



THE *BILLET* STC NEWSLETTER

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER of the HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

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Governor Perry Appoints Bob Emery to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board

Pete and Karen Myers

Governor Rick Perry has appointed Robert Emery, Dr. Ph., CHP, to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB).

The board advises the State on radiation issues and reviews rules, policies and programs of state agencies that regulate radiation.

Bob is Vice President of Safety, Health, Environment and Risk Management for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and Associate Professor of Occupational Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health. He is board-certified in Health Physics (CHP), Industrial Hygiene, Safety, Biosafety, Hazardous Materials Management, Risk Management and Security. He is a member of the American Public Health Association, the National Environmental Health Association, the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the American Biological Safety Association, the American

Society of Safety Engineers, and the National Health Physics Society.

Bob received a BS degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, an MS degree in Radiological Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an MS degree in Environmental Health from East Carolina University, and a Doctor of Public Health degree in Occupational Health from the University of Texas School of Public Health.

Bob has been a member of the Health Physics Society (HPS) since 1988 and a member of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society since 1993. Some of Bob's more significant involvements with HPS and STC include:

- 1997–1999 HPS Program Committee
- 2001–2002 STC President-Elect and Program Committee Chair
- 2002–2003 STC President




Mr. Bob Emery

- 2003 Local Arrangements Committee for HPS' Midyear Meeting in San Antonio.

Bob is currently an Associate Editor of HPS' *Operational Radiation Safety*.

Bob joins two other STC members currently serving on TRAB: John Hageman, CHP, and Ian Hamilton, CHP. John currently serves as Chair of TRAB.

Congratulations Bob, from all your HPS and STC friends! Best wishes as you undertake significant new and important responsibilities relative to radiation safety in Texas. 

Annual Meeting & Student Paper Presentations

April 16, 2011 ★ Waco, Texas

Go to www.stc-hps.org to register online!

Want details about next Annual Meeting? Read about the Annual Meeting & Student Paper Presentations on page 13 of this issue of *The Billet STC Newsletter*.

★★★ WELCOME NEW STC MEMBERS, listed on page 3. ★★★

Donations to STC-HPS Student Scholarship Funds

Generous donations to STC-HPS Educational Funds were made November 2010–January 2011 by the following:

Ed Bailey
Consultant

Stan Bravenec
Audie L. Murphy
VA Hospital

Luz Cheng
University of Texas
Medical Branch

Bob Cherry
U.S. Army, Installation
Management Command

David Fogle
Texas Department of
State Health Services

Eddie Giles
St. Luke's Episcopal
Hospital

John Hageman
Southwest Research
Institute

Betty Hail
Owens Scientific, Inc.

Susan Jablonski
Texas Commission on
Environmental Quality

Ken Krieger
Texas State Technical
College



Ruth McBurney
Conference of
Radiation Control
Program Directors

Linda Morris
Texas State Technical
College

Karen Myers
Retired

Pete Myers
Retired

Andrew Neil
Pathfinder Energy Services

Scott Nichelson
U.S. Air Force, Institute for
Environment, Safety,
and Occupational
Health Risk Analysis

Jack Owens
Owens Scientific, Inc.

John Poston, Sr.
Texas A&M University

Bruce Schoenbucher
Retired

Binesh Tharakan
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission

Francis Towey
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State Health Services

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The Executive Council, South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society, offers its most sincere thanks

for making contributions important to the viability of the Chapters' funds, which provide significant assistance to:

- Students preparing for their futures (e.g., scholarships, educational grants, research paper awards, and science fair awards)
- STC's Science Teacher Workshop Program, which educates teachers in grade levels 4–12 on the basics of radiation science and encourages them to better educate their students (e.g., providing free lesson plans, reference materials, class demonstrations, videotapes, software packages, and radiation detection devices).


The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) is a professional society that was organized and chartered in 1964. Its objectives are to:

- -Develop scientific knowledge in the study of radiation
- -Devise practical means to protect people and their environment from harmful effects of radiation
- -Provide and support meetings to discuss scientific endeavors
- -Encourage scientific research and education dedicated to the science of radiation protection
- -Aid in research and education opportunities in health physics and radiation protection for college and university students

Education Grants

The Student Education Grants are now available for 2011.
As always, the STC will be giving a \$1,000 Associate Student Degree Grant and a \$1,000 Graduate Student Degree Grant.

Application deadline is May 27, 2011.

Students should attach their Spring grade transcripts to their applications. The educational grant winners will be announced at the September 2011 STC-HPS meeting. 

*Application forms are available on the STC Web site at:
www.stc-hps.org/student.htm*



Fada Guan, a Health Physics Graduate Student at Texas A&M University, was awarded the South Texas Chapter's Graduate Education Grant. He has been active at many STC meetings, and presented a paper at the College Station meeting in 2009. Fada is pictured with David Fogle.

Student Assistance Education Grants for 2011–2012

*Applications for
Student Assistance Education Grants for
2011–2012
must be sent to Linda Morris by
May 27, 2011.*

The forms can be found at:

www.stc-hps.org/student.htm

*The
SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER
of the
HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, INC.*

welcomes our

NEW MEMBERS & APPLICANTS



Eric Wittenbach
*South Texas Veterans
Healthcare System
Regular*

Silvia Zengals
*Texas Biomedical Research Institute
Regular*

Binesh Tharakan
*U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Regular*

Nastassia Maistry
*Pathfinder Energy Services
Regular*

Jesus Loya
*Dynamic Systems, Inc.
Regular*

Staci Dupree
*Owens Scientific, Inc.
Regular*

Annie Backhaus
*Texas Department of
State Health Services
Regular*



We wish them well in all their endeavors and especially hope that their association with the South Texas Chapter will be long and mutually rewarding!

South Texas Chapter Winter Meeting: Future of Nuclear Power

Kenneth Krieger, Jennifer Watson, and Michael Charlton

*Photos courtesy of:
Dr. John Poston, Sr.
Texas A&M University*

The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society held its Winter Topical Meeting on January 15, 2011, in San Antonio, Texas. The subject of the technical program was the future of nuclear power, and presentations were given by exceptional leaders in the field of nuclear power in Texas and the U.S.

