



Public Workshop on 1959 SRE Accident

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) plans to hold a workshop focused on the July 1959 accident that occurred in the Sodium Reactor Experiment (SRE) facility at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). The workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on Saturday, August 29, 2009, at the Grand Vista Hotel, 999 Enchanted Way, Simi Valley.

In announcing the workshop, Stephanie Jennings, the DOE NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Document Manager, said, "We know the accident continues to be an important interest to some Santa Susana stakeholders. Our goal is to provide the community with the opportunity to explore different perspectives about the 1959 accident."

The workshop will begin with presentations by a panel of three experts with extensive knowledge of nuclear reactors. Each panelist will be invited to share his perspectives about what happened during the accident. After the presentations, members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions of the panel. Workshop participants will be invited to develop their own descriptions of the accident, individually or in groups, using material from the presentations (copies will be available at the meeting) or other information they may wish to bring forward.

The resulting descriptions will be compiled to present the community's perspectives on the accident, which will be provided to all meeting participants, posted on the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) website, and attached as an appendix to the EIS.

Three Reactor Experts to Speak

Three nuclear reactor experts will offer perspectives on the SRE accident: Dr. Paul Pickard of Sandia National Laboratories; Dr. Tom Cochran of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); and Dr. Richard Denning of Ohio State University.

Dr. Paul Pickard will describe how the sodium reactor was designed and operated and will reconstruct the SRE accident sequence of events. Drawing on his knowledge of reactor design and operation, he will present the findings of an independent review by scientists at Sandia National Laboratories of what is known about the accident.

Dr. Cochran and Dr. Denning have received copies of Dr. Pickard's presentation and will provide their independent, expert perspectives on the accident.

All panelists have been provided with copies of available documentation about the accident to support their preparations for their presentations. The panelists will also be available to answer questions.

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, August 29, 2009

Grand Vista Hotel

999 Enchanted Way

Simi Valley, CA

9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Please RSVP by Monday, August 24



Saturday Workshop will Allow Full Discussion

DOE is hosting the workshop on a Saturday to allow enough time for the panelists' presentations, attendees' questions, and development of the summaries of community perspectives. During the workshop, a light lunch will be offered. To assist in planning for food, DOE asks that those planning to attend contact Debbie Kramer, 818 466 8898 or ETEC-Energy@emcbc.doe.gov by **Monday, August 24.**

The Speakers

- Dr. Paul S. Pickard is a Senior Scientist/Engineer in the Advanced Nuclear Energy Programs at Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM. His past experience includes program and technical management of the design, construction, testing and operation of special purpose reactors. He was responsible for a Sandia reactor safety experiment program sponsored by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactors and light water reactors in core accidents to evaluate the safety of light water and sodium cooled reactors. He has a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Arizona.
- Dr. Tom Cochran is a Senior Scientist in Nuclear Programs at the NRDC, Washington, DC. He is author of The Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor: An Experimental and Economic Critique. Because of Dr. Cochran's work, the NRDC was awarded the Scientific Freedom and Responsibility Award by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He received his Ph.D. in Physics from Vanderbilt University. Previously he served on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Committee on the Cleanup of Three Mile Island (TMI), and on the TMI Public Health Advisory Board.
- Dr. Richard Denning is a professor of nuclear engineering at Ohio State University. His research interests include probabilistic risk analysis of nuclear facilities, severe accident behavior of nuclear power plants, the design of inherently safe reactors, and reactor physics. He is currently developing dynamic approaches to risk assessment and severe accident behavior of sodium cooled fast reactors. He is a former member of the NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and the DOE's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Facility Safety. He has a Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Florida and is a fellow of the American Nuclear Society.

Agenda

- **Welcome and introductions**
- **SRE operation & accident presentations**
- **Questions & answers**
- **Poster session & lunch break**
- **More questions & answers**
- **Community perspectives on accident**
- **Thank you and meeting wrap-up**

**More information available on the ETEC website:
<http://www.etc.energy.gov>**

**RSVP at 818-466-8898 or
ETEC-Energy@emcbc.doe.gov
by Monday, August 24.**