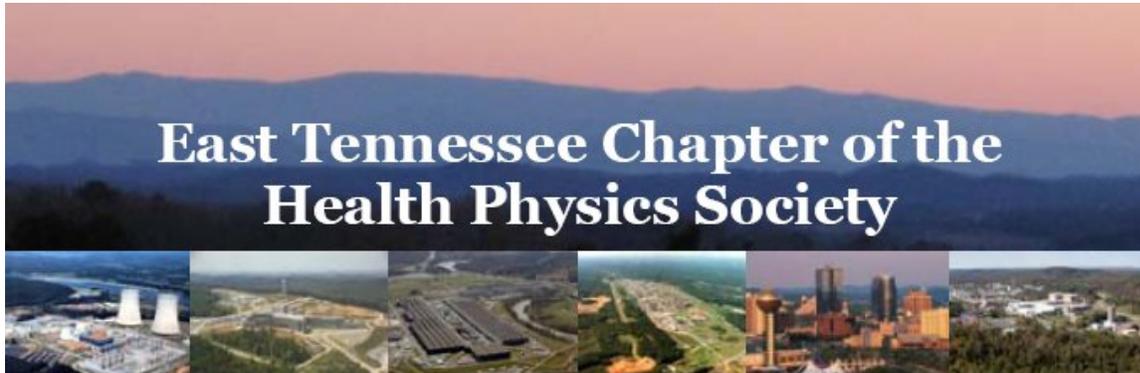


Spring 2008 Newsletter



Next Meeting:

June 17, 2008

**Speaker: Mark McHugh
(ETCHPS President –Elect)**

Topic:
**Educating the Public About Radiation:
Mobilization Against Anti-Nuclear
Disinformation**

Location: Sagebrush Restaurant
Oak Ridge, TN

Social Begins: 5:30 PM
Meeting Begins: 6:00 PM

ETCHPS Members in the News:

Mike Bollenbacher has been elected a Director of the American Academy of Health Physics. Mike will be installed at the 42nd Midyear Meeting in San Antonio, TX

Plan Ahead to Attend the Annual Picnic

The ETCHPS annual picnic will be held in September. The exact location and date are yet to be determined. Past picnics have featured the **HP Challenge** (a trivia quiz), games, and entertainment. John Aperans, the council member in charge of picnic planning, welcomes your input. Please contact him directly at JAPERANS@SECRADCON.COM with any picnic ideas or questions for the HP Challenge.

ETCHPS Welcomes a New Affiliate

MHF Logistical Solutions of Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania has recently been approved as an ETCHPS Affiliate Member.



MHF specializes in the packaging and shipping of radiological waste – with particular experience in direct rail and intermodal (rail, truck, and marine) transportation.. More information is available at their website: www.mhfls.com.

March Program Meeting Summary

The March Program Meeting of the ETCHPS was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at the Oak Ridge Library. Approximately 15 ETCHPS members and guests were in attendance.

The featured speaker was Mr. Sammy Jones, Vice President and General Manager of Impact Services Inc. Mr. Jones provided a brief overview of Impact’s facility at the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). He mentioned their facility is located adjacent to the K-33 building and, to date, the only privately-owned constructed facility on the ETTP site. The OREX personnel protective clothing is manufactured in China. Approximately 80% of their business is commercially-based (i.e., non-governmental) and that recent sales were expanding into other countries, such as France and Korea.

Mr. Jones’ presentation was titled: “OREX Protective Clothing Overview.” The presentation, which included 13 slides, described the aspects of OREX protective clothing, including its uses, options/applications, distribution, and treatment/disposal.

Following his presentation, Mr. Jones discussed proposed legislation currently being discussed in the Tennessee State House of Representatives. Several bills are being considered that could affect waste characterization and disposal methods currently in use by the nuclear industry (commercial and medical). The proposed legislation was defeated in the previous legislative session, however, has reappeared during the current session. Members of the ETCHPS are encouraged to contact their respective State Representative(s) regarding support for/against this legislation.