STC President Karen Blanchard opened the meeting by welcoming all of the attendees. She then turned the technical portion of the meeting over to Dr. John Poston, Sr., who recruited and presented the speakers for the meeting.

Currently, U.S. media and Health Physics personnel have been discussing the revival of the nuclear industry, and presentations were given by individuals close to this revival.

Mr. Tim Powell, Vice President for Technical Support and Oversight at the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company, kicked off the morning session with a pre-

sentation about the licensing process for new construction, current site operation, and the timeline for start-up of Units 3 and 4 (Advanced Boiling Water Reactors) at the South Texas Project.

Mr. Jeff Simmons, Senior Director of Development, Luminant, and Commercial Manager, Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Company, followed with a presentation about a similar licensing process for the Mitsubishi PWRs at their site, and he discussed the construction of their above-ground fuel storage facility. A short break followed Mr. Simmons' presentation, allowing time for networking between the Health Physics community and Nuclear Power professionals.

The meeting continued after the break with Mr. David Matthews, Director, Division of New Reactor Licensing, NRC Office of New Reactors, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, who spoke about the current status of licensing reactors



Mr. Tim Powell



Mr. Jeff Simmons



Mr. David Matthews



Kathy Pryor and Ruth McBurney

in the U.S., staffing at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the time table for reviewing new applications, and the current licensing applications under review. He provided detailed insight into the possible future of nuclear power for the U.S. based on the expansion of current facilities.

Dr. John Zerwas, Representative, 28th District, Texas House of Representatives, gave a brief presentation on the political views of radiation, nuclear power, and information affecting the House of Representatives and the Senate in the U.S.

A lunch buffet was served, including the Texas favorite, fajitas with all the trimmings, during which attendees ate, discussed nuclear power, and networked. Following the lunch buffet, Health Physics Society President-Elect Kathy Pryor discussed the mixed oxide (MOX) production process (PIT assembly) and continued the prior discussion of the plans for the future of the Health Physics Society. She attended the meeting as a part of her year-long tour of all of the chapters of the Health Physics Society. Karen Blanchard presented Ms. Pryor with a little souvenir bag of goodies for her Texas visit.

Dr. Lee Peddicord, Director of the Nuclear Power Institute (NPI) and Professor of Nuclear Engineering at Texas A&M University, followed with a presentation about the efforts of the NPI to bring together industry and academia to produce an educated and trained workforce.

Next to speak was the illustrious Dr. Dale Klein, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Associate Vice President for Research at UT Austin and former Chairman of the NRC. He discussed

the need for future nuclear power and ways to get there as a nation. A friendly rivalry ensued between Dr. Dale Klein and Dr. Lee Peddicord regarding UT Austin versus Texas A&M University's nuclear reactors, but it was all in fun and for the amusement of the crowd.

Wrapping up the meeting was Kenneth Krieger, Instructor at Texas State Technical College (TSTC), who gave an update of the radiation protection program at TSTC. Since the program was developed to provide qualified workers for the plants, and he is a participant in the NPI collection of schools, Mr. Krieger's presentation brought several of the meeting's talks full circle in that industry needs workers, NPI uses input for industry to assist schools to create curriculums, and schools implement curriculums and produce graduates who are qualified to work in the industry.

Karen Blanchard concluded the meeting with closing remarks, and STC-HPS presentations for outstanding volunteer awards were presented by Kathy Pryor to Pete and Karen Myers, William Pate, David Fogle, and Karen Blanchard for their efforts in organizing and facilitating the Texas Regulatory Conference in Austin, September 2010.

This meeting provided attendees with a clearer picture of the future of Nuclear Power in the U.S., and more specifically, in Texas. The Chapter received many positive comments from its members about the informative presentations and high quality of the meeting. As a South Texas Chapter, we truly appreciate the efforts and participation of all of the speakers as they provided members with an excellent technical meeting. 🇺🇸



Dr. Lee Peddicord



Dr. Dale Klein



Mr. Kenneth Krieger



Karen Blanchard and Kathy Pryor

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER of the HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, INC.

Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting

January 14, 2011

Amanda Sullivan, Secretary

Persons in Attendance

Executive Council (EC) Members:

Karen Blanchard ... President
 Jennifer Watson President-Elect/
 Programs Chair -
 John White EC Member -
 Sam Daniel EC Member -
 John Salsman EC Member -
 Pete Myers Treasurer/ -
 Admissions Co-Chair/
 Publications Co-Chair
 Amanda Sullivan ... Secretary

Committee Chairpersons:

William Pate Affiliates Chair -
 Karen Myers Admissions Co-Chair/ -
 Publications Co-Chair
 John Hageman *The Billet* Editor
 Al Evans Science Teacher
 Workshop
 Linda Morris Student Assistance
 Chair

Chapter Members & Guests:

Ken Krieger STC Member & Guest -
 Ed Bailey STC Member & Guest -
 Doug Johnson STC Member & Guest -
 Scott Nicholson STC Member & Guest -
 Kathy Pryor HPS National -
 President-Elect

