

## **Preliminary Version- Pending Commission Approval**

**Minutes of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Meeting,  
12 July, 2006**

**Dr. Mecca called the meeting of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission to order at 8:04 AM. Present were Commissioners: Dr. Alfred Allen, Dr. Stephen Mecca, Dr. Andrew Kadak, Dr. L. Peter Gromet, and Dr. Bahram Nassersharif and staff Dr. Terry Tehan, Jeff Davis and Mike Middleton.**

### **1. Minutes of the 4 April 2006 RIAEC Meeting.**

**Dr. Allen made a motion to accept the amended minutes (copy attached). Dr. Nassersharif seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were reviewed. A Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.**

**2. Reactor Operator Qualification Progress Report. Mike Middleton submitted a written report on qualification status (memo attached).**

**3. Operating Budget/ Capital Budget. Dr. Tehan presented a written report on the budget (copy attached). Dr. Kadak moved to send Dr. Gromet's revised letter to the Governor. Dr Allen seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Grants. Dr Tehan submitted a written report on grant status (copy attached).**

**5. Search for new NRSC member with nuclear engineering experience. Dr. Gromet made a motion to amend the guidance to add a member and to find some one with nuclear experience. Dr. Kadak seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.**

**6. Jeff Davis submitted a written report on the July Emergency Drill(copy attached).**

**7.Mike Middleton submitted a written report on new training initiatives (copy Attached).**

**8. The pool leak was discussed. While it was noted that the leak has been in place from the earliest days when the reactor was constructed, it would be valuable to have a model representing the extent of the leak as a function of environmental and operating conditions. It was offered that perhaps this could be an undergraduate senior project for an applied physics student.**

**9. Old Business**

**The meeting schedule was discussed and it was decided that the next meeting would be at 8:00 A.M. Wednesday 27 September 2006 at the R.I. Nuclear Science Center.**

#### **10. New Business**

**A discussion was held on priorities for facility utilization. ..The Commission requested that the leadership team draft utilization opportunities and options that could analyzed and prioritized with the Commission during the ensuing year.**

#### **11. Old Business**

**A discussion was held regarding experimental loading of incore devices and sending the NRSC meeting minutes to the commission. The status of the MCNP program was discussed.**

#### **11. Adjournment**

**Dr. Kadak made a motion and Dr. Allen seconded a motion to adjourn which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.**

## **Revised Minutes of 4 April 2006 RIAEC Meeting**

### **Minutes of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission Meeting, 4 April, 2006**

**Dr. Mecca called the meeting of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission to order at 7:45 AM. Present were Commissioners: Dr. Alfred Allen, Dr. Stephen Mecca, Dr. Andrew Kadak, Dr. L. Peter Gromet, and Dr. Bahram Nassersharif and staff Dr. Terry Tehan, Jeff Davis and Mike Middleton.**

#### **1. Minutes of the 12 September 2005 RIAEC Meeting.**

**Dr. Mecca made a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Bahram Nassersharif seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were reviewed. A Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.**

**2. Operations report. Mike Middleton left to attend computer training in Providence. He submitted a written report on reducing spurious scrams, equipment updates and increased facility utilization and discussed the items with commissioners before the meeting. The board requested that an MCNP model be obtained to better understand the neutronic impact of experiments and detectors inserted into the core.**

**3. Budget. Dr. Tehan presented a report on the budget through March 30, 2006. Dr. Gromet moved to accept the budget. Dr Nassersharif seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. It was suggested that Dr. Tehan begin training someone who can handle budget preparations for the Center. In addition, given the potential staffing implications of the Governor's plans regarding sick and vacation time, the Commission requested that Dr. Tehan prepare a contingency plan for the reactor should the Governor's plans be implemented. The Commission would like to review this plan to determine the best course of action to keep the facility in operation.**

**4. Grants. Dr Tehan submitted a written report on grant status.**

**5. Administrative Procedure One for Radioactive Material License**

**Amendment Changes/ Byproduct License Renewal-NRC Inspection Results. The report was reviewed. The board requested that the NRSC review the loading of in core devices in regard personnel qualifications (training and fitness), responsibilities (Ops or HP) and overall safety of the plank used to walk across the top of the pool to determine whether reasonable alternatives exist. The board also requested a review of the liquid discharge cited by the NRC and other matters as contained in the NRC exit interview and final NRC report. The Commission would like to receive the minutes of the upcoming NRSC meeting.**