Mr. Jones concluded his discussion with questions from the attendees.

1. Question: What’s the level of radioactivity in Impact’s effluent?
 Reply: Very low. Process byproducts are relatively insoluble and very easy to filter from effluent waste stream.

2. Question: How is the clothing fabric manufactured?
 Reply: It is woven.

3. Question: How does the price of OREX compare with reusable PPE?
Reply: Very comparable. Price of reusable PPE varies, depending on application. Important to note that OREX also has other advantages over cotton PPE, such as light-weight “breathable” material, no cross-contamination potential due to worker reuse of contaminated PPE, etc.

4. Question: Can Impact accept hazardous wastes/materials, such as PCBs?
Reply: No – Impact does not currently possess a hazardous material permit.

April Program Meeting Summary

The April Program Meeting of the ETCHPS, held on Friday, April 25, 2008, did not feature a speaker. Rather, ETCHPS members were invited to tour Michael Light’s “100 Suns” exhibit at the Knoxville Museum of Art. The exhibit featured digitally scanned or re-photographed images of U.S. atomic weapons tests in Nevada and the South Pacific. Many ETCHPS members and guests attended. Several members recounted their – or their family member’s – involvement with these tests. More information about the exhibit and the publication is available at the following web site: www.michaellight.net/100suns/index.html

knoxville **km**  museum of art



May Program Meeting Summary

The East Tennessee Chapter of the Health Physics Society held its monthly program meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at the Oak Ridge Library. Approximately 30 ETCHPS members and guests were in attendance.

The featured speaker was Mr. Roger Fenner of the Tennessee Division of Radiological Health of the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC). Mr. Fenner discussed recent developments concerning the disposal of low-level radiological waste, the bulk survey for release program, and presented some recent experience with challenges brought by anti-nuclear activist groups.

Mr. Fenner began his presentation by discussing the pending closure of the Barnwell disposal site in South Carolina. Beginning July 1, 2008, the Barnwell site will discontinue accepting low-level radioactive wastes from generators located outside its respective waste compact. This will result in waste generators located in approximately 34 states (including Tennessee) having no disposal option for Class-B and Class-C radioactive wastes. Barnwell's only equivalent is a low-level radioactive waste landfill operated by U.S. Ecology Inc. at the federal Hanford Reservation. However, this facility accepts wastes only from the Northwest Compact. A disposal site available for use by all generators, operated by Utah-based Energy Solutions, formerly Envirocare, in Clive, Utah, is licensed to accept only Class-A wastes.

A brief description of the Bulk Survey for Release (BSFR) program was provided by Mr. Fenner. The program was designed to provide for the safe disposal of wastes containing extremely low-levels of radioactive constituents at Class-1 landfills within the state of Tennessee. It has been utilized, in various forms, for approximately 20 years. Radioactive content of the waste is characterized and then modeled using the RESRAD computer code. Disposal is contingent upon conservatively demonstrating a dose of less than 1 mrem/yr to a resident farmer residing on a specified landfill, following its closure. Also, radioactive constituents in the waste must be below applicable limits for radioactive material as defined by the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Fenner then discussed a recent experience with "concerns" regarding the BSFR program brought on by the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS), a Maryland-based anti-nuclear activist organization. He indicated that much time and effort was required to address their concerns, contained within a NIRS report and presented to several media organizations/outlets. TDEC spent many hours answering questions posed to them by the various media groups. As a result of the media attention, the Tennessee State Legislature enacted a 60-day disposal moratorium to a landfill located in Murfreesboro. Additionally, legislation was proposed banning the disposal of "radioactive materials" in Class-1 landfills. Due to several issues regarding such a ban, the legislation was not passed during the 2007 legislative session. Ultimately, the media coverage of the NIRS report was very limited and short-lived. NIRS has not since released any additional follow-up reports regarding the Tennessee BSFR program.

Thanks again for your support.

David McLaughlin
ETCHPS Secretary