

ADVANCED NUCLEAR IN THE WEST WORKSHOP

May 29-30, 2024

Inn at 500 Capitol, Boise, Idaho

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1: **Wednesday, May 29, 2024**

8:00– 9:00 am **Welcome Breakfast**

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.

- Alan Carr, historian, Los Alamos National Lab – virtual, confirmed
- John Stewart, Fellow, Canadian Global Affairs Institute – confirmed

10:00 – 10:30 **Break**

10:30 – 11:30 **Nuclear Power Regulation: What is the State’s Role?**

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.

- Ryan Alexander, Regional State/Gov’t Liaison Officer, Region IV, NRC – confirmed
- Brian Goretzki, Chief, Bureau of Radiation Control, Arizona Department of Health Services - invited
- Marc Nichol, Executive Director of New Nuclear, Nuclear Energy Institute – confirmed

11:30 – 1:00 Lunch on your own

1:00 – 2:00 **The Economics of Nuclear Power**

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.

- Greg Cullen, VP, Energy Services and Development, Energy Northwest – confirmed
- Julie Kozeracki, Director of Strategy, DOE Loan Programs Office – invited

2:00 – 2:30 Break

2:30 – 3:30 **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.

- Katrina McMurrian, Executive Director, Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition – invited
- Nuclear Waste Management Organization rep, Canada – invited
- Paul Dickman, Argonne National Lab, Member, National Academy of Sciences – invited

3:30 – 4:00 **Facilitated discussion and wrap-up Day 1**

4:00 **Adjourn Day 1**

Day 2: Thursday, May 30, 2024

8:00 – 9:00 am **Networking Breakfast**

9:00 – 10:30

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.

- Benjamin Reinke, VP, Global Business Development, X-Energy – confirmed
- John Jackson, PhD, National Technical Director, U.S. DOE Microreactor Program – confirmed
- TerraPower representative – invited
- Christina Walrond, Stakeholder and Engagement Lead, Advanced Nuclear and Industrial Demonstrations, U.S. DOE – invited

10:30 – 11:00

Break

11:00 – 11:30

Nuclear and National Security

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.

- Cindy Vestergaard, Senior Fellow and Director of the Converging Technologies and Global Security Program, Stimson Institute - confirmed

11:30 – 1:00

Lunch TBD – possible lunch and learn on fusion power

1:00 – 3:30

State/Provincial Workshop

At this point, attendees will have the opportunity to synthesize what they've learned about advanced nuclear power and apply it to their respective states and provinces. Representatives will be provided with a dossier on their state or province that will include a quick snapshot of existing nuclear activities, proposed projects, relevant statutes, and proposed legislation. Attendees will be broken up into small groups to discuss the prospects and possibilities of advanced nuclear power in a specified state or province. 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