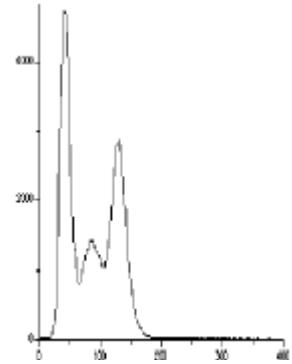




MIDWEST  
CHAPTER

# THE SPECTRUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY'S  
MIDWEST CHAPTER  
January 5, 2010  
midwesthps.org



## Winter Meeting Tuesday, January 19, 2010 *Sponsored by Landauer, Inc.*

### Chapter Officers

President: Cindy Boggs  
President-Elect: Sherri Minnick  
Secretary: Steve Butala  
Treasurer: Sunita Kamboj  
Past President: John Schrage

### Board Members

Kelly Grahn  
Adam Becker  
John Vacca  
Wayne London

### Committee Chairs

Affiliates: Wayne London  
Legislative: Darrel Wiedeman  
Nominations: John Schrage  
Program: Sheri Minnick  
Publications: John Schrage  
PR & Info: Karl Fischer

### Affiliate Members

Advanced Measurement  
Technology/ORTEC  
Ameriphysics, LLC  
Bionomics, Inc.  
Chase Environmental Group, Inc.  
DEQ Technical Sales  
Landauer, Inc.  
Mirion Technologies - Dosimetry  
Services  
Philotechnics, Ltd.

### A Breakdown in Communication: Degeneration of Applied MARSSIM Approaches to Decommissioning

Mr. Tom Hansen  
Ameriphysics, LLC

For more than 10 years, the Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM) has served as the "definitive" guide on decommissioning. A key aspect is its flexibility in survey design and application, which promote open communications between the licensee and the regulator in negotiating the most appropriate decommissioning solution for a site. This presentation will include an overview of the Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Process, discuss trends in MARSSIM implementation, and cite examples of complexities and flexibilities inherent to the document that users and service providers have learned to exploit to their advantage.

Tom Hansen is the President of Ameriphysics, LLC. He possesses more than 20 years nuclear field experience, including more than 11 years as the Corporate Radiation Safety Officer of licenses granted in Kentucky and Tennessee. Under reciprocity, he has managed decontamination and decommissioning activities authorized by the NRC and several agreement states. Mr. Hansen has planned, managed, and/or overseen more than 30 decommissioning projects, most of which have been accomplished using MARSSIM to demonstrate compliance against a dose-based release criterion and have required modeling using one or more of the RESRAD codes.

## Upcoming Events

### **Late Winter/Early Spring Meeting**

At a meeting to be scheduled within the coming months, Gary Lauten, Health Physicist at Fermilab, will speak about operational HP issues at the NuMI beamline. NuMI (Neutrinos at the Main Injector) uses protons from the Main Injector accelerator to produce an intense beam of neutrinos which are utilized by the MINOS Experiment, located 450 miles away in the Soudan Mine in Minnesota.

### **Spring Technical Symposium**

We are well on the way to planning our premier Chapter event, the Third Annual Midwest Health Physics Technical Symposium, which will be held at Argonne National Laboratory on Saturday, April 24. The first two symposiums were highly successful, with over 70 attendees at each and a cornucopia of speakers and topics. We fully expect the 2010 Symposium to build on the previous successes. The title and focus of the 2010 Symposium will be *Radioactive Contamination Events – Response and Prevention*. For members (and their professional colleagues) with information to share regarding this topic, please note the call for papers on page 3. This is a great way to share your knowledge and experience with other like-minded professionals.

---

## Message from the President

This year is already shaping up to be a successful one. We had a good turnout for our October 28th meeting with Steve Reynolds, Director of NRC Region III's Division of Nuclear Material. His presentation on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Response to the Medical Events at Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities was of interest to all attendees.

Our upcoming meeting with Tom Hansen on MARSSIM (see page 1) will be of interest to many of us, as well. Landauer, Inc. has graciously agreed to sponsor the meeting, thereby reducing the cost to our members. We decided to again use Casey's Restaurant for the meeting location, as the restaurant and location have worked out well for us with recent meetings. However, we are always open to suggestions about venues to host our meetings. Please let me know if you have one.

In addition to the upcoming Winter meeting, we are planning another Winter/Spring meeting to occur sometime before our Technical Symposium (see Upcoming Events, above). The meeting will likely occur in March.

And of course, we've already scheduled our Third Annual Technical Symposium for April 24, 2010. The planning committee is currently seeking presenters (see Call for Papers on page 3). As we did for last year's Symposium, we will apply for ABHP Continuing Education Credits once the meeting agenda has been finalized. Last year's Symposium was awarded 11 CECs by the ABHP.

The Board has been busy this year trying to get more members involved with Chapter activities. For example, we are always looking for ways to expand the information on our web site that is shared with all of you. If you have an interest in writing articles or summarizing meetings, we would welcome your participation. If you are interested, please contact Karl Fischer (kfischer@anl.gov) or me (cboggs@anl.gov). Or perhaps you are interested in serving on a Committee for National? If so, please let me know and the Chapter will write a letter of recommendation for you. As always, there are many ways to get involved. The choice is yours!

Sincerely,  
Cindy Boggs

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Third Annual Midwest Health Physics Technical Symposium  
Saturday, April 24, 2010

This full-day Symposium will focus upon the detection of, response to, and prevention of radioactive contamination events.

The Midwest Chapter of the Health Physics Society encourages all interested professionals, both Chapter members and non-members, to submit abstracts for presentations associated with the occurrence, detection, analysis, impact, and/or prevention of radioactive contamination events at their facilities.