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Call to Order 5:05 p.m.	Quorum established	N/A
Agenda Approval	Move to approve as written Motion: Jennifer Watson Second: Stan Bravenec	<i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved
September 2010 STC-HPS Executive Meeting	Motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting Motion: John White Second: Sam Daniel	<i>Committee Vote:</i> Approved
President's Report	The 2010 Radiation Regulatory Conference (RRC) in September was a smashing success by all accounts. The post-conference evaluations indicated that attendees, overall, were pleased with the program and with the way the conference was conducted. We also got constructive feedback on areas for improvement next time. The efforts of many are to be recognized: DSHS, TCEQ, and RRC managers and staff for their work in program development, pre-conference activities, help during the conference and presentations that were given; and Chapter members who helped during the conference. The exhaustive efforts of a few rise even beyond: Pete and Karen Myers, Will Pate, and David Fogle. They were truly the backbone of the conference and directly responsible for its success. Thank you to all!	
	During the Regulatory Conference, the issue of eligibility for CEUs arose. We have had quite a bit of latitude in prior years to grant CEUs for attendance at our regular meetings. However, in the future there will be more scrutiny from the Master of Radiation Therapy (MRT) and Licensed Medical Physicist (LMP) governing bodies, and we will be held to a more strict evaluation process regarding which programs merit CEU eligibility. We will have to plan our future meeting programs with this in mind if we want to continue to be a vehicle for MRTs and LMPs to earn CEUs.	<i>Action Item:</i> Look at TDSHS rules for MRT and LMP to determine CEU eligibility.
	We have not yet filled the Nominations Chair vacancy. Emails will be sent to the current nominations committee members and then, if necessary, to the membership asking for volunteers to fill this position.	<i>Action item:</i> Solicit Nominations Chair

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<p>President's Report <i>continued</i></p>	<p>On December 16, the Chapter received a request, with a very short deadline to respond, from the Senior Appointments Manager from the Governor's Office. The request was for a list of candidates to fill a vacancy on the Texas Board of Licensure for Professional Medical Physicists. They wanted to have the appointment made by the opening of the legislative session on January 11. An email was sent to the membership, and ultimately three names were submitted: Jay Poston, Doug Johnson, and Charles Beasley. However, the appointment could not be finalized before the legislature convened, and it is still being addressed.</p>	
	<p>We received a request from Chapter member John Bliss for a letter of support for his nomination to the NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. A letter is being sent on John's behalf.</p>	
	<p>The need and timing for another regulatory conference in 2012 was discussed with Richard Ratliff at DSHS. He thought that after Labor Day 2012 would be a good time for another conference. We agreed to keep this in mind and make a definite determination early enough to do necessary preliminary work far enough in advance. We will maintain discussions with DSHS and begin discussions with TCEQ and RRC.</p>	
	<p>A fact-finding sub-committee was developed concerning STC supporting in some way a Chair at University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, and that committee was to report at this meeting.</p>	<p><i>Results:</i> All three members of the sub-committee could not reach a decision. Sub-committee will be dissolved and no further discussion will take place on this matter.</p>
	<p>Status of the North Texas Chapter: The Branch had been disbanded by the National HPS Chapter. Executive Council has agreed to extend invitations to the former members of the North Texas Chapter.</p>	<p><i>Action Item:</i> Compile list from National Registry and send invitations.</p>
<p>President-Elect's Report</p>	<p>Texas A&M University Support Request: The Student Chapter is trying to raise money to support HPS meetings within their University. They would like to hold a T-shirt design contest and produce the winner as the official T-shirt of the organization for 2011. They will produce a number of shirts initially and use the profits to enhance their meetings. They will produce additional shirts if there is a sufficient demand. Dr. John Poston is assisting with some of the funding for the shirts but is asking for a small donation from the STC-HPS of \$250 to help start the process. The Student Chapter appreciates the support that the STC-HPS has continued to show for the students and they hope that this additional support will enable them to do more on behalf of their members, as well as enhance their meetings. Motion: John Salsman Second: John White</p>	<p><i>Results:</i> Unanimous Approval Vote by EC</p>
	<p>Texas A&M University Chapter Meeting Presentation: The President-Elect has been asked to give a presentation at the TAMU HPS Chapter Meeting in Spring 2011 and is planning to visit on April 7, 2011, to give a presentation about the "after-college life" and everything that comes with that.</p>	

