

**CSSG Notes**  
**Sandia National Laboratory**  
 Thursday 03/17, 08:00 – 17:00

08:00 Welcome & Safety Share David Erickson  
Jerry McKamy

08:15 NSTec Costs at NCERC Hayes/Lewis

During the TPR, Tim Beller discussed work being accomplished at the DAF/NCERC. NSTec-NCSP supports 6.5 FTEs. In FY15 covered 8 FTEs. Support to all phases of work at NCERC: (Safety Basis [incl. CSEs], Maintenance, IERs, etc., Fire Watch [related to experiments, before and after if not on normal hours]) LANL and LLNL also provide funds for some efforts. KRUSTY costs are separate and unknown. Due to SB issues, and other operational issues, much work is pushed to off-shift/overtime. RTBF (Safety Ops) does not pay for NCSP space. Jeff: Investigate the 6.5 FTEs, some of the support might shift to RTBF (Safety Ops) by off-loading Facility Coordinator/DAF Supervisor. Investigate MC&A support.

09:00 (will take a 15 minute break around 9:30)  
 Review of FY-17 Proposals with Task Managers

ORNL and associated joint proposals	Dunn
SNL proposal(s)	Harms
LANL and associated joint proposals	Margevicius
LLNL and associated joint proposals	Heinrichs
Y-12 proposal(s)	Kimball

11:30 Lunch

13:00 Continue Proposal review/discussion All  
 Continue review of FY-17 Proposals with Task Managers (as needed)

15:00 Break

15:30 Continue Proposal review/discussion All

17:00 Adjourn

**CSSG Notes**  
**Sandia National Laboratory**  
Friday 03/18, 08:00 – 17:00

08:00 Review Current Taskings

2016-01 T&EP Review

Hopper/Trumble/Kimball/Brady-Raap

TPM: (Concerns) Wholesale turn-over of instructors? Miss out on visiting an operating facility. “Hands-on” was always meant to include facility walkdowns for CSAs. Thinks there is significant benefit to touring and observing, even if no specific current operation. Regarding instructors, want to provide the best we can, and account for those that maybe unavailable or wish to discontinue teaching. Concern that Shean is no longer a part of the teaching team, particularly with no turnover between instructors. Shean is very knowledgeable about the standards, and the accidents. Need to assess instructor effectiveness going forward. *See attached email.*

CH: Objective was to ensure course is sufficient for the intended purpose. Instructors were good, maybe not the best, but not slouches. Address DOE expectations and needs for CS. Worthwhile to let others see TPMs thoughts.

DB: Meeting last summer, directed some changes. Instructors are approved by JM, and changes based on needs.

MB: Ensure class provided appropriate level of detail. Instructors may need more notes to provide additional continuity. Students did have “hands-on” facility walkdown opportunities at NCERC and SNL to see vault operations. Issues identified with the validation presentation.

JH: Shean may be one of the best. However, the others did good jobs, and over time have been involved in participating in prior teaching/learning opportunities.

CH: Observations & recommendations are just those. The teaching team needs consider and proceed accordingly.

TPM: Would like the report to (clearly) acknowledge about the change out of the presenters.

DKH: Would like another 'column' on the website indicating some response, or closure, of a tasking. May not apply to all, but at a minimum for taskings internal to NCSP. Primarily tried to recuse himself based on involvement with class. Issue with escorts was dictated – usual (LANL) escorts provided additional insight related to CS, those provided at this course were simply escorts, providing no teaching value to the class. Mistake to change out instructors without first having opportunity to sit through a class and make their own notes.

**Action DE: Ensure something in transmittal letter indicating CSSG is interested in responses to recommendations and observations. May need to consider how this should be implemented.** Concerns that this makes us oversight. Will discuss with Jerry. DNFSB is interested in feedback regarding Taskings related to resolving identified issues.

DBowen: May also want CSSG to review the Manager courses. Prefer to have continuity of reviewers if possible. Coordination between sites?

**Action DE: Check with JM re: CSSG review of Managers course.**

2016-03 WTP Review

Wilson

BW: No better status, requesting information weekly. Apparently significant staff turn-over, so may be struggling.

TPM: Noticed indication of staff turn-over. Any commonalities with LANL or lessons learned?

MB: Staff turn-over was due to contactor status, and people having multiple responsibilities.

KK: If field office thinks their only avenue is to approve NCSEs, they are off base. They need to indicate the program is ineffective and needs to be fixed.

