings (Observations from NRC Branch Chief & RP Inspectors in Control of RP Programs). (*all times are Central Standard Times, CST) |

Symposium Objectives:

Since 1997, the annual North American ISOE ALARA Symposium* has steadily grown with utility RP managers attending from U.S., Canada and Mexico. The NATC Board knows the symposia could not have been so successful without your willingness to share radiological events good practices and lessons learned from the 2020 spring and fall refueling outages in Mexico and US and maintenance/refurbishment outages in Canada. The 2021 Symposium will be the first virtual ZOOM meeting. The meeting will save travel time, costs and honor COVID 19 pandemic safety. The Virtual ALARA symposium will allow a large plant audience including RPMs, ALARA Coordinators, Station ALARA Committee Members, outage and maintenance managers. Since 2018, the Symposium Technical Program Committee has invited maintenance and outage managers at nuclear plants with positive feedback.

The primary goal of the 2021 winter ALARA symposium has become the premier utility/regulatory meeting for Radiation Protection Managers and health physics professionals to exchange the latest good practices and lessons learned from new technology and regulatory ALARA revisions. In 2020, NATC has developed over 15 Information Sheets (IFS) and major outage tasks on major refueling outage tasks to shadow benchmarking of major outage jobs in preparation for spring 2021 refueling and maintenance outages. The IFS will be made available to attendees. RPMs are encouraged to invite their plant managers and maintenance directors to attend the 2021 ALARA Symposium. The Theme of the 2021 symposium is RPM Experience with aging plant conditions and sharing of RPM challenges with managing the COVID 19 Pandemic while maintaining effective RP Controls.

The symposium will feature technical papers on the latest approaches in work management, dose control, CZT technology, remote monitoring, source term reduction and dose rate measurements. The symposium is held early in the calendar year at the suggestion of utility Radiation Protection Managers to assist individual plants in setting annual and refueling outage ALARA dose goals/targets. Good ideas on successful refueling and maintenance ALARA outage initiatives are the major focus of the ALARA symposium.

Symposium Registration:

The Symposium Registration Fee is \$300 USD. The fee can be paid for by credit card on the Square link provided, mailing a check to NPRE, University of Illinois or wiring the funds (contract Amy Moeller for wire instructions). The registration fee includes access to the NATC Continuing Education courses from December 2020 to March, 2021 and the January 4-6, 2021 North American ISOE ALARA Symposium. Attendance to the Region III & IV RPM Meeting on January 6, 2021, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm is at no cost. Registration size is limited to 300 attendees and vendors due to the University of Illinois.ZOOM.us license.

Meeting Registration: [2021 North American ISOE ALARA Virtual Symposium](#)

The 2021 ISOE ALARA Symposium is sponsored by the North American Technical Center (NATC/NPRE), Grainger College of Engineering, University of Illinois and endorsed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA - Vienna) and the OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA - Paris), NATC/NPRE College of Engineering is one of four ISOE Technical Centers that include Paris, Vienna, and Tokyo. NATC/NPRE is the founder of the popular International and North American ISOE ALARA Symposium in 1997.

NATC's occupational dose radiological engineering analysis section is located in the Grainer College of Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA. The Information System on Occupational Exposure was established in 1992 by the Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA) in Paris and since 1994, the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna has co-sponsored the ISOE program, Official participants in the ISOE program include 76 utilities in 29 countries (350 operating reactors, 80 shutdown reactors) and regulatory authorities in 22 countries. The ISOE database itself includes information on occupational exposure levels and trends at 400 operating reactors in 29 countries, covering about 90% of the world's operating commercial nuclear power plants.

NATC/NPRE Continuing Education Sessions:

NATC/NPRE will be offering continuing education courses as a warm-up to the virtual symposium. The courses are focused on RP fundamental training for younger health physicists and RP technicians. Specific course will present lessons learned on the Science of CORID 19 Pandemic, NRC inspections, lessons learned on Radiation Monitoring System Replacement at NPPs, extended range noble gas effluent monitors, CZT spectra experience on LWR piping isotopic mapping and source term reduction.

Wednesday, January 6, 2021, Regional III & IV RPM Meetings with Invited Guests:

Attendees are invited to attend the Region III & IV RPM meeting on Wednesday afternoon. The meeting features observations from health physics Branch Chief and NRC inspectors of RP practices at operating nuclear plants. An update on the revision of the ALARA inspection module will be provided. RPMs will share their plant status reports including COVID 19 challenges and good practices during the fall 2021 outages.

Thursday, January 7, 2021, 10 am – 12 pm North American Work Management Expert Group Meeting (chaired by Colin Pritchard, Bruce Power)

Please contact Amy Moeller for information on participating in this working group. Regulators and utility experts are preparing this new report with a new section on RP good practices and lessons learned on the COVID 19 pandemic experience in 2020. The new NATC NPRE outage major task analysis studies will be discussed. Their value to the ALARA outage planners and the Station ALARA Committee will be determined.

Scheduled Vendor Face-to-Face Presentations:

The Technical Program Committee has studied the NEI RP Forum and HPS Annual Meeting virtual meetings. It was clear a separate Vendor remote chat rooms are not well attended and not worth the cost. The 2021 Symposium will be having vendor face-to-face presentations following each technical presentation. Attendees and vendors will be able to communicate during the symposium using the ZOOM chat function and other features to be announced. Vendor will be notified of the presentation assignments and software file presentations requirement by a separate vendor announcement. The Technical Program Committee requests that the registered attendees support the vendor communication opportunities. NATC NPRE may need to set a limit on the number of vendors able to register for the face-to-face format based on the provisional program. The vendor support is important to the RP Department success in the spring 2021 outages.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact either David Miller via cell: [217-855-3238](tel:217-855-3238)/email: dmiller@illinois.edu or myself, via cell: [269-930-0753](tel:269-930-0753)/email: almoeller88@gmail.com. We know there will be many questions due to the unusual circumstances.

Looking forward to your participation in the North American ISOE ALARA Symposium virtual Illinois.ZOOM.US symposium.

Kind Regards,

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Cc: Brad Boyer, NATC Board Chair, Watts Bar RPM, TVA
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