

CSSG Meeting notes from June 19, 2025 Face to Face Meeting

Attendees:

Members

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hayes, David [Chair]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reynolds, Kevin [Deputy Chair]				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alwin, Jennifer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bowen, Doug	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Erickson, David	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heinrichs, David
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Morman, Jim	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moss, Pat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percher, Catherine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wilson, Bob

Ex Officio

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chambers, Angela	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eberle, Cris	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hawks, Brenda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Zerkle, Michael
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Berg						

Emeritus

<input type="checkbox"/>	Brady, Michael	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hicks, Jerry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hopper, Calvin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kimball, Kevin
<input type="checkbox"/>	McKamy, Jerry						

Guest

Julie Jarvis (DNFSB)

Notes:

- (1) Angela Chambers announced that Jen Alwin will be the new Deputy Chair of the CSSG starting in October, Kevin Reynolds will take over as Chair. These are one year renewable terms, not to exceed three years.
- (2) David Hayes proposed that all members review the charter every year with two objectives in mind:
 - a. Gaining familiarity, and
 - b. Looking for items that need to be updated.
- (3) Doug Bowen noted that ANS was planning to terminate the Annual meeting in 2028 with the final Annual meeting to be held in 2027. This despite the fact that this annual meeting in Chicago was the largest in quite some time with over 1400 persons attending when ANS had planned for 900. Doug also noted that with the reduction in ANS meetings that face to face ANS-8 meetings would naturally reduce in number and more reliance on virtual meetings would be necessary.
- (4) David Hayes asked if there was an update on DNFSB activities. Julie Jarvis provided the following updates:
 - a. There was a recent meeting between DOE and the DNFSB and a briefing to the Board;
 - b. DNFSB staffing was a concern brought up at both of the above meetings – are sites around the complex receiving the level of support they need?
 - c. The DNFSB review of the CSSG has been placed on hold. Restart will be revisited again in September.

- (5) David Hayes asked the membership to consider if the DNFSB metrics as currently embodied in the annual report were doing what is expected given that all sites are reported as Good or Excellent? Formal lessons learned are needed to be derived from the report along with identifying best in class practices so that they may be shared around the complex. Angela agreed to bring this topic up at the next Federal NCS staff meeting (CSCT?).
- (6) Angela Chambers agreed to be sure the CSSG is invited to the SAFER review.
- (7) David Hayes suggested that maybe there ought to be a tasking on what the DNFSB metrics should look like and that we would discuss this at a later meeting after the members had had an opportunity to think it over.
- (8) Bob Wilson asked if sites should be sharing their NCS Program description documents. There was general consensus that they should be shared. It was noted by several members that the sites were likely amenable to sharing the NCS Program description documents if they were asked to do so.
- (9) Kevin Kimball asked if the CSSG had reviewed the recently issued DNFSB report on NCS programs around the complex? There is likely the basis for a good tasking buried in the findings of that report. David Hayes noted that the CSSG membership had not formally discussed its content since it was issued on March 17th. Larry Berg noted that he had done a presentation to his management on the content of the review and he would share the slides with the CSSG.
- (10) David Hayes noted that the dates for the Budget Execution Meeting (BEM) had been changed from Mid July to the end of July – specifically July 29th and 30th. Doug Bowen noted that it was due to unforeseen circumstances surrounding Angela’s availability that had caused the change. Doug also noted that the dates for the review of the Five Year plan would not change as a result of this scheduling change. Doug agreed to share the Five Year plan with the CSSG when it was noted that we had not seen it during the most recent review cycle.
- (11) David Hayes asked for input on FY2026 activities. He started by suggesting that it was time for a NNS site visit and that it could be done in conjunction with the BEM next year. However, he also noted that the site visit likely ought to happen whether the BEM was in person or not. Lastly, he asked if a formal work planning document was something the CSSG should consider for the upcoming year.
 - a. Pat Moss brought up that there are NNSA review teams (MET) being asked to review NNSA activities in an effort to gain efficiencies in work accomplishment across the sites and that the CSSG might participate in these looks as it relates to regulatory reform and dictation of limits.
 - b. Kevin Reynolds asked if a follow up at LANL was needed given the review that was conducted by the CSSG two years ago.
 - c. Doug Bowen asked if there was something the CSSG could do as it relates to decreased federal NCS staff around the complex?
- (12) David Erickson asked about the status of DOE Order 420.1D. Larry Berg noted that it was likely that a DOE O 420.1C change notice 4 was more likely in the near term to make some of the changes that the CSSG and others wanted. He noted that the full 420.1D update was on hold due to its being tied to the new DOE Order on Safety Basis.
- (13) Angela noted that she was working with Kevin Kimball and Larry Berg on a new revision to DOE-STD-3007.

(14) Angela Chambers suggested that the CSSG ought to consider a tasking related to NCS Program description documents and whether or not they were too onerous. Also looking for examples of NCS Program description documents that were considered just right.

(15) It was noted at this point in the meeting by David Hayes that we had been going around the table already in our discussions but were there any other around the table topics that needed to be brought up?

- a. Kevin Reynolds asked if there was discussion needed regarding Angela's recently distributed questions?
- b. Pat Moss noted that the questions Angela was asking was precisely why he had brought up the MET team activities tied to gains in efficiency of operations.
- c. Angela noted that the questions were born from her involvement with a MET team related to NCS and Safety Basis.
- d. Calvin summarized a training/mentoring program (Program) he developed early in his career as the Y 12 NCS Department Head and as a member of the US DOE Albuquerque Weapons Criticality Safety Committee which developed and sponsored the DOE Nuclear Criticality Technology and Safety Program in the 1980's. The Program was co-sponsored by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), the Oak Ridge Y-12 Plant (Y-12), and the Savannah River Site (SRS). The Program required two 3 month temporary relocations, one to LANL and one to Y-12. Additionally, a commitment of employment was required following participation in the program. In one instance, a trainee/mentee was embedded in the Y-12 Uranium Processing Division as a foreman-in-training for 6 months with a clear instruction to not act in the capacity of a nuclear criticality safety engineer. The Program initiated the careers of two excellent nuclear criticality safety engineers who contributed significantly to the missions of the US DOE.
- e. David Heinrichs noted he had seen similar programs at LLNL.
- f. Angela Chambers asked if these sorts of programs could form the basis for NCS internship/mentorship sorts of programs?
- g. David Heinrichs also brought up the topic (from Angela's questions) of V&V of codes. He noted that there was burden related to SQA but that it was driven by the QA Rule (10CFR830) and that there likely was not much that could be done to change that burden unless the rule was changed.
- h. There was significant discussion surrounding the possible sunseting of regulations (10CFR830 was mentioned) as it related to recent Presidential Executive Orders. Calvin Hopper asked if someone could provide him a copy of said executive order – Larry Berg agreed to find it for him.

(16) The final topic of the day was upcoming meetings.

- a. The Budget Execution meeting is to be held virtually on July 29th and 30th. The CSSG was encouraged to participate.
- b. The next Face to Face meeting of the CSSG will be held in conjunction with the upcoming NCS Topical Meeting in Austin, TX. David Hayes will work on securing a time and a room for us to meet.
- c. The virtual meeting scheduled for 6/26 will be cancelled.
- d. The next virtual meeting of the CSSG will be Thursday, August 7th.

(17) The meeting was adjourned.