2015-02 3007 Revision

Hicks

Draft(s) have been provided to CSSG. Objectives have been identified. A draft is being used to incorporate new content. CSCT did develop a rough draft some time ago based on their perceptions. JEH also developed draft.

**Action CSSG: Should the CSSG develop a white paper on 'Trivial Risk' and CAAS evaluation?**

Action JH: Review/revise tasking based on feedback and recognition of need for new dates.

09:30 Break

10:00 Review of CSSG Charter and Work Instructions Erickson/All  
Charter: (A) Chair and Deputy may not(?) quit at the same time. Planning put in place to avoid both at once. (B) Meeting vs communication. Call out appendices.

Work Instructions: CSSG Minutes (and others?) forwarded to Manager and placed on Website.

Investigate Emeritus Member participation and reimbursement for travel expenses.

Charter needs to acknowledge/reflect appendices.

Action DE: Revise Charter and Work Instructions to incorporate ideas and forward to CSSG for review.

Chair/Deputy Chair Succession Erickson  
No current plans for either to step down. Encourage others to keep awareness of upcoming candidates for CSSG vacancies.

Resurrect TPM abstention email as a means to establish succession planning criteria.

Next Face-to-Face Meeting Erickson

Possible Locations:

Y-12

ANS-Winter – Las Vegas

BEM in July/August – DC

Further discussion as time approaches.

DNFSB Interactions/Interface Erickson/Hayes

Ryan Eul: DNFSB wants to maintain CSSG. Appreciates the openness.

Emerging issue with MOX vs downblend and reports indicating issues with both methods. CSSG involvement?

Revised reporting requirement with goal of reducing burden. Then using report to open the door to specific discussions. Due to different criteria/reporting requirements different sites/contractors are not to be directly compared.

11:30 Lunch

13:00 Potential future Taskings/Round Table

MOX/Downblend? Check w/ McKamy. (Responded - likely)

Management of criticality accident alarm systems: Action : Kimball (See September CSSG Minutes)

STD-3009/CFR 830 Nuclear Safety overload on NCS: Action: Hayes/Hicks (See September CSSG Minutes)

Crit Incredibility - Justification vs potential impact on cost: Include in 3007 revision/discussion: Action: Hicks

Potential followup visit at LANL?

CSSG review of NCSP Managers course? (see prior note/action)

Lessons Learned from failed CS programs?

Realism and the Effects of a Criticality Accident

Trumble

EFT: Premise is that our silence has sent a loud message. At ORACS someone from NRC indicated that a criticality would stop nuclear. This may be due to 'our' own silence. We don't want a criticality, and we want to prevent, however, if one occurs it is really 'no worse' than other accidents.

BW: Experience at Rocky indicated that CS was not provided extra resources due to (perceived low?) risk of criticality. At INL the experience was slightly different.

EFT: We pound on the table amongst ourselves. We need to be more proactive. Need to use caution to avoid perception of allowing reduction in safety due to the consequences.

CH: International Standards address this.

Action Trumble/McLaughlin?: Develop Tasking: CSSG White paper on what are the real effects of a Criticality Accident?

The Sensitivity and Uncertainty of Validation

Brady-Raap

MB: Topic has arisen several times. Issue highlighted during the recent Training course. Useful for CSSG to take a look today about where it may be useful, and how it can be used?

BW: Have suggested to sites that they utilize S/U. They didn't take it well.

FT: There appears to be a push to begin to 'require' facilities to utilize S/U. There is minimal information that supports the use. The codes (and supporting data) are at different levels of maturity and availability.

Action: Recommend to the NCSP Management Team (via proposal feedback) that before significant additional effort is expended on adding additional S/U capability that the MCNP and SCALE developers develop some 'sales literature' regarding what the capabilities are (based on current, or very near term releases), what benefits/limitations they can provide to the CS practitioner. This can start by educating the CSSG to help identify how available AM code maintenance/enhancement funding should be focused.

15:00 Break

15:30 Wrap-Up Proposal Review/Discussion All

16:30 Year in Review and Other Items Erickson

Initiated regular telecons – Leadership and full CSSG  
Finalized several significant taskings.  
Worthwhile taskings in progress  
Identified several potential future taskings  
DNFSB has indicated we are looked to, and respected.