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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Secretary's Report	No report at this time.	
Past-President's Report	The Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) program is starting back up. There will be more information provided at the next EC meeting.	
Treasurer's Report	<p>2010 Year-End Report: We scrubbed all STC's credits and debits (paper and electronic) and tried to reconcile them with the Chase Bank statements we receive each month; we like to think we're fairly thorough and pay attention to detail, but we still had to include a +\$1,291.63 adjustment to the operating account to make our balance match the bank balance (i.e., the bank thinks we have more money than we think we have; if adjustments must be made, that's the best way to have to make them). We think electronic banking may contribute to the issue (there may have been electronic deposits initiated close to or prior to January 1, 2011, that were effective after January 1, 2011, which we have not accounted for). We will amend the report as necessary. But, be assured that the balances for each account on the report match the bank statement balances.</p>	
	<p>Proposed 2011 Budget: The proposed budget for 2011 reflects a deficit of \$1,441. In preparing the proposed budget, we assumed losses for 3 of our 4 meetings, and we reduced the Science Teacher Workshop (STW) proposed budget from the \$3,000 that Al requested to \$2,500. We felt that was reasonable because the most STW has spent annually over the past 4 years is \$2,600, and the average has been closer to \$1,800 or \$1,900. The EC may, however, want to increase STW's budget; we noticed that other Chapters (e.g., Virginia and North Central) have been partnering with other professional organizations (e.g., American Nuclear Society) and have been able to attract larger teacher audiences. See <i>Health Physics News</i> November 2010 (page 16) and <i>Health Physics News</i> January 2011 (page 8).</p>	
	<p><i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee for a Second Annuity: At the April 9, 2010, EC meeting, then-President Stan Bravenec appointed an <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee (Karen Blanchard, Sam Daniel, Ken Krieger, and Pete Myers) to explore purchasing a second annuity. The first annuity paid out \$1,000 in June 2010, increasing the donations available to the Scholarship Fund in 2010 from around \$900 to \$1,900. We spoke to the Edward Jones financial advisor who set up the first annuity. She says the interest rates available for annuities have decreased so she wouldn't recommend us purchasing an annuity now. If we want to achieve the same results (generating another \$1,000 annual payout), she recommends we purchase a \$30,000 triple-A rated municipal bond, an example of which is one from Oregon State Department of Transportation; bonds open and close often, so we'd probably not get the Oregon bond. Purchase of a \$30,000 bond would involve a premium (e.g., \$3,609) so our out-of-pocket investment would be \$33,609 but the payout would be \$1,575 per year for 6 years, after which the bond would mature and we would receive our \$30,000 back. Coincidentally, a \$1,575 payout would cover our projected \$1,441 budget deficit for 2011. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion: John Salsman Second: John White</p>	<p><i>Results:</i> Unanimous Approval Vote by EC</p> <p><i>Action Item:</i> <i>Ad Hoc</i> Committee will review recommendations from financial advisor.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Program Committee's Report	January 2011 Meeting: A big thanks to Dr. John Poston who contacted numerous NRC and reactor facilities in an effort to obtain an outstanding list of speakers for this meeting. We currently have 51 people registered for the meeting even without offering CEU credits.	
	Student Presentation and Annual Meeting: The meeting will take place April 15–16 in Waco, Texas, with Linda Morris and Ken Krieger coordinating the local arrangements. The Chair will be working with TAMU, TSU, TSTC, and UTHSC to obtain student speakers for this meeting. More information to come as it becomes available.	
	Chapter Survey: The Chair has not forgotten about the creation of a survey for the membership dues, meeting registration fees, topics for meetings, and the possibility of everything going electronic.	<i>Action Item:</i> Email survey to membership and then send regular mail to those who don't respond.
	Upcoming Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National HPS Midyear Meeting – Dallas – February 2012. Executive Council meeting will tentatively be held at this meeting. • Affiliates Fair – Do we want to have this meeting in September and what would be a good date for the Affiliates? 	<i>Action Item:</i> Poll Affiliates to select a date and check hotel rates in San Antonio and Austin.
Membership Report	Current STC membership is at 250 members for 2010 with last year's total at 257 members. Voted on new members. Motion to accept members. Motion: John White Second: Sam Daniel	<i>Committee Vote:</i> Approval of new STC members. Congratulations!
WELCOME NEW STC MEMBERS!	Annie Backhaus – Texas Department of State Health Services Staci Dupree – Owens Scientific, Inc. Jesus Loya – Dynamic Systems, Inc. Nastassia Maistry – Pathfinder Energy Services Binesh Tharakan – U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Eric Wittenback – South Texas Veterans Healthcare Services Silvia Zengals – Texas Biomedical Research Institute	
Web Master's Report	Privacy Policy for Chapter Web site was up for committee approval Motion: Pete Myers Second: Sam Daniel	<i>Results:</i> Unanimous Approval Vote by EC
	The Privacy Policy may be viewed in its entirety at the following link: www.stc-hps.org/pdf/privacy.pdf	<i>Action Item:</i> Publish in <i>The Billet</i> once and give membership and option for 3 rd party Affiliates.
Legislative Committee's Report	As you may know, the 82 nd Texas Legislature convened this week. It is anticipated to be a very busy session for my agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), as we are going through "sunset review" this session with a focused review and evaluation of the need for the agency for the next twelve years. There has already been a start to discussions and recommendations related to low-level radioactive waste disposal.	

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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Legislative Committee's Report <i>continued</i>	There is much to update you on related to low-level radioactive waste (LLRW), so here are some of the highlights. The TCEQ has completed several actions early this year that have allowed for the beginning of construction of the Texas Compact disposal facility in Andrews County, where STC members/ Texas waste generators will have a Class A, B, and C LLRW disposal option. TCEQ is also working with DSHS and health officials on the path forward for a health surveillance study for the area surrounding the future disposal site, as part of base-line development.	
	The U.S. NRC is working on several LLRW initiatives, including new rulemaking related to unique waste streams and waste blending. The U.S. EPA is also working on an initiative related to uranium mining. The Texas LLRW Compact Commission has recently adopted rules that are expected to be published soon.	
Affiliate Committee's Report	There were 20 Affiliate members at the end of 2010. Pete & Karen Myers send out 2011 Renewal Notices to Affiliates. The Affiliate Committee Chair will follow up at the end of the month with Affiliates via email if they have not renewed for 2011.	
Nominations Committee's Report	John Bliss' nomination for the U.S. NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards – The STC-HPS created a letter of support to send to the U.S. NRC with a courtesy copy to send to Ed Maher so that the National HPS could generate a letter to the U.S. NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety (ACRS).	
	Sent an email supporting Ali Simpkins as a National HPS committee volunteer.	
Publications Committee's Report	Coordinated publication in <i>Health Physics News</i> (Vol. 38, No. 11, November 2010): 2010 Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference a Success (Watson/Charlton).	
	Coordinated publication in <i>The Billet</i> (Vol. 31, No. 3, December 14, 2010) of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference a Success (Watson/Charlton) • Condensed Version of 4th Quarter State Agency Program Reports to TRAB. 	
	Coordinated Publication on STC-HPS' Web site of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Agency Program Reports to TRAB's 2010 4th quarter meeting. (see www.stc-hps.org/pdf/trab1110.pdf). Excerpts were published in <i>The Billet</i>. 	

As a courtesy to our membership, the STC-HPS offers a list of the Health Physics-related positions available in South Texas on our Web site.