**6. Jeff Davis submitted a written report on EMT Training and Procedures updates.**

**7.The results of the NRC security inspection were discussed.**

**8. Dr. Nassersharif made a motion and Dr. Gromet seconded a motion to commend Dr. Robertshaw for his many years of service on the RINSC safety committees. The motion passed unanimously. A letter of appreciation was signed by all commissioners and it will be forwarded with the letter of appreciation from the governor. The Board approved Dr. John Breen of Providence College as his replacement. The board requested the director to research the appointment of someone with nuclear engineering expertise for appointment to the NRSC. Dr. Gromet made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Allen to approve Dr. Breen's appointment to the**

**NRSC. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **9. Old Business**

**The meeting schedule was discussed and it was decided that the next meeting would be at 8 AM, 6 November, 2006 at the R.I. Nuclear Science Center.**

## **8. New Business**

**A discussion was held on ways to increase facility utilization. The Commission requested that a flyer be crafted to promote the capability of RINSC to the academic community and that a letter to chairs of every science and engineering department in the state's colleges and universities be drafted to accompany a set of flyers with a request that these be distributed to the science and engineering faculty. The Commission felt that it was important to increase university engagement with the reactor both in teaching and research. Continued dialogue with the RI Economic Development Commission was also encouraged.**

## **9. Adjournment**

**Dr. Mecca made a motion and Dr. Nassersharif seconded a motion to adjourn which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.**

**Attachment- Letter to Governor dated 12 July 2006**

**July 12, 2006**

**The Honorable Governor Donald L. Carcieri  
Office of the Governor  
State House Room 143  
Providence, RI 02903**

**Dear Governor Carcieri:**

**This letter expresses our deep concern regarding the cuts in the FY 2007 Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission (RIAEC) Budget that was recently approved.**

**It is our obligation under our mandate from the State of Rhode Island to inform you that the proposed budget reduction for RIAEC will likely result in a staffing level that places the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center (RINSC) in violation of our operating license with the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The reason for this is that cuts in previous years' budgets have resulted in a staffing level that is at the minimum required by our license with the NRC. Should a vacancy occur, the current reduction-in-force measures would cause the RINSC to be in violation of the license manning requirements. Also, the 5.5% turnover requirement will result in our budget being exhausted at the end of the third quarter, which will prevent the Commission from purchasing the required services to operate RINSC in accordance with the terms of the NRC license.**

**All Commissioners of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission are in unanimous agreement in recommending to you that the RIAEC 2007 Budget be restored to levels necessary for the safe operation of the facility's nuclear reactor and supporting laboratories. We consider this essential to our ability to operate RINSC for the state without jeopardizing reactor and radiation safety and security.**

**If you need further information or have any questions please contact Dr. Terry Tehan, Director of the RINSC, at 789-9391.**

**Sincerely,**

**Stephen Mecca, Ph.D.  
Nassersharif, Ph.D.  
Chairman, RIAEC  
RIAEC**

**Andrew Kadak, Ph.D.  
Commissioner, RIAEC**

**Bahram  
Commissioner,**

**L. Peter Gromet, Ph.D.  
Commissioner, RIAEC**

**Alfred Allen Ph.D.  
Commissioner, RIAEC**

**Copy to:           Budget Officer  
                      Senate Fiscal Staff  
                      House Fiscal Staff**

**Attachment: Training memo**

**From: Michael Middleton [ mmiddleton@gso.uri.edu]**

**Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 9:13 AM**

**To: Stephen Mecca; L\_Gromet@brown. edu; Andrew Kadak; Alfred.  
allen@us.**

**army. mil; bn@egr.uri.edu**

**Cc: Terry Tehan**

**Subject: Training at RINSC**

**All staff members have completed their requalification that was due this year.**

**Jeff Davis has also renewed his license.**

**The qualification status of the staff is reviewed each quarter by the NRSC, as required by our Tech Specs.**

**RINSC had planned to have Maggie Damato retake her RO license exam this summer. This date has been pushed back until October. At that time we will also have Bruce McGregor take his SRO license exam.**