16:45 Adjourn

**Attachment**  
**Email(s): Tom McLaughlin to CSSG**

**From:** "Mclaughlin, Tom" <[tpm@lanl.gov](mailto:tpm@lanl.gov)>

**Subject:** **DISAPPOINTMENT - Suggested agenda item for the CSSG face-to-face meeting in Sept. - Changes in the NCSP 2 Week Hands-On Training Course for FY16**

**Date:** August 10, 2015 at 9:29:45 AM MDT

**To:** "Hayes, David Kirk" <[dkhayes@lanl.gov](mailto:dkhayes@lanl.gov)>, David Erickson <[DG\\_Erickson@BlueHeron.us](mailto:DG_Erickson@BlueHeron.us)>, "Trumble, Fitz" <[fitz.trumble@aeom.com](mailto:fitz.trumble@aeom.com)>, "[David.Erickson@srs.gov](mailto:David.Erickson@srs.gov)" <[David.Erickson@srs.gov](mailto:David.Erickson@srs.gov)>, "Brady Raap, MC (Mikey)" <[Michaele.BradyRaap@pnnl.gov](mailto:Michaele.BradyRaap@pnnl.gov)>, "Heinrichs, David P." <[heinrichs1@llnl.gov](mailto:heinrichs1@llnl.gov)>, "Kimball, Kevin D (KKL)" <[KIMBALLKD@y12.doe.gov](mailto:KIMBALLKD@y12.doe.gov)>, "Morman, James A." <[jamorman@anl.gov](mailto:jamorman@anl.gov)>, "Wilson, Robert" <[Robert.Wilson@emcbc.doe.gov](mailto:Robert.Wilson@emcbc.doe.gov)>, "Thomas McLaughlin" <[tpm@pobox.com](mailto:tpm@pobox.com)>

Colleagues,

While I was surprised that my email from 7/16, below, seemed to fall on deaf ears, I decided to wait on sending this email until last week's telecon. The fact of this change was mentioned during the telecon, but there was no mention of my email/concern and no discussion of the impact. I am very disappointed.

The CSSG was set up to be the DOE's SME body that would be consulted for its guidance on significant issues with NCS impact. I am also under the impression that it has the freedom to suggest issues for review. I certainly consider this Hands On Training course change a very significant issue.

I urge that this change be put on the agenda of the CSSG's face-to-face meeting in SC next month. As you are all aware, I will not be there, but trust that you will be at least able to have a meaningful discussion. I have talked to a few folks here at the Lab and definitely do not find the classes to be anything but a very minor impact on "getting the job done" here at the Lab in general, and on PF-4 operations specifically. Since the CSSG will have a sub-team here at the Lab in the next few weeks, I urge them to inquire about the magnitude of the disruptions that are put forth as a major reason for the planned change. To my knowledge there is only ONE LANL NCS engineer involved in instructing the class. Other instructors are no longer LANL NCS employees.

Regards, Tom

Thomas McLaughlin  
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**From:** <Mclaughlin>, Thomas McLaughlin <[tpm@lanl.gov](mailto:tpm@lanl.gov)>

**Date:** Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 2:15 PM

**To:** "Hayes, David Kirk" <[dkhayes@lanl.gov](mailto:dkhayes@lanl.gov)>, David Erickson <[DG\\_Erickson@BlueHeron.us](mailto:DG_Erickson@BlueHeron.us)>, "Trumble, Fitz" <[fitz.trumble@aecom.com](mailto:fitz.trumble@aecom.com)>, "[David.Erickson@srs.gov](mailto:David.Erickson@srs.gov)" <[David.Erickson@srs.gov](mailto:David.Erickson@srs.gov)>, "Brady Raap, MC (Mikey)" <[Michaele.BradyRaap@pnnl.gov](mailto:Michaele.BradyRaap@pnnl.gov)>, "Heinrichs, David P." <[heinrichs1@llnl.gov](mailto:heinrichs1@llnl.gov)>, "Kimball, Kevin D (KKL)" <[KIMBALLKD@y12.doe.gov](mailto:KIMBALLKD@y12.doe.gov)>, "Morman, James A." <[jamorman@anl.gov](mailto:jamorman@anl.gov)>, "'Wilson, Robert'" <[Robert.Wilson@emcbc.doe.gov](mailto:Robert.Wilson@emcbc.doe.gov)>, Thomas McLaughlin <[tpm@pobox.com](mailto:tpm@pobox.com)>, Thomas McLaughlin <[tpm@lanl.gov](mailto:tpm@lanl.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: Changes in the NCSP 2 Week Hands-On Training Course for FY16

Colleagues,

I just came across this announcement and am very troubled. It seems that the CSSG was not requested to provide a review of the ramifications of moving the first week of the 2-week, hands-on course from Los Alamos to Las Vegas. There will also be new instructors.