 www.stc-hps.org/hpjob.htm

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Publications Committee's Report <i>Continued</i>	Coordinated blast emails to STC Members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft revisions to 25 TAC §289.230 concerning Certification of Mammography Systems and Mammography Machines used for Interventional Breast Radiography. 2. Proposed rule revisions for Parts 232 (Dental) and 233 (Veterinary), and Part 234 (Mammography Accreditation). 3. Draft DSHS Rules Changes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 25 TAC §289.226 (Registration of Radiation Machine Use and Services); b. 25 TAC §289.227 (Use of Radiation Machines in the Healing Arts); c. 25 TAC §289.229 (Radiation Safety Requirements for Accelerators, Therapeutic Radiation Machines, Simulators, and Electronic Brachytherapy Devices); d. 25 TAC §289.231 (General Provisions and Standards for protection Against Machine-Produced Radiation); 4. NRC Workshop in DC, LA, and Houston to discuss potential changes in radiation protection regulations. 5. Availability of a 4 mCi Cs-137 source. 6. Proposed DSHS Rule Changes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 25 TAC §289.202 (Standards for Protection Against Radioactive Materials); b. 25 TAC §289.203 (Notices, Instructions, and Reports to Workers; Inspections); c. 25 TAC §289.252 (Licensing of Radioactive Material); d. 25 TAC §289.253 (Radiation Safety Requirements for Well Logging Service Operations and Tracer Studies); e. 25 TAC §289.255 (Radiation Safety Requirements and Licensing and Registration Procedures for Industrial Radiography); f. 25 TAC §289.256 (Medical and Veterinary Use of Radioactive Material); g. 25 TAC §289.257 (Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Material); 7. Finalized new rule Title 25 Texas Administrative Code §289.302 (Registration and Radiation Safety Requirements for Use of Laser Hair Removal Devices). 8. HPS Supports National Radiation Protection Professionals Week. 	
<i>The Billet</i>	Future Meeting Dates: The Student Presentation and Annual Business meeting in Waco, Texas, April 15–16. The Annual STC Breakfast to National HPS Meeting June 28, 2011, at 7:30 a.m.	
Science Teacher Workshop	The Chapter operated a booth at the annual convention of the Science Teachers Association of Texas (CAST-10 Convention) held this year in the Brown Convention Center, Houston, on November 11–13. Participants were Jim Sharp, Sam Daniel, Bob Powell, and The Chairman. On November 12, the Chairman gave a one-hour presentation on the STW program.	<i>continued on page 12</i>

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South Texas Chapter's Web Site Privacy Policy

The Privacy Policy may be viewed in its entirety at the following link:

www.stc-hps.org/pdf/privacy.pdf

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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Science Teacher Workshop <i>continued</i>	The EC needs to consider the advisability of continuing participation in the CAST conventions. We got a favorable response from the CAST attendees (over 100 of whom signed up for our mailing list), but we have to consider the corresponding cost and effort. For example, if we propose a presentation, we are by no means certain that our proposal will be accepted. Another consideration is that the 2012 meeting (CAST-11) will be held in Dallas. This may or may not be advantageous for us. Incidentally, the Chairman has acknowledged by email most of those who signed up.	
	At the request of Robert Moore, a Regional Science Teacher Coordinator, we conducted a January 8 workshop on the Texas A&M campus in College Station. We were led to believe that there would be up to 27 students in attendance, but only 12 showed up. Nevertheless, the STW team felt that it was a very worthwhile session. Regional people in attendance stated a willingness to suggest to colleagues that they organize our workshops in their regions. Participating in this workshop were the Chairman, Ken Krieger, Sam Daniel, John Poston, Sr., and Brian Bittner (new to STC and to the STW Committee). We are grateful to John Poston for preparing 24 copies of the STW workbook for the session and to Ken Krieger for a supply of STW CDs.	
Student Assistance Committee	Education Grants: We would like to have information in <i>The Billet</i> announcing the Student Education Grants for 2011. As always, we are awarding \$1,000 associate and graduate degree grants (one of each). The application deadline is May 27, 2011. Students should attach their Spring grade transcripts to their applications. The awardees will be announced at the September 2011 STC-HPS meeting.	<i>Action Item:</i> Publish in <i>The Billet</i> . Forms will appear on the STC Web site.
	Student Assistance for HPS Annual Meeting: The HPS is giving travel awards for the national meeting in Palm Beach, Florida, next summer. The deadline is March 1.	
	Regional and State Science and Engineering Fairs 2011: STC judges are needed for the 2011 fairs. The fairs and dates are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin February 23–26 • Houston April 7–9 • Waco February 22–23 • San Antonio March 6–8 • Texas State April 1–3 Experienced and/or new volunteers are welcome. David Fogle and Susan Jablonski have volunteered for the Austin Fair, and Linda will take care of the Waco Fair.	
	Student Presentations and Annual Meeting: The meeting will be held on April 15–16, 2011, at Texas State Technical College in Waco. The Saturday meeting will take place in the IDEAS Center on campus (same as in previous years). Hotel arrangements are expected to be completed in the next two weeks and the information sent to John Hageman for <i>The Billet</i> and for posting online.	
Special Topics	We need to recruit a new Chair for the Nominations Committee.	
Adjournment	7:45 p.m. Motion: John White Second: Jennifer Watson	

SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER *of the* HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, INC.

Annual Meeting & Student Paper Presentations

April 16, 2011 ★ Waco, Texas

*CEUs
Awarded
for LMPs,
MRTs**

** pending approval*

The South Texas Chapter will be hosting the Student Paper Presentation meeting along with the Annual Meeting in Waco, Texas, Saturday, April 16, 2011, from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Students will compete for monetary awards for the best paper . . . awards are \$250 and \$100 for the top two presentations . . .

Hotel registration deadline is **March 18, 2011**

STC Meeting pre-registration deadline is April 1, 2011

This meeting fulfills one of the basic missions of the Health Physics Society (HPS), which is to help the next generation gain

Register online for the Annual Meeting & Student Paper Presentations at www.stc-hps.org


an interest in the field of Health Physics.

This meeting will help students present their projects and practice their presentation skills in a professional and positive feedback environment.

Students will compete for monetary awards for the best paper. The awards are \$250 and \$100 for the top two presentations in each of the undergraduate, graduate, and associate degree categories.

The meeting and luncheon will take place at the Texas State Technical College IDEAS Center in the Electronics Building. A block of rooms has been reserved for Friday night at the Holiday Inn® & Suites

in Northwest Waco. The address is 1801 Development Boulevard, Waco, TX 76705. For your hotel reservations, call **(254) 799-9997**. The rate for all rooms is \$85 plus tax, with a reservation deadline of March 18, 2011.

