

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

### **Minutes of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission**

**Meeting of 14 May 2009**

**Dr. Mecca called the meeting of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission to order. Present were Commissioners Dr. Nassersharif, Dr. Kadak, Dr Nunes and Dr.Mecca, and staff: Dr. Terry Tehan and Jeff Davis. Bill Golas of the Budget office. Dr. Gromet was excused.**

#### **1.Minutes of the 29 December 2009 RIAEC Meeting.**

**Dr. Kadak made a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Nunes seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were reviewed. A Motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously. (Enclosure 1)**

**2. License Renewal An extensive discussion was held on the status of the license renewal of the reactor. NRC's questions on the renewal license application were extensive as if it was a complete new license and not focusing on age related issues typically addressed in power reactor license renewals. The Commission sent a letter to the NRC asking for a meeting and clarification of the basis for renewals of research reactors. The call by Dr. Mecca to Chairman Jaycsko was not returned. A review of the status of the hundreds of questions was made. It was decided that the staff would answer those questions that are readily answerable and include the results of the safety reanalysis being performed by Argonne National Laboratory. It was**

**also suggested that the staff include the original 1962 safety analysis report in our response as well as a reminder of the 1994 safety analysis reviewed by NRC as part of the low enriched fuel upgrade which contains the latest safety analysis. No commitments should be made by RISNC staff as to completion of the answers until we are able to meet with the NRC commissioners to clarify the renewal process. It appears that the 60 day response schedule demanded by NRC is driven by the poor performance of NRC in reviewing license renewals since the RINSC application was filed more than 6 years ago.**

**The staff was also directed to contact other research reactors to determine the status of their license renewal efforts and NRC interactions. Should they be similar, it was suggested that those reactors develop a common position on NRC's process as being unduly burdensome compared to that of power reactors that have much larger radioactive inventories and energy content.**

**The Commission expects to be fully informed of the interactions with NRC and the status of the answers to the questions. The Commission needs to review the letter containing whatever responses are prepared. Under the circumstance that RINSC does not have the financial nor technical resources to respond to each question and the disruption in normal activity precipitated by this RAI, it is desirable to formally document the RIAEC plan to the NRC in the near term asking for an extension with no date specified pending a meeting with the NRC Commissioners.. Pending special funding for**

such a meeting, encouragement for travel to Washington for such a meeting was noted by those present.

3. Budget. Dr. Tehan presented his report on the budget (enclosure 2).

4. Staffing-The health physicist position was discussed.

5. Old Business- The next meeting of the Commission will be in July

6..Dr. Nassershriff made a report on the Nuclear Engineering program at URI and the new grants.

7. Dr. Nunes made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Nassershrif seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

**Enclosure 1**

**Minutes of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission**

**Meeting of 29 December 2009**

**Dr. Mecca called the meeting of the Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission to order. Present were Commissioners Dr. Nassersharif, Dr. Kadak, Dr Nunes and Dr.Mecca, and staff: Dr. Terry Tehan and Jeff Davis**

**1.Minutes of the 1 December 2009 RIAEC Meeting.**

**Dr. Nassersharif made a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Kadak seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were reviewed. A Motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously. (Enclosure 1)**

**2. Re-Licensing- Dr. Mecca made a presentation on decommissioning costs for research reactors and there was a discussion on the letter that is to be sent to the NRC regarding financial assurances for re-licensing. based on the discussion, Dr. Mecca is going to provide a rough draft of the letter to the Commissioners .**

**3.Strategic Plan- A discussion was held regarding future initiatives. The following items were discussed**

**A. Facility Clean-Up**

- . Make the facility more attractive for users**
- Develop an organizational culture of cleanliness**
- Continue facility clean-up and refurbishment**
- Improve reactor room aesthetics**

**B. Facility Utilization**

**. Find funding support for a summer science teacher workshop**

- 1. Talk to John Gutteridge at NRC regarding grants**
- 2. Determine who will fund what**

**Education outreach to high school science programs**

**Invite university faculty members for lunch to discuss what kinds of work has been done at RINSC in the past, what capabilities RINSC currently has, and what capabilities RINSC should acquire in order to be useful in the future**

- 1. Invite industry representatives to provide information about industry needs**
- 2. Develop collaborative grants**
- 3. Schedule after RIAEC meetings so that RIAEC members are available to meet**

**NEUP Infrastructure Grant Ideas**

- 1. Teacher workshop funding**
- 2. Remove reactor room intake ductwork (consider a new heating system)**
- 3. Upgrade the machine shop (talk to ME and Physics shop managers)**

- 4. Increase the neutron flux level**
- 5. Refurbish facility laboratories**
- 6. Rabbit system upgrade funding**
- 7. New GeLi system bench top power supplies**
- 8. Counting laboratory radioactive source sets to use with new GeLi systems**
- 9. Nim Bin and IT system upgrade funding**

#### **Other Ideas**

- 1. Develop a digital facility floor plan**
- 2. Collaborate with URI CIS Department for IT upgrade as a capstone project**
  
- 4. Old Business- The next meeting of the Commission will be on Tuesday, March 2 2010 at 8:30 AM in the RINSC Classroom**
  
- 5. Dr. Kadak made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Nunes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously**

**Enclosure 2 budget brief**

To all. The House Finance Budget brief is attached. As of now the supplemental for FY2010 has not been approved but it currently does not have any additional cuts to the existing budget. I have attached my April 5 report to budget that shows our spending trends. The general fund operating budget number is low because we pay for electricity and other major items out of the URI overhead fund which will come to around \$75,000 by the end of June. If we did not have the 40% overhead charge we would have been out of money several months ago. We have been using what is left of our old DOE grants to fund the URI engineering project (rabbit system) which is almost completed and looks good. The capital budget was frozen several months ago but we managed to get \$31,000 of the \$50,000 budget to pay for the new classroom. We will have to see if they freeze the capital budget for FY2011 because we need new windows.

We are paying for two student's salaries. Taylor's salary comes from the money that Bahram's grant provided and he is giving us more. Mike's salary is coming from the general account currently but we will have to reimburse it from Bahram's account when the money comes in. We still have half of the last infrastructure grant to spend on reactor items to the tune of over \$100,000. I submitted a reactor upgrade grant that Tony reviewed for me last week for \$700,000 to cover relicensing at 2 MW and a 5 mw upgrade.

Since the state has frozen travel, Jim Matos paid for Zack and Jeff to spend a week at Argonne going over the NRC questions. He wants them back for another week soon.

We will be receiving 8 new fuel elements this summer which would

**cost around \$400,000 but this does not show up in our financials. I did bring that up at the budget hearing with Rep Gablinske and he was quite positive in our discussion before the meeting. Ken Carter was also supportive of RINSC.**