

Annual RETS/REMP Workshops

Robert Yewdall
PSEG Nuclear LLC
Box 36
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Abstract

A function similar to NUMUG has been established to communicate information among personnel in commercial nuclear power station responsible for radiological effluent and environmental monitoring program. This function has been termed the RETS-REMP Workshop. There has been recent discussion among some of the NUMUG members and personnel involved in the RETS-REMP Workshops in coordinating the meetings so they might occur at a similar time and location. If there is interest and it was feasible to accommodate a joint meeting (i.e., a meetings held back to back during the same week) persons that have interest or responsible for both meteorological monitoring and RETS-REMP type responsibilities could attend both meetings. Many NUMUG members are involved in meteorological program activities that directly support RETS programs. Program similarities are considered in the background section of this paper.

What is The RETS-REMP Workshop

A summary of the purpose and objectives of the RETS-REMP Workshop as described on the organizations WEB page is as follows:

The RETS/REMP Workshop is a forum to exchange practical experiences and issues related to the Radioactive Effluent Technical Specifications (RETS) and Radiological Environmental Monitoring Programs (REMP) at commercial nuclear power plants. The open format of the meeting allows utility personnel to openly discuss effluent and environmental monitoring issues among themselves, as well as with regulatory personnel from state and federal regulatory agencies. The meeting has historically been attended by NRC personnel from regional offices and NRR/Headquarters.

The workshop focuses on monitoring radioactivity in effluent releases from nuclear power plants, and on assessing the environmental consequences of such releases. Structured around a mix of individual presentations and panel discussions, the workshop addresses topics ranging from in-plant monitoring techniques, environmental sampling and monitoring, and dose assessment to the public and environment. The workshop discussions are timely and applicable to plants currently operating, as well as those undergoing decommissioning.

Background

There are a number of commonalties between NUMUG and RETS-REMP Workshops. The organizations began about the same time. Both organizations are support by the volunteer effort of

members or meeting organizers. Most user group type organizations are 'sponsored' by equipment or nuclear steam supply vendors to share or promote specific information with regards to their product. However, NUMUG and the Workshop are keyed to exchange practical experiences and program operations, especially as they relate to requirements.

Differences between the organizational approaches are:

- NUMUG meets every 18 months versus annual RETS-REMP meetings.
- NUMUG is maintained by a steering committee composed of 5 members versus a utility managed meeting.
- The RETS-REMP meetings usually have NRC and vendor direct involvement. The NUMUG meetings have not generally had a NRC presents.
- The NUMUG organization has been attended by both nuclear utility and DOE meteorologist or engineers/technicians (and State representatives). RETS-REMP is comprised of utility members.
- NUMUG has a charter. The Workshop operates with less structure.
- NUMUG has been largely a national organization (although there has been international support). Until the last several years RETS-REMP was mostly a NRC Region 1 consortium (northeastern US).

It has been suggest by some NUMUG and RETS-REMP Workshop group members that consideration be given to have the meetings at the same location during the same week so members with interest in attending both meeting could be accommodated. Perhaps a Monday - Wednesday RETS-REMP meeting and a Thursday - Friday NUMUG meeting.