Use reservation code "STC-HPS." **Hotel registration deadline is March 18. Meeting pre-registration deadline is April 1.** Additional registration details, as well as the agenda for the Executive Council Meeting scheduled for Friday, April 15, the Annual Meeting, and the Student Paper Presentations, are posted on the Chapter Web site at www.stc-hps.org. 

Go to www.stc-hps.org for meeting agenda, information, and registration details.

Go ONLINE to www.stc-hps.org for MEMBER and AFFILIATE APPLICATIONS, to REGISTER and PAY for conferences, and for additional MEETING INFORMATION.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) First Quarter 2011 Program Report to the Texas Radiation Advisory Board

February 25, 2011

General Program Information

Texas' Radiation & Perpetual Care Account

Texas' Radiation and Perpetual Care Account is a State account initiated to: "prevent or mitigate the adverse effects of abandonment of radioactive materials, default on a lawful obligation, insolvency, or other inability by the holder of a license issued by the Department to meet the requirements of Chapter 401 of the Health and Safety Code or Department rules; and to assure the protection of the public health and safety and the environment from the adverse effects of ionizing radiation." Monies in the fund may be used for decontamination, closure, decommissioning, reclamation, surveillance, or other care and distribution of mammograms to persons when their provider of services abandons the records or files bankruptcy.

The Account is funded by assessing an additional fee on the Department's radioactive materials licensees (not to exceed 5% of their usual annual licensing fee). When the balance in the account exceeds \$500,000, the additional fees are discontinued. When the balance falls below \$350,000, the additional fees are reinstated.

The statute also allows DSHS to assess an administrative penalty against a person who causes, suffers, allows, or permits a violation of the statute or rules, a Department rule or order, or a license or registration condition. The statute requires DSHS to deposit any administrative penalty fees collected to the credit of the Radiation and Perpetual Care Account.

The Account is also used to hold financial securities specifically required by statute and rule for certain types of licensees (as, for example, large irradiators). These securities are site-specific and not available for use at other sites in the state.

Enabling legislation is found at: Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 401.301 (d) and (3); and Chapter 401.305. <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/HS/htm/HS.401.htm#401.305>

Radiation Safety Licensing Branch

Radioactive Material Licensing Group

- The Radioactive Material (RAM) Licensing Group is working to initiate and provide licensees with information and support in response to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) request for National Source Tracking System (NSTS) users to access the online NSTS transactions system. The second annual system reconciliation was completed January 31, 2011. The response rate from licensees with NSTS requirements was about 95%.
- The RAM Licensing Group issued its first license authorizing the removal of radionuclides from drinking water. We anticipate this license is the first of several such licenses that will eventually include numerous

sites. These licensees will provide equipment and services to water suppliers that are operated by municipalities or water districts.

- The RAM Licensing Group is continuing to address licensees' current financial assurance levels as needed. This task was previously performed during each licensee's technical renewal.
- The RAM Licensing Group is currently fully staffed; however, Mr. Mike Dunn has announced his intent to retire at the end of March.

Radiation Machine Source Group

- The Radiation Machine Source Group has two vacant positions. An Environmental Specialist and Administrative Assistant position remain under the hiring freeze.
- Karen Verser has been selected for the HPI position for the Industrial X-ray Registration Program.
- All radiation legacy systems have been converted into the Regulatory Automation System (RAS) Versa Regulation. The group is facing some delays in our processes as we work through solving problems in the new system.

Laser Source Group

- Elisabeth Gerber, Barbie Banks, and Lauren McGuire have been hired for the Laser/Laser Hair Removal (LHR) Registration Program.
- The LHR Registration Program has been fully implemented. In addition to previously accepted applications for training programs and certifying entities, the Program can now accept applications for facilities as well as individuals. The Web site has been updated with all LHR registration information and forms. <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/radiation/laserhair.shtm>
- One certifying entity has been approved and two training programs have been issued conditional approval letters. Two more training program applications have been received and additional information has been requested but not received yet.
- No applications have been received for LHR facilities or individuals as of yet.
- Due to lack of registered individuals at the professional level and lack of training programs available, it is very difficult for facilities and individuals to meet rule requirements at this time.

Radiation Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance Group

- The vacant Health Physicist II position was filled in January 2011.
- Policy, Standards, and Quality Assurance (PSQA) staff in the Laser Hair Removal Program have developed standard violations to be used by inspectors for the

new 25 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §289.302 Registration and Radiation Safety Requirements for Use of Laser Hair Removal Devices and for 25 TAC §289.302 Registration and Radiation Safety Requirements for Lasers and Intense-Pulsed Light Devices - Texas Regulations for Control of Laser Radiation Hazards.

- A 30-day comment period began in February for comments on Draft Four of the rules to implement new fluoroscopy and CAT scan (CT) initiatives.
- Implementation of the new automation system, Versa Regulation, has caused several work process changes and an increase in data inputs, which have reduced our administrative efficiency by at least 50%.

Radiation Inspection Branch

General

The Department is under an Agency-wide hiring freeze, with very few exceptions being taken. Radiation inspections positions that are frozen include: Two Health Physicist I (X-ray inspector trainers); one Environmental Specialist III (environmental monitoring); and two Environmental Specialist IV (X-ray/laser inspectors).

The Department is also not allowing accrual of FLSA Overtime.

Radioactive Materials (RAM) Inspections Group

- All vacancies have been filled, and the last two new inspectors start work February 1, 2011. There are now three inspectors-in-training.
- Inspections are being performed on schedule and every effort is being made to assure that NRC's inspection priorities are met while vacancies are being filled and as new inspectors are trained. Texas' inspection priority system is more conservative than NRC's and the Department may not be able to remain current based on the State's system during this period.

Mammography and Report Inspections Group

- The Mammography Group is operating at full staff.
- 217 mammography inspections have been done in this fiscal year (FY), leaving 360 to be inspected by August 31, 2011. One mammography inspection is past due as of the date of this report.
- No inspection issues have been raised by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for FY 11.
- 440 remote inspections have been issued for FY 11. The program is currently waiting for responses from 204 registrants whose responses are past due.
- The Mammography Group is currently dealing with difficulties created by RAS, the new regulatory licensing program. The system requires changes in our work processes and more data inputs, which have reduced our administrative efficiency by at least 50%.