This will result in the elimination of the PF-4 walk-down and the use of actual eyes-on, real-world process situations for evaluation exercises. In my estimation this was always the most valuable part of the first week of instruction. I am also concerned that the changing of instructors will result in others who will certainly have lesser awareness of the ANS-8 standards and the Accidents than the current instructors have. Instructors must have great credentials and be looked upon as highly respected leaders, in addition to having very polished delivery skills.

While some water is now under the bridge, I feel that it is incumbent upon the CSSG to propose to NCSP management that it be formally chartered to undertake a thorough review of this planned change. I judge that the reasons provided below to justify the change are significantly outweighed by the downsides of the change in venue and in instructors.

Regards, Tom

**From:** <Mitchell>, Mark V <[mvmitchell@lanl.gov](mailto:mvmitchell@lanl.gov)>

**Date:** Monday, July 13, 2015 at 9:56 AM

**To:** First name me <[tpm@lanl.gov](mailto:tpm@lanl.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: Changes in the NCSP 2 Week Hands-On Training Course for FY16

**From:** <McKamy>, Jerry <[Jerry.McKamy@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Jerry.McKamy@nnsa.doe.gov)>

**Date:** Wednesday, July 1, 2015 8:09 AM

**To:** ""Bowen, Douglas G."" <[bowendg@ornl.gov](mailto:bowendg@ornl.gov)>

**Cc:** Becka Hudson <[Hudson14@llnl.gov](mailto:Hudson14@llnl.gov)>, "Myers, Bill" <[bmyers@lanl.gov](mailto:bmyers@lanl.gov)>, "Margevicius, Robert William" <[margevicius@lanl.gov](mailto:margevicius@lanl.gov)>, Calvin Hopper <[hoppercm@comcast.net](mailto:hoppercm@comcast.net)>, Catherine Percher <[percher1@llnl.gov](mailto:percher1@llnl.gov)>, Courtney Dornburg <[ccdornb@sandia.gov](mailto:ccdornb@sandia.gov)>, "Hayes, David Kirk" <[dkhayes@lanl.gov](mailto:dkhayes@lanl.gov)>, David Heinrichs <[heinrichs1@llnl.gov](mailto:heinrichs1@llnl.gov)>, Gary Harms <[gaharms@sandia.gov](mailto:gaharms@sandia.gov)>, "Chapman, Jeffrey Allen" <[chapmanja@ornl.gov](mailto:chapmanja@ornl.gov)>, "Lewis, Jeffrey" <[lewisjm@nv.doe.gov](mailto:lewisjm@nv.doe.gov)>, Jenifer Alwin <[jalwin@lanl.gov](mailto:jalwin@lanl.gov)>, "Hicks, Jerry" <[Jerry.Hicks@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Jerry.Hicks@nnsa.doe.gov)>, "Goda, Joetta Marie" <[jgoda@lanl.gov](mailto:jgoda@lanl.gov)>, "Bounds, John Alan" <[jbounds@lanl.gov](mailto:jbounds@lanl.gov)>, Kerstan Suzanne Cole <[kscole@sandia.gov](mailto:kscole@sandia.gov)>, Lori Scott <[lorisc0tt@aol.com](mailto:lorisc0tt@aol.com)>, Mark Mitchell User <[mvmitchell@lanl.gov](mailto:mvmitchell@lanl.gov)>, Mary Ellen Ratzer <[meratze@sandia.gov](mailto:meratze@sandia.gov)>, "Dunn, Michael E." <[dunnme@ornl.gov](mailto:dunnme@ornl.gov)>, "Moss, Patrick S." <[Patrick.Moss@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Patrick.Moss@nnsa.doe.gov)>, Rene Sanchez <[rsanchez@lanl.gov](mailto:rsanchez@lanl.gov)>, Ron Knief <[raknief@sandia.gov](mailto:raknief@sandia.gov)>, Sedat Goluoglu <[gluoglu@mse.ufl.edu](mailto:gluoglu@mse.ufl.edu)>, Shean Monahan <[spmonah@sandia.gov](mailto:spmonah@sandia.gov)>, Susan Stevens-Adams <[smsteve@sandia.gov](mailto:smsteve@sandia.gov)>, "Cutler, Theresa Elizabeth" <[tcutler@lanl.gov](mailto:tcutler@lanl.gov)>, "Wilson, Robert E (EMCBC)" <[robert.wilson@emcbc.doe.gov](mailto:robert.wilson@emcbc.doe.gov)>, "Tomlinson, Laura M." <[Laura.Tomlinson@NNSA.Doe.Gov](mailto:Laura.Tomlinson@NNSA.Doe.Gov)>, "Sohn, Carol" <[Carol.Sohn@NNSA.Doe.Gov](mailto:Carol.Sohn@NNSA.Doe.Gov)>, "Carter, Charlotte V." <[Charlotte.Carter@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Charlotte.Carter@nnsa.doe.gov)>, "Clement, Steven Dale" <[clement@lanl.gov](mailto:clement@lanl.gov)>, "Sykes, Carl" <[Carl.Sykes@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Carl.Sykes@nnsa.doe.gov)>, "Roberson, Jeffry" <[Jeffry.Roberson@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Jeffry.Roberson@nnsa.doe.gov)>, "Olguin, Denise" <[Denise.Olguin@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Denise.Olguin@nnsa.doe.gov)>, "Moss, Patrick S." <[Patrick.Moss@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Patrick.Moss@nnsa.doe.gov)>, "Krepps, John A." <[John.Krepps@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:John.Krepps@nnsa.doe.gov)>, "Lebak, Kimberly Davis" <[kimdavis.lebak@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:kimdavis.lebak@nnsa.doe.gov)>, "Leasure, Craig Scott" <[cleasure@lanl.gov](mailto:cleasure@lanl.gov)>, "Mullen, Evelyn" <[emullen@lanl.gov](mailto:emullen@lanl.gov)>, "Nicholas, Nancy Jo" <[njnicholas@lanl.gov](mailto:njnicholas@lanl.gov)>, "Leeman, Joel" <[leemanjd@nv.doe.gov](mailto:leemanjd@nv.doe.gov)>, "McKamy, Jerry" <[Jerry.McKamy@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:Jerry.McKamy@nnsa.doe.gov)>, Fitz Trumble <[fitz.trumble@urs-ps.com](mailto:fitz.trumble@urs-ps.com)>, ""David.Erickson@srs.gov"" <[David.Erickson@srs.gov](mailto:David.Erickson@srs.gov)>, "Margevicius, Robert William" <[margevicius@lanl.gov](mailto:margevicius@lanl.gov)>, "Lewis, Jeffrey" <[lewisjm@nv.doe.gov](mailto:lewisjm@nv.doe.gov)>, "Lawrence, Steven" <[Steven.Lawrence@NNSA.Doe.Gov](mailto:Steven.Lawrence@NNSA.Doe.Gov)>

