Western Interstate Energy Board

ADVANCED NUCLEAR IN THE WEST WORKSHOP

May 29-30, 2024

Inn at 500 Capitol, Boise, Idaho

FINAL AGENDA

Day 1: Wednesday, May 29, 2024

8:00– 8:45 am Welcome Breakfast

8:45 – 9:00 Introduction

9:00 – 10:00 The History of Nuclear Power in the West

Before fairly considering a possible future full of advanced nuclear power reactors, attendees must be grounded in what came before: nuclear weapons that led to nuclear power. The unique Western experiences with this history will be highlighted within the framework of the greater U.S. and Canadian landscape.

- MODERATOR: Richard Stover, Administrator, Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources
- Alan Carr, Historian, Los Alamos National Laboratory Slides
- Jonathan D. Grams, GAIN Project Researcher, Idaho National Laboratory Slides
- John Stewart, Faculty, Max Bell School of Public Policy Slides

10:00 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:30 Nuclear Power Regulation

Due to its beginnings in the nuclear weapons program and its perceived risk profile, nuclear power's regulatory framework is unique and complex. This session will give an overview of how nuclear materials and activities are regulated in the U.S., explore where state power fits in, and look to a possible future regulatory framework for advanced reactors.

- MODERATOR: Michael Furze, Assistant Director, Washington State Department of Commerce, Energy Division
- Ryan D. Alexander, Regional State/Govt. Liaison Officer, U.S. Nuclear

Regulatory Commission, Region IV Slides
- Landry J. Austin, INL Oversight Program Manager, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Slides
- Marc Nichol, Executive Director New Nuclear, Nuclear Energy Institute Slides

11:30 – 1:00 Lunch on your own

1:00 – 2:15 Nuclear Power Economics

One of the biggest unknowns in a possible future of advanced nuclear reactors is that of cost. With so few new reactors being built in the 21st century in North America; with those that have been built experiencing huge cost overruns and delays; and with so many untested reactor designs in the works – the economics of these new power plants remains a large open question.

- MODERATOR: Stephen Goodson, Policy Advisor, Idaho Public Utility Commission
- Levi Larsen, Energy Economist, Idaho National Laboratory
- Kelly Lefler, Deputy Director for Resource Adequacy, U.S. Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office Slides
- Greg Cullen, VP, Energy Services and Development, Energy Northwest Slides
- Emily Nichols, Program Coordinator, Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear, Idaho National Laboratory Slides

2:15 – 2:45 Break

2:45 – 3:45 But what about the waste?

Whenever the topic of nuclear power is under discussion, the inevitable question arises: what about the waste? Nuclear power production results in spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive wastes which scientific consensus says must be isolated from the living environment for, in some cases, thousands of years. Although Canada has made great strides in its waste program in recent years, the U.S. waste program has been stalled for over a decade. This session will provide a brief overview of different waste types that would be generated by advanced reactors, the need for a permanent repository for some wastes, and the status of the U.S. and Canadian waste programs.

- MODERATOR: Fred Dilger, PhD, Executive Director, Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects
- Katrina McMurrian, Executive Director, Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition Slides
- Brendan McClughan, Senior Advisor, External Relations, Nuclear Waste Management Organization, Canada Slides
- Paul T. Dickman, Senior Policy Fellow (retired), Argonne National Laboratory; Member, Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board, National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Slides

3:45 – 4:15 Facilitated discussion and wrap-up Day 1

Day 2: Thursday, May 30, 2024

8:00 – 9:00 am Networking Breakfast

9:00 – 10:15 Advanced Reactors: What are they and what can they do?

Day 2 of the Workshop will begin with an exploration of all things advanced nuclear. What are the capabilities, characteristics, and possible uses of these reactors? Particular focus will be paid to advanced reactor projects in the West, both private and U.S. Department of Energy-led.

- MODERATOR: Marc Nichol, Executive Director New Nuclear, Nuclear Energy Institute Slides
- Christina Walrond, Stakeholder Engagement Lead, Advanced Nuclear and Industrial Demonstrations, Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, U.S. Department of Energy Slides
- Benjamin T. Reinke, PhD, Vice President of Global Business Development, X-Energy Slides
- John Jackson, PhD, National Technical Director, U.S. Department of Energy Microreactor Program, Idaho National Laboratory Slides
- Joshua L. Parker, P.E., Director, Business Development, BWXT Advanced Technologies, LLC Slides

10:15 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:30 Nonproliferation, National Security, and the International Order

One final dimension of nuclear power that must be explored for full understanding of its various dimensions is that of its connection to national security. This session will bring the discussion back to nuclear power's connection to nuclear weapons, framing the private sector in the greater context of international relations and the geopolitical balancing act of nuclear deterrence.

- MODERATOR: Melanie Snyder, Nuclear Energy Policy Program Manager, Western Interstate Energy Board
- Cindy Vestergaard, Senior Fellow and Director of the Converging Technologies and Global Security Program, Stimson Institute *Slides available upon request to Workshop participants*

11:30 – 1:00 Lunch on your own

1:00 – 3:30 Advanced Nuclear Workshop

At this point, attendees will have the opportunity to synthesize what they've learned about advanced nuclear power and apply it to a hypothetical scenario. Attendees will be

broken up into small groups and asked to consider whether to approve a proposed advanced nuclear power project given the project's characteristics and the group's hypothetical role. Afterwards, everyone will return to report on their small group conversations and to participate in a final all-together group discussion.

3:30 Adjourn Workshop