X-ray Inspections Groups

- Staffing and Training: The X-Ray Inspections Group filled one X-ray Inspector vacancy in Houston and is in

the process of filling a second X-ray Inspector vacancy in Arlington. When these positions are filled, the historical X-ray program will be fully staffed. One current X-ray Inspector is working out of the Austin office and is still in training.

- Laser Hair Removal: Currently, we have one fully trained Laser Inspector working out of the Austin office and four newly hired Laser Inspections. The four new inspectors were hired during January and February of this year. Two of the four individuals are based out of the Houston regional office and two are based out of Arlington. The new positions were created as a result of the passing of House Bill 442 regarding Laser Hair Removal. An internal Laser Working Group is developing inspection forms and standard violations for the inspection of Laser Hair Removal facilities and their operators.
- Additionally, the increase in staff has necessitated the reorganization of the X-ray Group. Staff performing X-ray inspections and laser inspections are now organized under three groups within the Radiation Branch. Helen Watkins will continue to be the Group Manager for X-ray Inspections Group One. Lisa Bruedigan was selected to be the Group Manager for X-ray Inspections Group Two. Jerry Cogburn will continue to be the Group Manager for the Mammography Inspections Group, and has gained responsibility for overseeing three X-ray/Laser Inspectors.

Environmental Monitoring Group

Incidents

- On February 1, 2011, the Agency was notified by a licensee operating under reciprocity in Texas that a mineral logging tool containing a 125 millicurie (original activity) Cesium (Cs) - 137 source was stolen from a company vehicle. The source was installed in a ten-foot-long mineral logging tool and was locked in its shield mounted underneath a swamp buggy used for performing their surveys. The locking device had been broken off of the storage device and the tool and source removed as one piece. The licensee conducted a visual search for the device in the area, but did not locate the source. On the afternoon of February 1, 2011, a security guard for the facility noticed a vehicle leaving the area and stopped it. The passenger of the vehicle fled from the scene into the nearby woods. The driver remained in the vehicle until an officer from the local sheriff's office arrived and apprehended him. The sheriff's department questioned the individual and was told by the individual that the device had been sold at a scrap yard in Longview, Texas, but they were not given a specific location. The Agency sent a notice to the Texas Association of Pawn Brokers and the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries notifying them of the theft. Steel mills in the Longview area were also notified of the event. The Agency began calling scrap yards in the Longview area and at 1325 hours, a scrap yard

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stated that they had taken in a device that matched the description of the tool the day before. The licensee was notified of the information and location of the scrap yard. The licensee went to the scrap yard, verified that it was the stolen device, and that the source was still attached to the tool. The licensee took possession of the device and returned it to its normal storage location. The investigation into this event continues.

- On November 27, 2010, the Agency was notified that a well-logging truck was involved in a traffic accident resulting in the death of the driver. The radioactive material onboard the vehicle included 240 mCi of Iridium (Ir) -192, 160 mCi of Scandium (Sc) -46, and 320 mCi of Antimony (Sb) -124, stored in DOT Type A containers inside an overpack. The overpack was damaged when it was thrown from the vehicle and the lid was open a couple of inches where it came to rest. Responding U.S. Border Patrol personnel performed an initial survey and determined there was no radiation hazard. Upon their arrival, the licensee's employees verified there had been no release of radioactive material, and accounted for all of the material prior to their taking it to their nearest licensed facility in Alice, Texas.

Emergency Preparedness

- Since June 2009, DSHS has been working with other state agencies and local jurisdictions in preparation for Super Bowl XLV. Initially, DSHS radiation program activities appeared limited. A Texas Support Plan for Super Bowl XLV was drafted and a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRNE) annex attached to provide planning for CBRNE preventive measures. However, in December 2010, aerial radiation monitoring support was requested from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Radiation Program staff were required to support the monitoring effort by providing licensee locations around various NFL venues in Dallas, Ft. Worth, Arlington and Irving. In addition, the Department of Energy (DOE) was committed to provide ground radiation survey support around Cowboy Stadium to support the City of Arlington. Radiation Program staff were located at a staging area in Grand Prairie where coordination and sharing of radiation data were to occur. Radiation Program staff were also

located in Garland at the DPS' Disaster District Committee offices. EPA Aerial monitoring flights were conducted on January 24, 31, and February 5. The DOE conducted random ground surveys around the area during this time. Luckily, the Super Bowl surveys were uneventful and no unexplained radiation detections occurred. An After Action Report is being developed.

South Texas Project (STP)

- A Federal Emergency Management Agency- (FEMA) evaluated exercise was conducted on October 27, 2010. The exercise was designed to test STP, local and state jurisdictions' responses to a scenario involving a release of radioactive fission products from a nuclear reactor. FEMA evaluated the offsite activities in response to the scenario driven events and found that all evaluation areas were correctly demonstrated.
- Siren upgrade: STP has received approval from FEMA for new sirens to be installed around the 10-mile emergency planning zone. The new sirens are fully operational at this time, and the old sirens are in the process of being removed and donated or salvaged for use by other organizations.

Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant (CPNPP)

- CPNPP is presently working on finishing the upgrade of their sirens with the required battery back-up power systems for the entire 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ).
- CPNPP has begun pouring the concrete pad for the on-site Dry Cask Storage where their spent fuel will be stored.
- An Exercise Planning Committee meeting was held via conference call that included DSHS, Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), CPNPP, FEMA and Hood and Somervell Counties on January 13 to establish the Extent of Play (EOP) and scenario requirements for the upcoming FEMA Evaluated Exercise in August 2011.
- DSHS Field Team training and a Combined Functional Drill (CFD) are scheduled for March 8-9, 2011, and will include 11 DSHS personnel.
- A Dress Rehearsal (DR) in preparation for the FEMA Graded Exercise will take place on June 15, 2011. -
- A FEMA-evaluated exercise is scheduled for August 3, 2011, and will involve approximately 65 DSHS personnel. The exercise is designed to test CPNPP, local and state jurisdictions' response to a scenario involving a release of radioactive fission products from a nuclear reactor. FEMA will evaluate the off-site activities in response to the scenario-driven events.