**Subject:** Changes in the NCSP 2 Week Hands-On Training Course for FY16

Greetings All!

I and my NCSP management team met last week to prepare for the upcoming FY16 Budget and Execution Meeting in July. One of the subjects we discussed at length was our 2-week Hands-On course.

For FY16 the classroom portion of the 2-week Hands-On course will be taught at the Nevada Field Office. I have discussed the relocation of the course with NFO Management and they have pledged their support for the course moving forward. There are no changes to the Sandia and NCERC Hands-On training courses at this time. The classroom training for the 2-week Hands-On courses is currently scheduled for Feb. 1-5, 2016, and Aug. 15-19, 2016.

This change is being made for multiple reasons:

- 1) It should be more attractive and convenient for students to come to Las Vegas and to stay over the intervening weekend there. In the case of NCERC participants, no additional flight is necessary. For SNL participants, it's an easy flight from Las Vegas to Albuquerque.

- 2) I want to reduce/eliminate utilization of LANL criticality safety engineers both as instructors and as escorts given the press of criticality safety work needed to restart PF4. In addition, we will look to NSTec to provide more escorts which will reduce overall costs.
- 3) I want to free PF4 to concentrate on restart rather than having to invest energy in supporting class tours.

The course coordinator, Doug Bowen, will review the course agenda with Lori Scott and the Training and Education Team to ensure the course transition occurs as smoothly as possible prior to the February 2016 Hands-On course. I appreciate the team's support over the next six months as we transition the course to its new location. I have also approved the participation of new instructors for the classroom portion of the Hands-On course. Details regarding instructor participation will be shared with the team as instructor arrangements are solidified. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Scott or Doug Bowen.

Best regards,  
Jerry

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*Colossians 3:17 while...*

*Preventing a blue flash in U.S. nuclear facilities and a blinding white flash over U.S. cities.*

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