If you are interested in presenting at the Symposium, please send an e-mail with your topic and contact information to Sheri Minnick ([sminnick@anl.gov](mailto:sminnick@anl.gov)) or John Schrage ([john.schrage@exeloncorp.com](mailto:john.schrage@exeloncorp.com)) by February 15, 2010. The deadline for submission of short abstracts is March 1, 2010. All presenters will receive complimentary admission to the Symposium.

---

### Notice of Potential Bylaw Changes to be Considered for Adoption

Three changes to the Bylaws are recommended by the Board for your consideration. To comply with provisions in the Bylaws that govern Bylaw amendments, a vote on these changes will be conducted at our March meeting. A copy of the Bylaws can be found on the Chapter website ([midwesthps.org](http://midwesthps.org)). Please send any questions or concerns to Cindy Boggs ([cboggs@anl.gov](mailto:cboggs@anl.gov)).

Change Article IV DUES, Section 1, to read:

Dues of Members, Associate Members, and Affiliates are paid on a calendar year basis, becoming payable on January 1. ***Dues paid by New Members during the last quarter of a year will be considered to be in good standing for the following year.*** Members, Associate Members, and Affiliates whose dues are unpaid on March 1 of that year shall not be in good standing. Voting and other Chapter privileges will be reinstated by payment of all delinquent Chapter dues. Emeritus Members are not required to pay dues, or to reapply for continuation of membership once established.

Basis for the change: Board feels that new members should not be penalized for joining late in the year.

Change Article V Section 4, Terms of Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph to read:

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen by vote of the membership ***for terms of two years on alternating years.*** These officers shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting for election of their office as specified by the Bylaws and until their successors are elected.

Basis for the change: To allow for continuity within and between these two offices, which have many responsibilities and work closely together. The longer term and overlap should help both offices operate more effectively.

Change Article VII ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS, Section 2, to read:

The election of officers and board members shall be accomplished by ballot. The Nominating Committee appointed by the Chapter President shall prepare the ballot. A ballot shall be sent to all voting members at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting and shall have provisions for write-in candidates. ***Balloting may be conducted through postal mail or electronic mail, depending on the preference of each member.***

Basis for the change: Would allow the use of electronic mail as an efficient and inexpensive option for conducting elections. Currently, most members prefer to receive Chapter mailings by email.

## LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY NEWS

### U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Regulatory Items of Interest

#### **NRC SEEKS COMMENT, PLANS PUBLIC MEETINGS ON BLENDING OF LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on issues associated with blending of low-level radioactive waste and is planning public meetings to discuss blending in Rockville, Md.

The issue of blending low-level radioactive waste has received increased attention from the nuclear industry since the 2008 closing of the Barnwell, S.C., low-level waste disposal site. This action left waste generators in 36 states with no disposal options for Class B and Class C wastes, the two classes of low-level waste with higher radioactivity. Blending in some cases can lower the classification of the wastes to the lower-radioactivity Class A, which has available disposal capacity, by reducing the concentration of radionuclides.

Blending refers to mixing low-level wastes of different concentrations, primarily Class B or C with Class A. It does not involve mixing radioactive waste with non-radioactive waste, a practice known as “dilution,” and it does not imply release of radioactive material to the general environment, either to municipal non-radioactive waste disposal sites or to consumer products. Blended wastes remain low-level waste and must be disposed in a licensed low-level waste disposal facility.

Blending is not prohibited or expressly addressed in NRC regulations. NRC staff guidance discourages blending in some circumstances, but also recognizes that blending – including blending that lowers the classification of a waste – may be appropriate in others.

NRC Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko directed the agency staff on October 8 to prepare a vote paper within six months for the Commission to consider issues related to blending of low-level radioactive wastes. Specific questions to be discussed at the upcoming public meeting are spelled out in a Federal Register notice published Nov. 30 seeking public comment.

A public meeting will be held Jan. 14 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Legacy Hotel & Meeting Centre, 1775 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md., to receive public comment on blending issues. In addition, NRC staff will meet separately with three companies that have expressed interest in blending in order to better understand their views. The staff met with stakeholders in mid-December (i.e., Waste Control Specialists, Studsvik, and Energy *Solutions*) to enable the NRC staff to better understand the views of these companies on blending and to allow more time at the January 14 meeting for comments from interested members of the public.

---

Comments may be submitted in writing through January 29 to Chief, Rulemaking and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop TWB 5B01M, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; by fax to (301) 492-3446; or electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov> using docket ID NRC-2009-0520.

**Winter Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 19, 2010**  
*Sponsored by Landauer, Inc.*

A Breakdown in Communication: Degeneration of Applied MARSSIM  
Approaches to Decommissioning

Mr. Tom Hansen  
President  
Ameriphysics, LLC

**Date:** Tuesday, January 19, 2010

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. Social Hour  
7:00 p.m. Dinner  
7:45 p.m. Featured Speaker

**Location:** Casey's Restaurant  
415 East North Avenue  
Lombard, IL  
(630) 932-4777  
<http://caseysrestaurant.com/>  
for directions

**Cost:** \$20 per person for members and spouse; \$23 per person for non-members.

**Menu Choices are:**

London Broil with noodles,

Fettuccine Alfredo with chicken, or

Baked Boston Scrod with rice

Soup, salad, and dessert are included with  
all meals

**Reservations:** Phone or e-mail your reservation and meal choice to Cindy Boggs at (630) 252-3701 or [cboggs@anl.gov](mailto:cboggs@anl.gov) by 4 p.m. Monday, January 18.