

CSSG Face-to-Face Meeting

November 21, 2024

8:30-12:30 ET
Renaissance Orlando Sea World
Orlando, FL
Cobia Room

Agenda	
Welcome/Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">A moment for TPMHail and FarewellWelcome Aboard	Hayes
DNFSB Status <ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff NCS Review ReportStaff NCS Review of SCEsAnnual Report InputUpcoming review of CSSG	Hayes/Weathers
FY2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tasking 2024-02 OngoingY-12 NCS Review by NPO:Selection of Deputy ChairDOE-O-420.1D	Hayes
NCSP Technical Program Review (3-5DEC2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposals (2024-01) for FY25 Execution	Hayes
Tasking 2024-02: SRPPF CAAS Needs Assessment Review	Morman
Proposal Review	Hayes
Round Table	All
Next Meeting(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none">TPR as availableANS Annual, June 19, 2025, Chicago, ILNCSD Conference, September 18, 2025, Austin, TX	All

NOTES:

Present: Doug Bowen (M), Kermit Bunde (for Brenda Hawks (EO)), Angela Chambers (EO), David Erickson (M), Kevin Hahn, Dave Hayes (M), Dave Heinrichs (M), John Miller, Catherine Percher (M)

Via Teams: Jen Alwin (M), Calvin Hopper (E), Kevin Kimball (E), Jim Morman (M), Jerry McKamy (E), Bob Wilson (M), Brandon Weathers (DNFSB)

(M) – CSSG Current Member, (EO) – CSSG Ex Officio Member, (E) – CSSG Emeritus Member

Discussion:

Welcome aboard Doug and Pat!

DNFSB Status

Brandon Weathers led the discussion

DNFSB Review of NCS

Nearly 2 years in the making. Draft report under management review. Generally, programs are well established, ensuring safe operations. Opportunities for improvement include:

- Staff retention
- Implementing requirements guidance for effective control implementation (reliability of controls)
- Feedback mechanisms, addressing feedback in a timely manner
- See DNFSB Tech Report 29 (Promulgated for reference. Not included with these minutes.)

Anything in the staff report regarding the near miss at Y-12 that might apply to all sites? The event was not part of the review, but one commonality across sites is the need to ensure effective interfaces between intra-site organizations.

The report raises questions on the effectiveness of corrective actions. For example, one corrective action was to brief all pre-requisites during a pre-job. After a few were briefed, personnel stopped paying attention. Pre-Jobs should be tailored to the work and audience at hand.

Annual operations reviews are relied on to ensure operations remain within the bounds of the evaluation. They provide a valuable means of feedback from operations that should be acted upon in a timely manner.

Use of material form codes to aid with MC&A may be problematic as a one for one match with NCS material forms may not exist.

DNFSB Review of Subcritical Experiments and Criticality Safety

Review was on hold, but now spinning back up. Trip to LANL in JAN25 followed by a trip to LLNL later in the year.

DNFSB Review of the CSSG

Will be predominantly Teams calls. How does DOE see the CSSG? How does the CSSG work? The Board likes the CSSG. ;)

DNFSB Review of UPF NCS Evaluations to begin soon.

DNFSB Review of revision to 3007 is on the radar.

Tasking 2024-002 Status (Review of SRPPF CAAS Needs Assessment)

Jim Morman led the discussion

Criteria for the review based off of ANS-8.3-1997 and DOE-STD-3007-2017.

In general, SRPPF appears to have met the requirements. Many similar operations over the years, and around the world, without a criticality accident, indicate the likelihood of a criticality accident is very low. One team member does not believe that the needs assessment meets 3007. Further discussions and tasking team meeting to be conducted with available team members during the upcoming NCSP Technical Program Review.

NCSP TPR to be held 3-5DEC24 in Santa Fe

Angela Chambers led the discussion

FY25 Proposal re-look. CSSG asked to revisit Tasking 2024-01 and recommend proposals that would be a priority to execute in FY2025 (No proposal call in FY26).

Uranium foil procurement (from Y-12) was recommended. Another recommendation was made to look at other sources than Y-12 for foils. Characterizing CX fuel was also discussed. In general, the CSSG landed on using the provided ranking from Tasking 2024-01. Answers are needed by JAN25.

Roundtable

Regarding CAAS, a discussion ensued that a CAAS need not be safety significant. Such a system would have reduced costs (e.g., procurement, maintenance, QA, etc.).

Suggestions on staff retention from DNFSB?

NCS engineers at SRS L-Area are the happiest of the sites reviewed.

- Staffed at a level where personnel are not overburdened during peak demand. Off-peak demand time is directed to professional development.

Avoid burnout

Utilize experienced mentors (retirees)

Funding models: Compensation for qualification levels is not being utilized.

Discussion on status of the LANL NCS Program

NCS Division Leader reported to the LANL Nuclear Criticality Safety Committee in OCT24

- Re-organization of NCS to better align with operations and new Division Leader with Chief Engineer working well
- New: professional development plan, staffing plan, and program improvement plan
- Hired 18 new staff
- Still no integrated schedule to enable effective resource allocation/planning
- Integrated Safety Management is lacking in project planning/execution

Meeting Adjourned