**Jeff Davis has recently completed a week long training session sponsored by the NRC at White Flint and will be assisting these two in preparing for their exams.**

**Attachment: Emergency Drill Memo:**

**From: stephen.mecca@gmail.com on behalf of Stephen Mecca [smecca@providence.edu ]**

**Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 11:21 AM**

**To: Michael J. Davis**

**Cc: Kadak@earthlink.net; BN@uri.edu; L\_Gromet@brown.edu;  
Alfred.Allen@us.army.mil; MMiddleton@gso.uri.edu;  
TTehan@gso.uri.edu**

**Subject: Re: RINSC Emergency Drill**

**Michael:**

**If the drill is meant to have a walk through of procedures so that everyone knows what they are, it sounds fine. If the drill is meant to evaluate the effectiveness of the procedures, I wonder about the advisability of pre-announcing the drill. Emergencies happen without pre-warning. Shouldn't the drills that test the process for such events happen without pre-warning?**

**It's not necessary to respond here; the Commission is meeting tomorrow and this can be clarified then.**

**Thanks for sending along your note in this matter.**

**..Steve**

**On 7/11/06, Michael J. Davis wrote:**

**Gentlemen -**

**Terry asked that I send you a note regarding the status of our upcoming**

**emergency drill. We are in the process of working with the Narragansett**

**Police Department to involve them in this year's drill. The scenario that I**

have in mind is the receipt of a telephone call to inform us that there is a bomb in the facility. We expect to have this drill in August.

Since September 11, I have been trying to come up with drills that would coordinate the entire emergency response community. In 2002 our drill scenario was a truck bomb, which is the threat that NRC used as the basis of the Confirmatory Action Letter security measures that we are now required to meet. This led to the installation of the bollards around the facility, and the movement of our evacuation site from the building next door, to a building that would not be likely to be affected by the size bomb that was proposed by NRC. In 2003, as suggested by RIAEC, we tested our evacuation response to make sure that everyone in the facility knew where to go, and what items to bring with them. Last year our scenario involved a contaminated victim that needed medical attention. We met with representative from the Narragansett Fire Department and Rhode Island Hospital to make sure that each of our response efforts would be well

**coordinated. As a result of this drill, most of the fire fighters toured the facility to re-familiarize themselves with the layout. I provided radiological training to all of the fire fighters. The objective of this year's drill is to bring the Narragansett Police Department into the fold.**

**Next year's drill needs to involve the URI GSO campus, to develop an emergency response that includes others on the campus that could be effected by RINSC emergencies.**

**As always, if there are any questions, comments, or suggestions please do not hesitate to let me know.**

**Jeff Davis**

**--**

**Stephen Mecca**

**Professor**

**Department Engineering-Physics-Systems**

**Providence College**

**Attachment: New Training Initiatives**

**From: Michael Middleton [ mmiddleton@gso.uri.edu]**

**Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2006 10:16 AM**

**To: bn@egr.uri.edu; Alfred. allen@us. army. mil; Andrew Kadak;  
L\_Gromet@brown. edu; Stephen Mecca**

**Cc: Terry Tehan**

**Subject: July 12 th RIAEC meeting New Training Initiatives**

**Attached are items for discussion at the July 12th RIAEC.**

**6.A. Flyer/brochure and letter, see attached,RINSC Pamphlet.ppt,  
RINSCbrochure.pdf, RINSC marketing.doc & COLLEGE  
Addresslabels.doc**

**6.B. URI Physics Experiments/Labs, RINSC is working with Dr. Nunes  
from URI**

**along with his graduate student,'Raj' Rajendra Adhikari to reburish  
and**

**calibrate the gonimeter. During the summer we will be competing  
the**

**calibration of the gonimeter for the fall semester. RINSC is also  
working**

**with U Mass Lowell to setup the lab for Web based access for the  
spring**

**semester.**

**6.C. URI-MIT Science Teacher Training, Program description, see**

**attached,**

**NEST Tour.doc**