Pantex Plant

- Planning for the full-scale exercise on June 22-23, 2011, continues. The exercise scenario has been developed and will involve a shift change on the first day. All local Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) will be

continued on page 17

TCEQ

Program Report to the
Texas Radiation Advisory Board
for the February 24, 2011, Meeting
can be found at:

www.stc-hps.org

News Releases and Regulatory Issue Summaries from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission



The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) maintains a Web site dedicated to enhancing information transfer. A wide variety of information and guidance related to the regulation of radioactive material can be accessed by visiting NRC's Document Collection Web page (<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections>). Available on the Document Collection Web page are links to NRC News Releases and Regulatory Issue Summaries. A sampling of NRC News Releases and Regulatory Issue Summaries, which may be of interest to the STC membership, is provided below. Of general interest are two NRC News Releases: 11-012, which announces NRC's blog to enhance dialogue with the public and 11-005, which announces the establishment of a National Academy of Science panel for the first phase of an NRC-sponsored cancer risk study. Go to the Web address provided below and click the appropriate document number.

NRC News Releases (http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news)		
Date (2011)	Doc. No.	
Feb 01	11-014	NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards to Meet February 10-12 in Rockville, MD.
Jan 31	11-012	NRC Unveils First-Ever External Blog to Enhance Dialogue with the Public.
Jan 24	11-010	NRC Determines No Major Environmental Impacts Preclude Licensing Nichols Ranch Uranium Recovery Site in Wyoming.
Jan 13	11-009	NRC Announces Opportunity for Hearing on Application to Renew Operating Licenses for South Texas Project Nuclear Power Plant.
Jan 11	11-005	National Academy of Sciences Announces Expert Panel for First Phase of NRC-Sponsored Cancer Risk Study.
Jan 03	IV-11-02	NRC to Hold Regulatory Conference with Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant.
NRC Regulatory Issue Summaries (http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/reg-issues)		
Date (2011)	Doc. No.	
Jan 25	11-01	NRC Policy on Release of Iodine-131 Therapy Patients Under 10 CFR 35.75 to Locations Other than Private Residences.

Persons should visit these Web sites periodically to search for information or guidance of interest to them. Alternatively, email notification of news releases, regulatory issue summaries and other notices is available through a free subscription at the following Web address: <http://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/listserver.html>.



TRAB Report *continued from page 16*

activated, along with the Reception Center, the Joint Information Center, and the DSHS Staging Area. Day two will include a tabletop exercise for recovering from the event. Many local, state and federal jurisdictions are expected.

- DOE noted that the sending of contaminated patients to area hospitals other than the local VA Hospital could have significant adverse results. Discussions will continue on ways to minimize— if not mostly eliminate— the possibility of patients contaminating assets, including ambulances and hospitals. Local hospitals should have the capability to separate contaminated patients from non-contaminated patients.
- It has been decided that some DSHS personnel will operate out of the Amarillo EOC. Phone line and other issues related to the move are being resolved. Amarillo will set up their Web EOC for others to keep up to date. Traffic Control Points will be established. The availability and use of roadside signs to alert motorists is being pursued. All Area Incident Planner (AIP) participants intend to have representatives at the Joint Information Center (JIC). The State Operations Center will probably not be operational during the exercise. TCEQ will participate in the Recovery Exercise.

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

- Radiological Emergency Preparedness training for local officials and emergency responders in and along the Interstate 20 shipping route continues to be provided. In November, radiological training was conducted in Longview, Texas, and additional training was provided in Dallas, Texas, in January.
- The DOE has recently approved and developed a new shipping package for Waste Isolation Plant Program (WIPP) use. The new package, known as the Transuranic Package Transporter Model III (TRUPACT-III) will be used for shipping contact-handled TRU waste to the WIPP facility. The TRUPACT-III is a rectangular package that measures approximately 8 feet x 9 feet x 10 feet. This package would eliminate the need to repackage waste in boxes into smaller containers to fit into existing shipping containers. Large waste boxes account for about 25 percent of the current TRU waste inventory. The use of this new shipping package and the elimination of repackaging will simplify handling, avoid unnecessary radiation exposure to workers, and reduce the overall number of shipments to WIPP by approximately 2,900.



SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER of the HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY, INC.

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The Affiliates of the South Texas Chapter (STC) are listed below. Our Affiliates help support our Chapter functions, and we should support them. They contribute substantially to the STC, and each should be thanked by our considering their products or services first. Also, tell them we sent you.

Affiliates: Please review your listing below and email any corrections to patew@uthscsa.edu

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Check www.stc-hps.org for a color copy of *The Billet STC Newsletter*.

FUTURE *Meetings & Deadlines*

Date	Location	Topic	Newsletter Deadline
April 15–16, 2011	Waco, TX	STC Student Presentations & Annual Business Meeting	February 17, 2011
June 26–30, 2011	Palm Beach, FL	National HPS 56th Annual Meeting	NA
September 9–10, 2011	San Antonio, TX	Affiliates Fair & Technical Sessions	July 1, 2011
February 5–8, 2012	Dallas, TX	National HPS 2012 Midyear	NA
April 2012 (TBD)	College Station, TX	STC Student Presentations & Annual Business Meeting	February 1, 2012
July 22–26, 2012	Sacramento, CA	National HPS 57th Annual Meeting	NA
September 2012 (TBD)	Austin, TX	Texas Regulatory Conference	July 1, 2012
January 27–30, 2013	Scottsdale, AZ	National HPS 2013 Midyear	NA
July 7–12, 2013	Madison, WI	National HPS 58th Annual Meeting	NA

REGISTER and PAY for conferences ONLINE at www.stc-hps.org. It's simple...and secure!